

Conservation principles of natural spawning of salmonids in Hokkaido, Japan

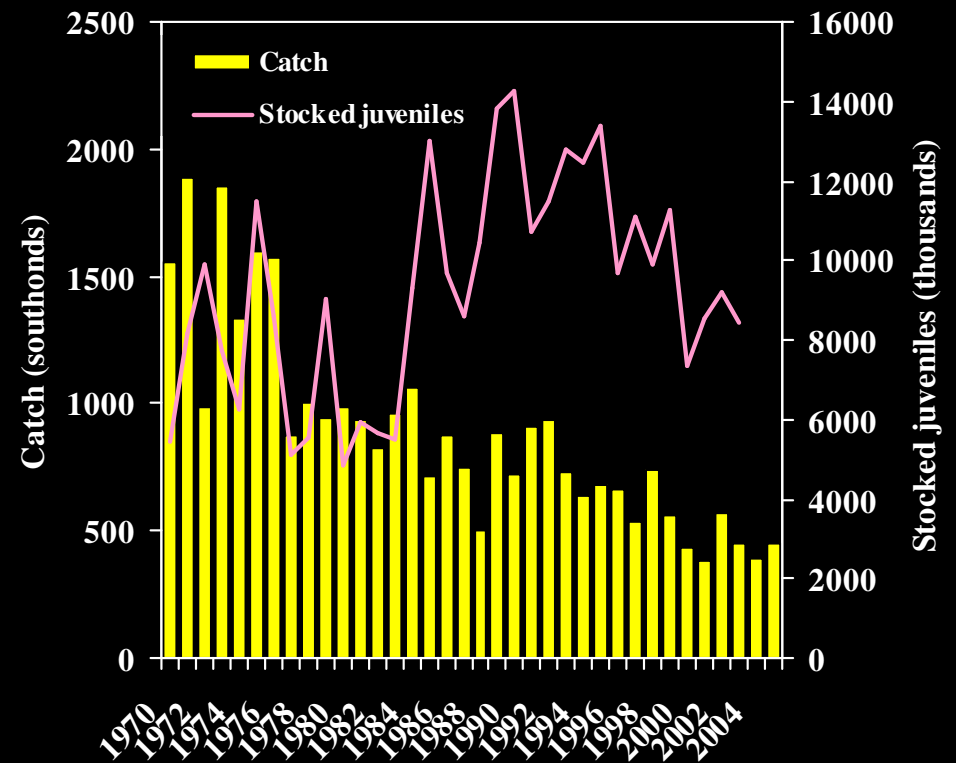
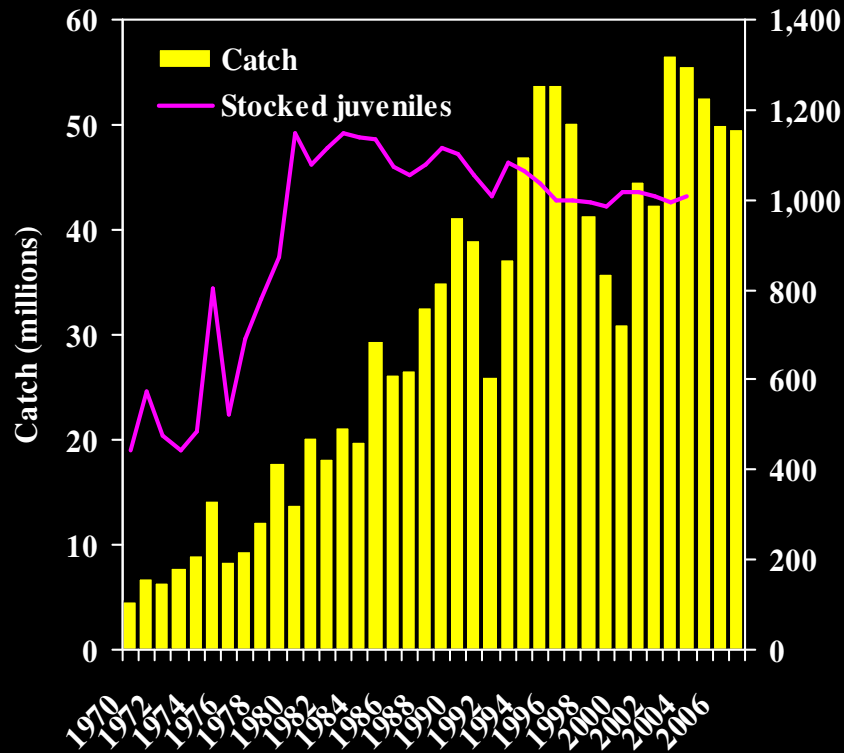
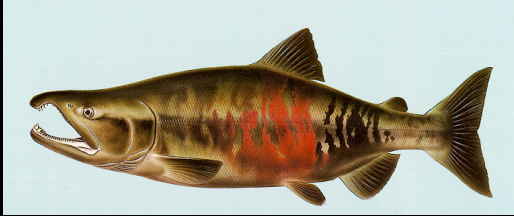
Mitsuhiro Nagata¹, Yasuyuki Miyakoshi² and Masahide Kaeriyama³

¹East Research Branch, Hokkaido Fish Hatchery,
²Hokkaido Fish Hatchery,
³Graduate School of Fisheries Science, Hokkaido University

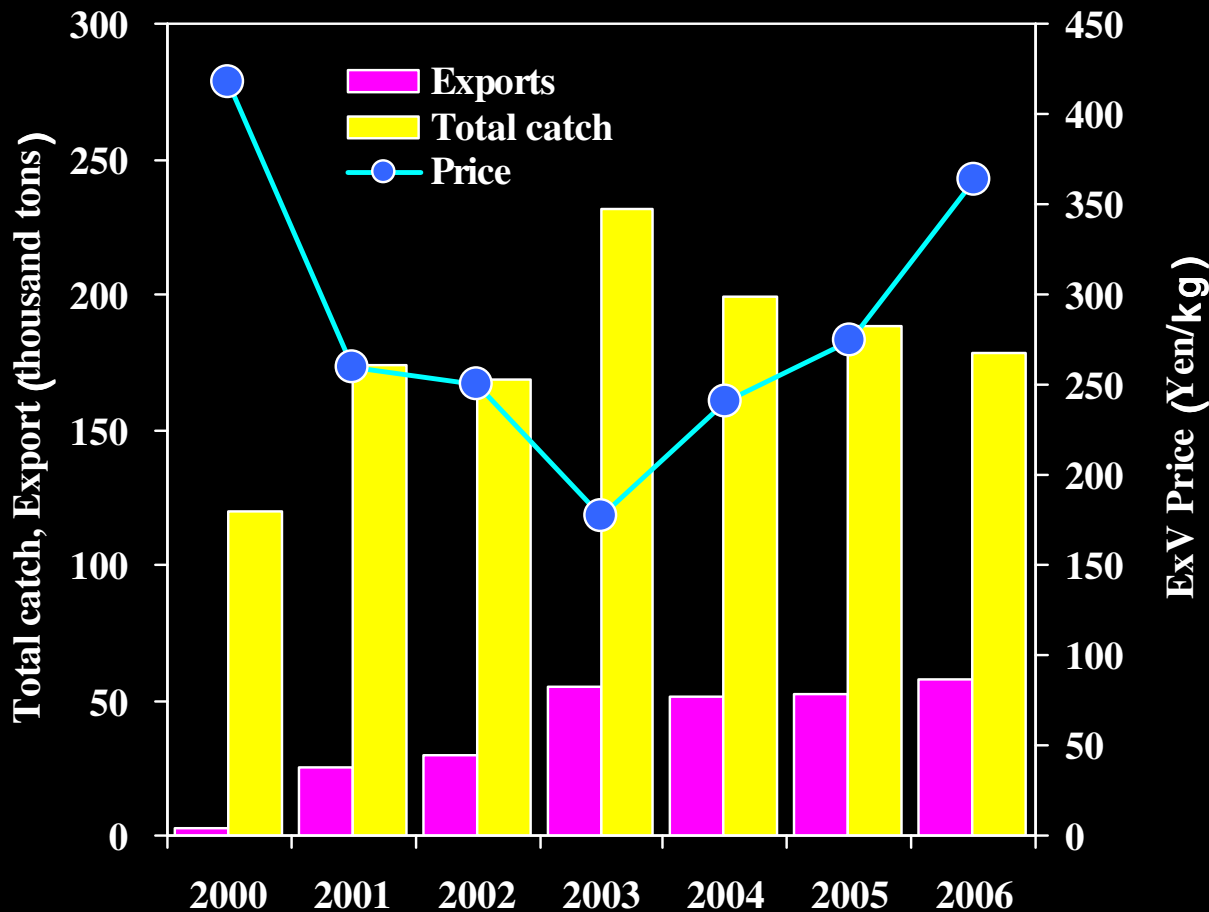


Wild salmon in Japan had been maintained by “Tanegawa No Seido”, a kind of Wild Salmon Conservation Act in the Edo period before founding of USA in 1776. Even commercial fishing was not allowed in the Tanegawa rivers. Mr. Buheiji Aoto made natural channels in the river in 1767 so that chum salmon naturally spawned. However, it was changed to hatchery-based management using modern techniques which was introduced from USA in 1888 due to active enhancement in the Meiji period.

While hatchery-based management in Hokkaido has been successful for chum salmon, *Oncorhynchus keta*, masu salmon, *Oncorhynchus masou* still remain at the low levels because of different life history (see the abstract by Nagata et al. in the session 2).



Recently Hokkaido Federation of Fisheries Cooperative Associations (Hokkaido Gyoren) has exported chum to Europe and North America via China fish processors to maintain the high price (See the figure). However, Alaskan MSC-certified salmon also have joined the China market. **Therefore, the Hokkaido Federation challenged to take MSC certification for Hokkaido chum salmon set net fishery to maintain profitable position to export.**



Hokkaido chum

VS

Alaskan salmon



The TAB of MSC confirmed that it is likely that the Hokkaido chum salmon fishery meets the newly developed 'MSC Scope Criteria for Enhanced Salmon Fisheries' as described below.

The Hokkaido fishery is this regarded by MSC as being in '**transitional scope**' at this time. The fishery does not currently contain all the elements required under S3 (wild salmon management).

To comply with the MSC standard, the current focus on culture-based management in the Hokkaido fishery will need to change to one defined instead by wild stock management objectives.

From the papers **such as Beacham et al. (2008)** reviewed to date, it is MSCs understanding that the historic management of the enhancement activities in this fishery has not led to irreversible negative impacts on the wild genome

What is the present status of wild salmon management in Hokkaido?

Commercial and game fisheries are legally prohibited in the all rivers around Hokkaido in order to conserve wild salmon and to catch hatchery salmon for enhancement programs in freshwater.

But, sustainable escapement goals and management plan for wild salmon have not been established, as biological survey and monitoring of wild/natural salmon such as adult counting have not been carried out in the freshwater.

First, we have to make a wild salmon policy as well as that in hatchery management policy which has been established.

Secondly, we have to accumulate the data set on wild salmon to separate from hatchery salmon.

Wild salmon policy

Some ideas have been thought to make a wild salmon policy not only to conserve wild salmon and biological diversity of hatchery origin salmon but also restoration programs to rehabilitate freshwater environments to create better fish habitats, **on the basis of 5 regional stocks around Hokkaido (Beacham et al., 2008).**

A harmony between ecosystem and coexistence of wild and hatchery salmon could be achieved on the basis of **the zone management** to spatially separate wild salmon from hatchery salmon in freshwater as you see the below.



There are three different types of rivers on the basis of hatchery activity in Hokkaido.

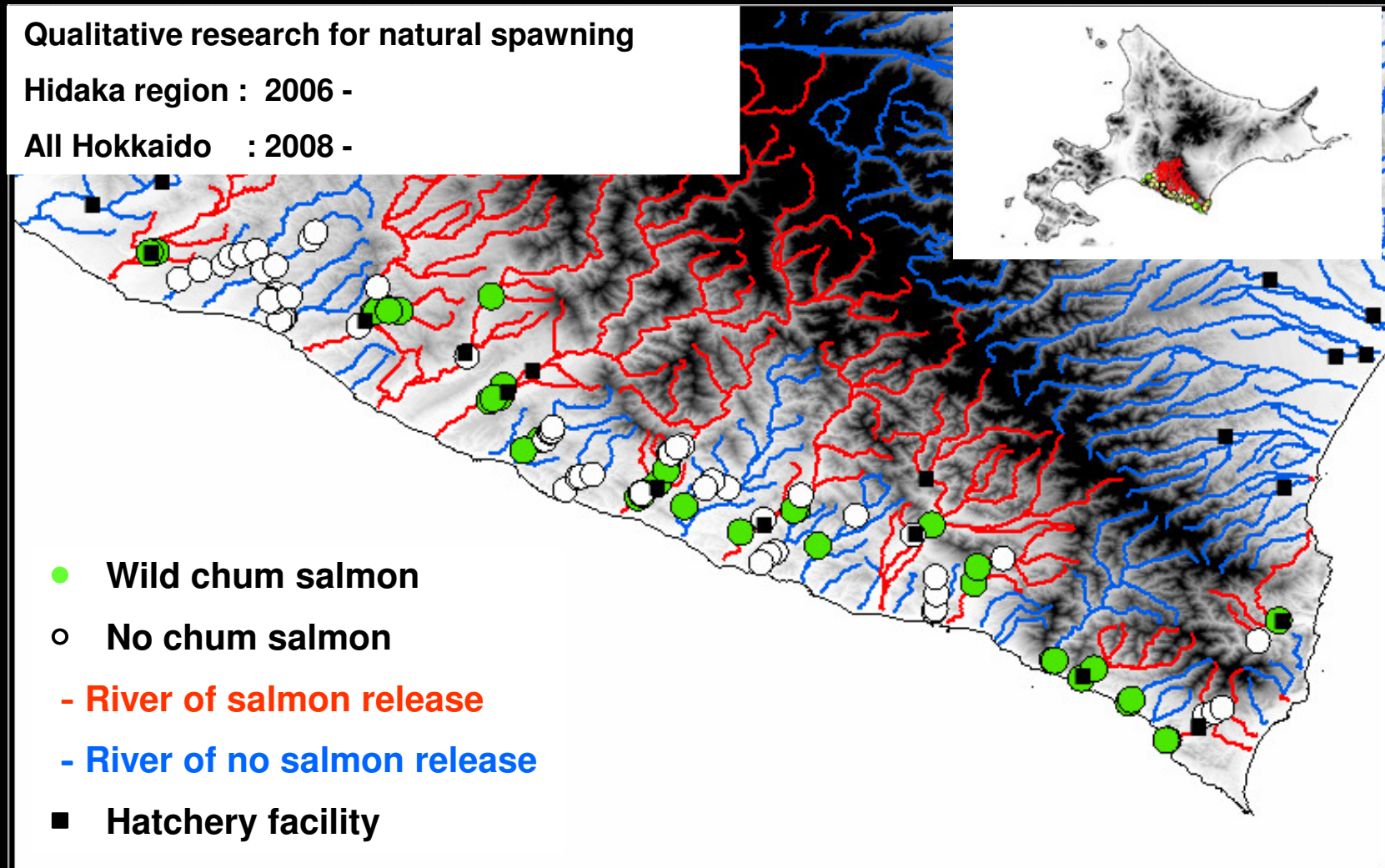
1. Hatchery salmon juveniles have never been released or stopped. (Wild Salmon River)
2. Hatchery salmon juveniles are released, and returned adults are captured in the rivers. (Mix Salmon River, a-1, 2, 3)
3. Hatchery salmon juveniles are released, but returned adults are not captured. (Mix Salmon River, b type). They will naturally spawn.
 >> **MSC criteria tells us that their progenies are identified to be wild when hatchery-origin adults naturally spawn on the conditions of the same**

Table This is showing the classification of rivers which are used by chum salmon, and data source

	Type	Hatchery Release	Adult Catch	Catching location (Mainly with weir)	Escapement Goal	Biological Data			
						Release #	Catch # (♂ ♀)	Age, Length	Wild escapement*
Wild Salmon River		No	No	—	No	—	—	No	No
	a-1	Yes	Yes	Near the Mouth of River	Yes (Mix)	Yes	Yes (Mix)	Some (Mix)	No identification
Mix Salmon River	a-2	Yes	Yes	Tributary	Yes (Mix?)	Yes	Yes (Mix?)	Some (Mix?)	No identification
(Wild and Hatchery)	a-3	Yes	Yes	Hatchery	Yes	Yes	Yes	Some	—
	b	Yes	No	—	No	Yes	No	No	No

*Biological surveys have been conducted to get qualitative and quantitative data of escapement and spawning for wild salmon since 2007.

Now, we have qualitatively investigated natural spawning and habitat conditions in streams around Hokkaido since three years ago on the basis of three different types of rivers (please come to Miyakoshi et al. in the poster session to get more).



Next step, we will start quantitative research and monitoring such as adult counting and biological data from this year to estimate tentative escapement goals of wild chum salmon.

Ecosystem-based sustainable conservation and management programs

- **Biological monitoring (Hatchery + Wild)**
 - Carrying capacity in the ocean related to climate change and global warming
 - Body size & age composition of a population
 - Genetic & reproductive characteristics
- **Separation (zone management) of wild and hatchery salmon populations in freshwater**
 - to protect genetic diversity and endemism, and recreational and commercial salmon fisheries
- **Rehabilitation of wild salmon populations & natural riparian ecosystem**
 - Establishment of nursery and spawning areas in rivers
 - Rehabilitations of wild chum and pink salmon
 - Conservation of wild masu salmon
 - Exclusion and non-introduction of exotic fishes



Photo from <http://nonbiri.boo.jp/sinwa45.html>

This is the salmon shrine in Kyushu. 「鮭」 is Salmon. 「大明神」 is God. Local people believe that chum salmon must be a kind of God or a messenger of a God.

Therefore, there is almost no custom to separate hatchery from wild salmon among Japanese people.

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Photo from http://www.food.maruha-nichiro.co.jp/salmon/fishery/06_01.html

We need to establish the strategy to coexist wild and hatchery salmon for ecosystem-based sustainable conservation and management programs succeeding to the will of Mr. Aoto as samurai salmon.