

**Press Release**

**EIGHTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON  
THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF POLLOCK RESOURCES IN THE  
CENTRAL BERING SEA**

September 15-18, 2003 Portland, Oregon USA  
JOINT PRESS RELEASE  
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Representatives from four of the six Parties to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea met in Portland, Oregon USA and continued their cooperative efforts to conserve and manage pollock stocks in the Convention Area.

The Eighth Annual Conference held under terms of the Convention took place 15-18 September 2003. Dr. James Balsiger from the United States chaired the Conference. The Parties to the Convention present at the meeting, the Russian Federation, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the United States of America, agreed on the conservation and management measures and reviewed scientific information on the status of pollock stocks. The Scientific and Technical Committee agreed on a plan of work for 2004.

The Eighth Annual Conference determined that the biomass of the pollock resources in the Convention Area has not reached the criteria described in the Convention. Accordingly, by the Convention rules, the annual harvest level of pollock in the Convention Area was set at zero. In the absence of a harvest level, trial fishing by vessels of the Parties to the Convention will be permitted in 2004. The Parties agreed to strengthen scientific efforts and cooperation.

In 2004, member States plan to conduct a coordinated research effort in the Central Bering Sea and the Aleutian Basin. This provides a unique opportunity to study pollock distribution and migration patterns in the Bering Sea. Comprehensive scientific information such as this will allow the Parties to make better-informed decisions on the conservation and management of the pollock resource.

Japan invited the Parties to the Ninth Annual Conference in September 2004 in Tokyo.