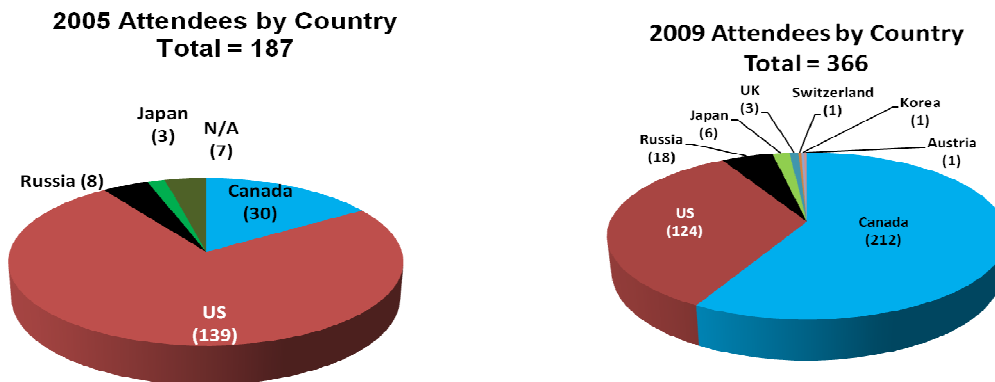


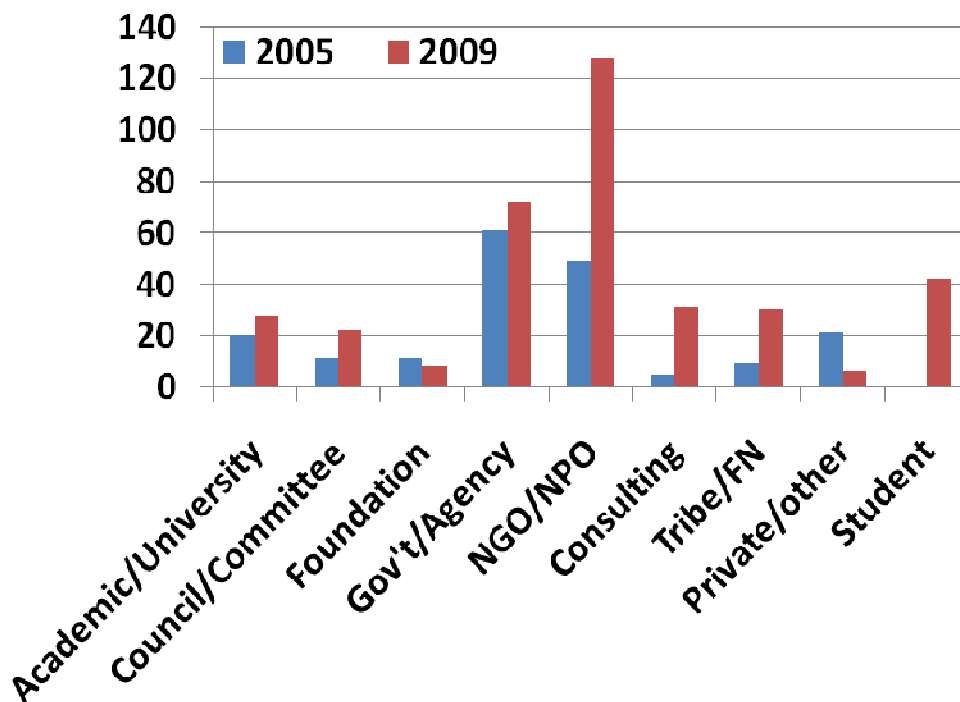
# 2009 State of the Salmon Conference in review

## *A profile of attendees and synopsis of reactions to the conference*

Nearly twice as many people attended the 2009 State of the Salmon Conference relative to its previous, and first gathering in 2005, held in Anchorage, Alaska. Attendees travelled from eight countries to join us in Vancouver from February 2-5, 2009.



Employees of non-governmental/non-profit organizations comprised over one-third of the audience, though representation from nearly every sector of the environmental field increased from 2005.



Attendees were asked to complete an anonymous survey of their experience at the conference. An online version was available for two months after the event. Seventy-three responded, comprising 20% of the

attendees. According to survey respondents and feedback received directly by staff, the main conference highlights included:

- the heartfelt closing speech delivered at the end of day two by Pearl Keenan of the Teslin Tlingit First Nation in the Yukon.
- Keynote speeches ranked as the top session by about 30% of survey respondents, though all sessions received positive comments for interesting speakers and session content.
- 83% of survey respondents indicated they gained important information during the conference.
- 88% of survey respondents indicated they made collaborative contacts.
- 52% of survey respondents felt progress was made toward a new overall Pacific salmon conservation strategy.
- 65% of survey respondents indicated they attended for salmon management, science, and policy topics.
- Interpretation, logistics, food and venue organization ALL received high marks.

Several suggestions were made for improving upon future conferences:

- greater representation among from the following stakeholder groups:
  - First Nations and Tribal representatives,
  - Commercial and recreational fishermen,
  - Social Scientists,
  - Educators,
  - Politicians,
  - Resource Managers,
  - Government Representatives,
  - Women speakers;
- more emphasis on action-oriented solutions;
- stronger focus on connections between society and human behavior issues and the salmon problem, expanding on keynote themes: and
- logistical and format changes, specifically:
  - better visibility of Power Point images,
  - more consistent opportunity for Q&A for all speakers and sessions,
  - more space and different organization for the poster session, and
  - a greener conference setting.

We'd like to thank all those who took the time to provide their feedback and welcome additional comments at any time by clicking [here](#).