THE ECOLOGY OF JUVENILE SALMON IN THE NORTHEAST PACIFIC OCEAN: REGIONAL COMPARISONS. *Based on a symposium held in Anchorage, Alaska, 12–13 September 2005. American Fisheries Society Symposium, Volume 57.*

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Pacific salmon are among the best known group of fishes as a consequence of their importance in commercial and recreational fisheries, and aquaculture, as well as part of the biodiversity and ecology of the Pacific Rim. However, the great majority of work concerns their natural history and ecology in freshwater, and the marine phase remains poorly known, especially for juveniles in their first year at sea. This book, the result of a symposium at the 2005 American Fisheries Society meeting, includes nine chapters on this topic. Like all symposia, the coverage is a bit uneven, but this problem is ameliorated because so many of the papers have multiple authors from different institutions, and several of the authors contributed to more than one article. Indeed, the nine papers list 76 authors, representing 38 different individuals, and six scientists contributed to at least four papers. In addition, the authors clearly went to considerable effort to standardize their methods as much as possible and to consider methodological differences that occurred so that patterns would not be biased by artifacts of the sampling gear.

The book includes chapters on spatial distribution, migration patterns, diet, growth, mortality, the epipelagic community that salmon are part of, and infestations by parasitic copepods. These chapters provide a wealth of detail with many extensive and useful tables of data, and they emphasize contrasts over the North American range of salmon from California to Alaska, considering the current regimes and other features of the ocean that affect salmon. This volume will be essential reading for anyone working on salmon at sea; those working in freshwater habitats should also read it in order to better understand the ecology of young salmon in the ocean. The historical overview by Pearcy and McKinnell will be most interesting to readers who are not studying salmon, as it explains how our current knowledge developed around five key themes: population structure, migration patterns, the critical period concept, carrying capacity, and variability in the ocean itself. For each of these topics, early simplistic ideas have given way to deeper knowledge as investigations proceeded and hypotheses were tested, and this overview chapter is especially engaging.

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