



2010 Issue Highlights

Pacific Salmon Treaty

ATA worked closely with Treaty representatives on issues relative to implementation of the 2008 agreement.

Chinook Mitigation Program

ATA worked with other stakeholders to design a package of enhancement, infrastructure, and direct payments to help offset Alaska's Treaty-related Chinook cuts.

North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP)

ATA attended and testified at meetings on the federal Salmon FMP, which the NPFMC is currently reviewing for consistency under the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Trawl Bycatch

Monitored trawl bycatch issues in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska; testified at NPFMC on selection of Gulf of Alaska management options for analysis in 2011.

USCG Safety Rules

ATA raised concerns about new USCG safety and stability legislation, which could negatively impact small boat operators while providing little improvement in overall fleet safety.

Sealaska Lands Trade Act

ATA opposed a number of new land selections as proposed by Sealaska and the congressional delegation. ATA questions the process of making selections and remains concerned about ambiguity that exists on how these areas would be used. ATA supports an equitable conclusion of the lands trade issue.

Offshore Aquaculture

ATA networked with other fishing organizations, environmental and consumer groups in the US and abroad on the many issues associated with fish farming and associated activities. Bills have been introduced in Congress at the request of Clinton, Bush, and NMFS; none have passed. ATA provided feedback to congress, the agencies, and councils in meetings, hearings, written comments, and briefing sessions in Washington, D.C. and the West and Gulf Coasts. ATA has been involved in the Aquaculture Dialogues, which is an attempt to develop international policies to guide aquaculture practices. ATA continues its efforts to protect fish, fishermen, and fishing communities from any harmful effects of fish farming.

Ocean Acidification

ATA worked with industry groups and individual fishermen to alert congress to the seafood industry's concerns about the environmental and economic effects of ocean acidification.

West Coast Salmon Industry

ATA worked with fishermen from California to Alaska opposing the poor water policies that have forced fishery closures to protect Klamath, Sacramento, and Columbia River Basin stocks and trying to educate lawmakers and others about salmon, fisheries, and businesses that are harmed by habitat degradation.

Endangered Species Act

ATA continues to seek proportional sharing of pain for listed salmon stocks, which, by rights, should place more emphasis on improving habitat and fish passage, not unnecessary fishing restrictions.

Board of Fisheries

ATA began working on proposals for the 2012 Southeast/Yakutat meeting.

Marketing / Public Relations

ATA regularly helps facilitate the presentation of hook and line caught salmon at public and private events, and assists *Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute* with various promotions and tours for buyers and food writers. ATA presented an overview of the SE fishing economy at UFA's Fisheries Day in Anchorage.

Vessel Monitoring Systems

ATA continues to monitor this issue.

Habitat

ATA worked with Southeast groups on a proposal to legislatively define critical salmon habitat in the Taku River proper. Also opposed a number of new land selections proposed by Sealaska and the congressional delegation. ATA questions the process of making selections and remains concerned about the ambiguity about how these areas would be used. ATA does support an equitable conclusion of the lands trade issue.

Illegal Foreign Fishing

ATA is working with US Senators, Commerce Committee staff, and ADFG to document landings of salmon suspected of passing through high seas gillnets. In addition, we helped facilitate fishermen's efforts to turn in foreign gear found on the fishing grounds. ATA continues to push for increased high seas enforcement.

EPA Discharge Permits

ATA continued to raise concerns with the Alaska congressional delegation about an EPA court loss, which could mean all boat owners will need federal discharge permits. In 2008, a bill passed with provisions for a two year moratorium on the court order and a study, which is hoped to lead to a permanent permit exemption for small vessels. The study was conducted summer 2009 and ATA worked with EPA contractors to help ensure the fleet and processors were not unduly inconvenienced. ATA has commented on the study and also helped to secure a second moratorium while congress reviews study results. A second issue erupted with the potential for new grinding/discharge/reporting requirements for freezer boats. ATA will continue to work with the state and EPA in hopes of protecting the fleet from these regs.

DEC Permits

ATA met with and commented to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, who decided to revisit the issue of gilling/gutting fish and other measures they believe would improve sanitation onboard fishing vessels. ATA opposes the proposals, because they are not based on identified problems, nor do they provide meaningful improvements to public health.

Healthcare Access

ATA worked with many small business in hopes of securing affordable insurance and healthcare access for small business. While federal legislation passed, the benefits to our industry are not immediately obvious.

Halibut Allocation

ATA supports efforts by longline organizations to secure fair allocation of the halibut resource in the face of growing guided sport harvest. Board members and/or staff have participated in all key North Pacific Fishery Management Council meetings and many IPHC meetings.

Cooperative Partnerships

ATA works with a number of organizations on a great many projects. Like the Halibut Coalition, or the National Farmers Union, a group of family farmers with policies and goals similar to small boat fishing groups. ATA belongs to the following organizations and encourages your support:

United Fishermen of Alaska - UFA dues are \$150/year and can be paid with your ATA dues.

Commercial Fishermen of America - ATA's executive director is a founding board member and ATA is a member group of this new organization, whose first mission for industry is healthcare. CFA's board is made up of commercial fishermen and representatives from all regions and most coastal states. CFA dues are \$50/year and can be paid with your ATA dues.

Halibut Coalition - The Halibut Coalition fights to protect the resource and ensure halibut allocations are reasonable. ATA will forward donations.

Save Our Wild Salmon - ATA is a longstanding member group of SOWS, who fights for improved water flows in the Columbia River Basin. ATA will pass along contributions to SOWS.