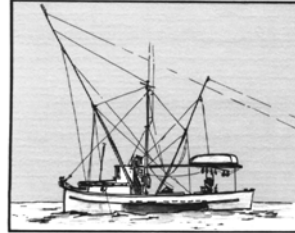


# Alaska Troller

SUMMER 2010

## Genetically Engineered Animals: FDA's Brave New World?

The FDA is in the final stages of its in-house review of genetically engineered (GE) salmon. If approved, this would be the first genetically engineered animal permitted for sale in the US. Salmon could be the test case, with more to follow quickly, like pigs, rabbits, and cows. Some countries have banned GE foods outright, but for years the US has worked to modify seed crops, like corn and soy, and engineer genetic material for a variety of purposes; from making crops resistant to disease, to keeping blood from freezing, to making your ice cream more creamy.



Genetic engineering is different than selectively breeding livestock to highlight a desirable trait like good milk production or higher live birth rates. It's much more direct, with faster results. Scientists can precisely alter genes and even cross species - like fish genes spliced into plants to improve cold weather resistance. The salmon under review is the merging of an Atlantic salmon with the genes of both an Chinook salmon and an Arctic Pout. It has literally been built for speed - growing bigger and twice as fast as other farmed salmon.

FDA's Veterinary Advisory Committee recently met on the East Coast, to develop a recommendation on the scientific aspects of approving GE salmon. A single public hearing was held at the same time, but its focus was limited to whether these animals should be labeled in the marketplace. People had to sign up in advance to testify (few did), and the most substantive documents released on these fish came out just days before the hearing. This left no time to develop remarks based on the data and information FDA is using for its analysis.

FDA is conducting this review as it would for a drug, so it is exempt from the normal public process. The review began about 10 years ago and has been shrouded in secrecy, to protect the patent rights of the developers. To our knowledge, the only environmental assessment that has been done was conducted by AquaBounty, the company that engineered the AquaAdvantage salmon.

Some scientists believe GE salmon are safe to eat and not significantly different than any other Atlantic salmon, which could make the fish a shoo-in for FDA approval. Others suggest that these fish may pose an increased allergy risk for consumers, not to mention worries about the impact of any escaped fish. But AquaBounty refutes any health claims and says that the salmon is not an environmental risk, because they intend to raise all female fish, in closed systems, not ocean net pens. This may all be true. However, lacking a full and open public process to review and discuss relevant information with various fisheries agencies and healthcare professionals, or a regulatory structure to dictate how and where that fish can be propagated and raised once it's sold to the fish farm industry - well, how can we be sure?

ATA is working with others around the country to express concerns about GE fish and the process being used to evaluate them. Labeling? Absolutely!

### Inside This Issue

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### SPC Wins Governor's Award

**Seafood Producers Co-op** is one of six businesses to earn this year's prestigious North Star Award for International Excellence.

SPC was recognized by the state for its quality processing and international marketing efforts.

"Alaskans have strong international ties across almost every industry in our state," said Gov. Sean Parnell. "I am pleased to honor the international successes of these businesses and organizations that benefit not only overseas markets and groups, but Alaskans at home."

Also honored was the Western Alaska CDQ group Coastal Villages Region Fund, All Alaska Tours, China Airlines, Institute of the North, and the Alaska Sudan Medical Project.

Congratulations to SPC and each of the 2010 recipients!



**Special  
Thanks**

**Seafood Producers Cooperative  
Sitka Sound Seafoods  
Triad Fisheries**

Your exceptional support helps ATA stay on the job.



**From the Director's Desk...** Today some good news from the Gulf of Mexico, where Deep Horizon appears capped and about 8,000 square miles of fishing area was re-opened - just 20% of what was closed, but a start. Fish and shellfish in that area have proven free from contamination, so hopefully that means Gulf processors will be able to entice back some buyers and fishermen can start getting back on the water. The situation in the Gulf puts a whole different light on a 'bad season', don't you think? I don't say that lightly. Every year someone has a tough go, and what with a low chinook quota, sporadic coho abundance, and punishing Westerly's this season, many in the fleet were probably hoping for a bit more. The good news is that we're fishing and price seems to have held up pretty good - there is an obvious demand for our salmon, even in this stressed economy. The processors, independent marketers, ASMI, and the fleet's attention to delivering quality fish - combined with good management and habitat protection - have gone a long way to make that happen. Remember the 90's? I'm grateful for the folks who buy our fish and to everyone in the industry who commits to sustainability, quality, and keeping Alaska Seafood second only to Oreo cookies ('tis true) amongst the top name brands in the country. Your efforts are paying off. Another season draws to a close... great work, y'all! dk ✌

### Chinook Mitigation Update\*

**Direct Payment:** The state is finalizing regulations and hopes to get applications to the fleet by mid-to-late fall. Be sure to get yours in by the deadline! Distribution of funds should begin in early 2011.

**Infrastructure:** Regulations were recently published for public comment. Request for proposals will go out this fall; and, ideally, approved projects should be able to launch by spring.

**Enhancement:** The state and selected facilities are working to finalize various projects and funding details.

**Frozen at Sea Marketing Research:** The state is designing a process to distribute these funds.

\* Refer to the Spring 2010 ATA newsletter for an outline of the mitigation program. Can't find yours? Check with your local processor for extra copies, or email/call the office.

**REMINDER:** ATA will begin work on the next round of mitigation recommendations at the fall board meeting, first week of November. Suggestions welcome!

### Did you know...

The Alaska Legislature, seeing genetically engineered fish on the horizon, stepped up to the plate in 2005 and worked with ATA and others to lock in labeling requirements. Senators Kim Elton & Gary Stevens led the charge and SB 25 passed the legislature with a near unanimous vote of both houses. If GE salmon ever reach our markets, Alaska consumers will be able to make an informed buying choice.

All our science is just a cookery book, with an orthodox theory of cooking that nobody's allowed to question, and a list of recipes that mustn't be added to except by special permission from the head cook. *Aldous Huxley, Brave New World*



## 26th Alaska Legislative Session

Another legislative session drew to a close in April with many bills languishing in the final hours. Some seemed better off dead, while failure to pass of some others remains a source of frustration to ATA and others. You be the judge. Who knows what 2011 will bring? We encourage you to monitor and discuss the bills with us, and get involved on those issues that most affect your business. Alaska Legislature: <http://w3.legis.state.ak.us/>

The following are a few of the bills ATA following that passed the legislature and have either already been signed into law or await the governor's signature:

Bill	ATA	
HB 20	Support	Increases the availability of low interest loans to improve vessel energy and fuel efficiency.
HB 134	Neutral	Directs how the agency will permit specific discharges from cruise ships, while technology is developed and installed to meet point of discharge standards approved by voters.
HB 344	Support	Extends current tax credit for processors developing new salmon product forms.
HJR 19	Support	Reaffirms support for Prince William Sound oil tanker escort requirements.
SB 163	Support	Increases allowable payment under the Alaska Fishermen's Fund from \$2,500 to \$10,000 for each covered incident
SJR 27	Support	Urging the federal government to provide funding for domestic seafood marketing and promotional activities.

Here are a few bill topics that did not pass, but could surface again when the legislature convenes in January.

### Board of Fisheries

- Mandatory Board of Fisheries membership: 3 commercial, 3 sport, 1 subsistence.
- Allow members to declare personal & financial interests and then vote on matters before the Board of Fish.
- Prevent a person from appointment to a state board if they sought public office in the previous year.
- Force the Board of Fish to hold single issue meetings in the relevant region.
- Require the BOF to regulate for the maximum sustained yield of 'important and dominant' salmon stocks.
- Board of Fisheries report to the Legislature on the potential of increasing the length of time between regional meetings and developing a policy regarding repetitive proposals.

### Seafood Marketing

- 50% state match for Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI) seafood marketing contracts.

### Water Quality

- Department of Environmental Conservation to collect and make available to the public information relating to water pollution; prohibit certain mixing zones in freshwater spawning waters; and, requiring public comment.
- Require studies and specific rules prior to allowing large scale mine operations near Bristol Bay headwaters.

### Sport & Personal Use Fishing

- Extend and reconstitute the Cook Inlet Task Force.
- Continue licensing and data gathering on sportfish guides.
- Prohibit power assisted retrieval of sport fish.
- Personal Use Priority - personal use would be second only to subsistence.

### State and Community Rights

- Oppose federal control of state lands and water.
- Establish AK Coastal Policy Board to better involve coastal communities and agencies in development policy.

### Miscellaneous

- Disclose fish ticket data to NMFS and require payment of industry fees related to buyback programs.

### 2010 Troll Stats

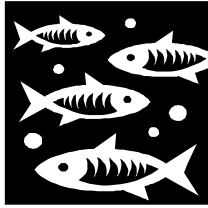
9/23/10

**Chinook:** 195,234

**Coho:** 1,262,792

**Permits Fished:** 972

Since the Taku and Stikine Rivers were declared ‘rebuilt’ we’ve received questions from the fleet about the anticipated impact of fishing on once depleted stocks. ATA is proud of the management program that led to rejuvenation of these runs. Both Alaska and Canada can now reap the rewards through a conservative new fishing strategy. Many thanks to former ADFG Troll Fishery Manager, Brian Lynch, who agreed to share the following perspectives on escapement goals, maximum sustained yield (MSY) management, and the Transboundary Rivers fishing regime.



## HOW MANY SALMON ARE TOO MANY SALMON?

Many people believe that the correct number of salmon that should be allowed to spawn is the maximum number of animals that can get into the system. The concept of “over escapement” for salmon is something that many people have a difficult time believing or accepting. The idea of allowing too many fish to return to their natal streams to spawn as being a “bad” thing is counter-intuitive, not only to people unfamiliar with fish in general, but also to avid anglers and even those who depend on salmon for their livelihood. However, the State of Alaska has run a successful salmon program that is based on the simple fact that there is a limit to what a stream can support.

The term “over escapement” is somewhat of a misnomer, as the “over” part actually refers to the number of spawning fish that lowers the production of offspring. Maximum Sustained Yield (MSY) is the management principal that the Department uses to produce the most fish from each spawner.

The difficulty accepting that the optimum escapement of salmon is somewhere below the maximum number of fish that get into the system may be because fish and their habitats are hard to actually see. Compare this to land-based mammals, where most people understand that there is a limit to the number of individuals that can occupy a given area or habitat. It’s easy to visualize that 1,000 deer per acre is too many. Too many deer will either eat too much food and the population will “crash”, or disease will infect a population and reduce the number of animals and their offspring, or predators will attack the population and decrease the deer numbers while increasing their own. No matter what happens, the population will decrease to a number that is sustainable given the amount of available habitat. Similar factors also limit salmon populations to levels that can be supported by the available habitat, whether those limits are due to spawning area, rearing area, or both.

Determining the optimum escapement range for a stock and setting the Biological Escapement Goal (BEG) that will produce maximum sustainable yield (MSY) is a long, difficult, and labor intensive process. A time series of data must be produced that includes: total return (harvests + escapement), age at return (both harvests and escapements), and the sex composition of the

escapements. This analysis shows how many recruits (juveniles that reach harvestable age) were produced by each spawner. A number of years worth of spawner-recruit data is necessary to minimize uncertainty in the BEG. It’s best if that data has a lot of “contrast”, meaning many data points at both the lower and upper end of escapements. Once this data has been compiled, a mathematical model is used to generate the MSY goal. A BEG ‘point goal’, or escapement target, is then set along with a range around that goal where there is high likelihood that maximum sustained yield (MSY) will be attained. The Department then manages fisheries harvesting that particular stock of salmon, to ensure that the escapement will fall within the range.

The two most common spawner-recruit models that are used to establish salmon escapement goals are the Ricker and Beverton-Holt models. The Ricker model generally is used for systems that are spawning limited and Beverton-Holt is more appropriate for systems that are rearing limited. These models are often both applied to the spawner-recruit data to determine the most appropriate method, but the results are often similar.

The Stikine and Taku Rivers are real-time examples of MSY management in action. The Stikine River, with a BEG of 17,400 adult spawners, and a range of 14,000 to 28,000, is expected to achieve MSY. A new interim BEG of 25,500 with a range of 19,000 to 36,000 has been recommended for the Taku River by both the Chinook and Transboundary Rivers Technical Committees of the Pacific Salmon Commission. This is down from the previous goal of 36,000 with a range of 30,000 to 55,000. The new goal is currently in use for the management of both the US District 11 and Canadian in-river fisheries and is expected to sustain these runs while allowing additional opportunity for fishermen.

The concept of MSY can be applied to many animal populations and works well for salmon, but it is not the appropriate tool to manage all species, particularly those with more complex life histories or inter-species interactions, like groundfish. However, the concept of MSY is relatively easy to “get your head around” if you just think of it as the maximum number of animals that can be produced and supported by the available habitat.

**EPA Incidental Discharge:** Senators Lisa Murkowski and Barbara Boxer secured unanimous approval from congress on a measure that provides a three-year moratorium extension on Clean Water Act permit requirements for discharges incidental to normal operations of a vessels under 79 feet . Two years ago, a bill introduced by Murkowski was enacted establishing a two-year moratorium and directing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Coast Guard to conduct a study to evaluate the impacts of discharges including bilge, deckwash, and greywater. The results of that study will provide a basis for deciding whether the discharges should be regulated by EPA through National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. The original moratorium was set to expire on July 31, 2010; however, the study has proved to be difficult and time-consuming and the results have yet to be verified. It would have been difficult, if not impossible, for the EPA to issue up to 140,000 permits, nationally, by July of this year. Nearly 9,700 commercial and charter fishing vessels in Alaska would have had to have a permit last summer.

**EPA Seafood ‘Waste’ Discharge:** Freezer boat operators and other small boat processors are still awaiting word on whether or not they will be required to carry grinders for fish heads and be subject to burdensome monitoring and reporting requirements. ATA continues to seek an exemption.

### **NPFMC & Salmon Bycatch**

#### *Bering Sea*

NOAA recently issued a final rule to reduce the incidental catch of Chinook salmon in the Bering Sea trawl fishery for Pollock. The new management program goes into effect in 2011. New regulations include bycatch limits, an industry proposed incentive plan with performance standards, and 100% observer coverage. The fishery will be closed once the annual bycatch cap of 60,000 is reached. The Bering Sea Pollock fleet caught an average of 47,000 chinook from 1997-2006. That number spiked to 122,000 in 2007 and immediately fell to 20,000 and 12,000 in 2008 and 2009 respectively. About half the chinook caught by the Pollock fleet are thought to be from Western Alaska.

#### *Gulf of Alaska*

Council continues to monitor Gulf of Alaska (GOA) salmon bycatch. Chinook bycatch occurs primarily in the trawl fisheries in the Western and Central GOA, from January to April and Sept-Oct. For the last 20 years, chinook bycatch has averaged 20K per year, with a high of 40K in 2007 and a low of 7,700 in 2009. Bycatch of other species of salmon averaged 14K from 1990-2009 and 5,000 from 2003-2009; the high year was 1998 with 13,500 caught. To help Council members decide whether or not corrective management action is needed, NMFS staff has provided data and management options to reduce trawl chinook bycatch. Ideas range from closures to voluntary bycatch cooperatives. A report is being written and this discussion will continue at the December 2010 NPFMC meeting in Anchorage.

**Fishing Vessel Safety Forum:** The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) will host a forum in October to identify safety issues from both industry and government perspectives and identify strategies to prevent accidents and reduce injuries and fatalities. Topics: Identify problems and progress made in fishing vessel safety; vessel related issues impacting safety; fisheries management practices and impacts on safety; lifesaving equipment; training of crew members; and perspectives of fishermen on safety. Panelists participating in the forum will include UFA and other representatives of the commercial fishing industry, safety equipment manufacturers, marine safety trainers, classification societies, marine surveyors, and federal agencies involved with the industry.

The NTSB has affected safety policy since 1970 through its 1987 study and more than 150 safety proposals. [www.nts.gov/events/forum\\_fishing\\_vessel\\_safety/forum\\_fishingvessel\\_safety.htm](http://www.nts.gov/events/forum_fishing_vessel_safety/forum_fishingvessel_safety.htm)

### **20th Annual Raffle** **\$2500 Grand Prize**



**Tickets on Sale Now**

## 2010 Calendar

### October

	ATA Election: Ballots Due by 5pm	
6-12	NPFMC <a href="http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc">http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc</a>	Captain Cook, Anchorage
20	SSRAA Board of Director Nominations Close	2 Seats Open

### November

4-7	ATA Board of Directors Meeting * Members and Invited Guests Only *	Prospector Hotel Juneau
18-20	Fish EXPO ATA Port Meeting: 1:30pm Friday Nov. 19th	Quest Field, Seattle Look for signs at EXPO
22	Comment Ends: FDA Labeling for Genetically Engineered Salmon <a href="http://www.regulations.gov/search/Regs/home.html#submitComment?R=0900006480b3b456">www.regulations.gov/search/Regs/home.html#submitComment?R=0900006480b3b456</a>	

## ATA Priorities

Treaty/ ESA

Board of Fisheries

Offshore Aquaculture

EPA / DEC Regulations

USCG Safety Regs

Sportfish Issues

ATA/Fleet

Communications

## More Evidence of Illegal High Seas Fishing

In May, a high seas driftnet was spotted at Funter Bay by a local air service and later verified by ADFG. The net was loaded with gear and sea life. ADFG staff and crew from Marine Conservation Alliance (MCA) and the M/V Summer King recovered the net, which, with corks and lead lines, weighed in at 1550 pounds. It's now being housed in the Juneau landfill, compliments fishing pirates from a yet to be determined nation.

In September, ATA board member, Casey Mapes, sent evidence of a net in the Yakutat area and we contacted MCA for an assist. ATA will do what it can to help MCA and local marine debris recovery teams who will do a beach clean up next year. Several other high seas nets are known to have washed into the Situk River watershed. Fortunately, the nets appear secure enough to wait until spring, when clean up teams can maximize their time and resources.

We will continue to report high seas gear found by our fleet and coordinate with removal teams and those who affect policy on these matters. Please help ATA by calling whenever you see suspiciously marked fish or gear. Pictures, samples, and precise location, date, and time of siting are all very important.

## Membership Drive Hooks a Few More...

ATA members, board members, and staff hit the docks this summer for the annual membership drive. Thanks to their efforts in Sitka, Craig, Petersburg, Wrangell, and Ketchikan, a number of new and returning members were signed up. We appreciate the time folks took out of their busy lives to help. If you aren't a member we hope you'll sign on soon and bring your friends. Strength in numbers!

*Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress.  
Working together is success. ♦ Henry Ford*

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## Welcome New Members

(Through Sept. 7)

	Boat	Home Port	Type
Adam Hackett		Sitka	PT
Darren Patrick	Mustang	Gustavus	PT
Gary Mooslin	Blue Dolphin	Carlotta, CA	PT/P
Matt Houser	Sea Pride	Craig	PT
Peter DeJongh	Brandt	Sitka	PT
Steve Schallberger	China Cove	Edna Bay	PT
Warren Collins	Neskowin	Craig	PT
Don Welborn	Linda J	Los Osos, CA	PT
Daniel Olson	Gail Ann	Grayland, WA	PT
Laurie Broad	Sea Parrot	Wrangell	PT

### Upgrades

Howard Pendell	Rosa Lee	Sitka	PT/G
Ben Peters	Jaeger	Port Angeles	PT/G
Eric Jordan	I Gotta	Sitka	PT/G
Ajax Eggleston	Alitak	Juneau	PT/S
Tom Fisher	Carol W	Ketchikan	PT/S
Tony McDonald	Donna C	Petersburg	PT/S
Spencer Severson	Loon	Sitka	PT/S

Did we miss you? Give a call!



**ATA is grateful for the support of our Associate Members and encourages your patronage of these fine establishments...**

Anderes Oil, Ketchikan	Murray Pacific, Sitka	Sitka Boat Watch
Bellingham Cold Storage	Nerka Sea Frozen Salmon	Sitka Sound Seafoods
Bruce Weyhrauch, Juneau	Norquest Seafoods	Taku Oil, Juneau
City of Port Alexander	Ocean Beauty XIP	Taku Smokeries, Juneau
Craig Bar & Liquor, Craig	Petersburg Fisheries	The Boat Company, WA, DC
E.C. Phillips & Son, Ketchikan	Petro Alaska, Ketchikan	The Office Bar, Hoonah
First Bank, Ketchikan	Petro Marine, Seward	Timber & Marine Supply, Ketchikan
Hammer & Wikan, Petersburg	Port Townsend Shipwright	Tongass Trading, Ketchikan
Hoonah Cold Storage	Precision Boatworks, Sitka	Trading Union, Petersburg
House of Liquors, Sitka	Seafood Producers Co-op	Triad Fisheries
LFS, Inc, Bellingham	Sea Mart, Sitka	Union Machine Shop, Ketchikan
Lisianski Inlet Café, Pelican	Seattle Marine, Seattle	US Seven Oceans, Mukilteo
Madison Lumber, Ketchikan	Seaview Boatyard, Seattle	Wells Fargo Bank, Juneau
Marine Surveyors of SE Alaska, Wrangell	Service Auto Parts, Ketchikan	Wrangell Oil, Wrangell
Murray Pacific, Ketchikan	Shoreline, Pelican	Yakutat Seafoods, Yakutat

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**Casey Mapes**

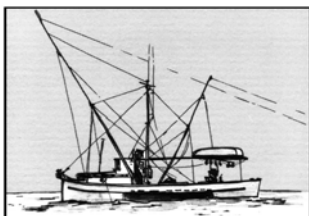
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Silver	350	250	110	1000	500	
Gold	400	300	160	2500	1000	
Platinum	500	400	300	5000	2500	
LIFE	3000	2000	750			
Special 1st Year Rate	150	100				
Retired Troller	50	50	50			

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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Crew Size: \_\_\_ Ice Boat: \_\_\_ Freezer Boat: \_\_\_ Direct Marketer: \_\_\_ Processor: \_\_\_ SPC: \_\_\_ UFA: \_\_\_ CFA: \_\_\_

Other Fisheries: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to volunteer some time and/or expertise to ATA? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Call-In Program? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

DONATION: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Please use my extra donation for: Legal \_\_\_ General Purposes \_\_\_ Publicity \_\_\_

**T-SHIRTS** Lt. Blue, Slate, Forest Green (L, XL)  
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 Long-sleeve \$25 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Short-sleeve \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

**HATS:** navy oilskin / khaki & black denim  
 Qty. Color(s)  
 Hat: \$25 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Raffle Ticket: \$20 \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment: Check \_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_ Need a Receipt? A receipt for tax purposes is sent to all members in late January. Check only if you want an extra receipt. Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ 