

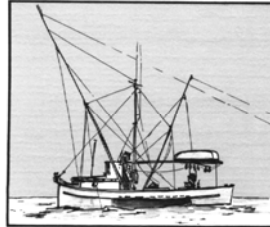
# Alaska Troller

WINTER 2008

## 2008 Chinook Quota Slashed

The all-gear chinook quota is just 170,000 -- a 48% reduction from 2007. Every gear group will endure a big cut. This is the lowest quota since 2000 - only 1996 was less. The sport fishery hasn't taken so few fish since 1989.

The quota is based on forecasted abundance and obviously the fleet will do what it must to conserve chinook for the future. That said, we are deeply concerned for the welfare of the industry and our communities. We have done what we can to ground-truth these significant cuts. Unfortunately, chinook appear to be doing their cyclical thing and are likely to be less abundant this year.

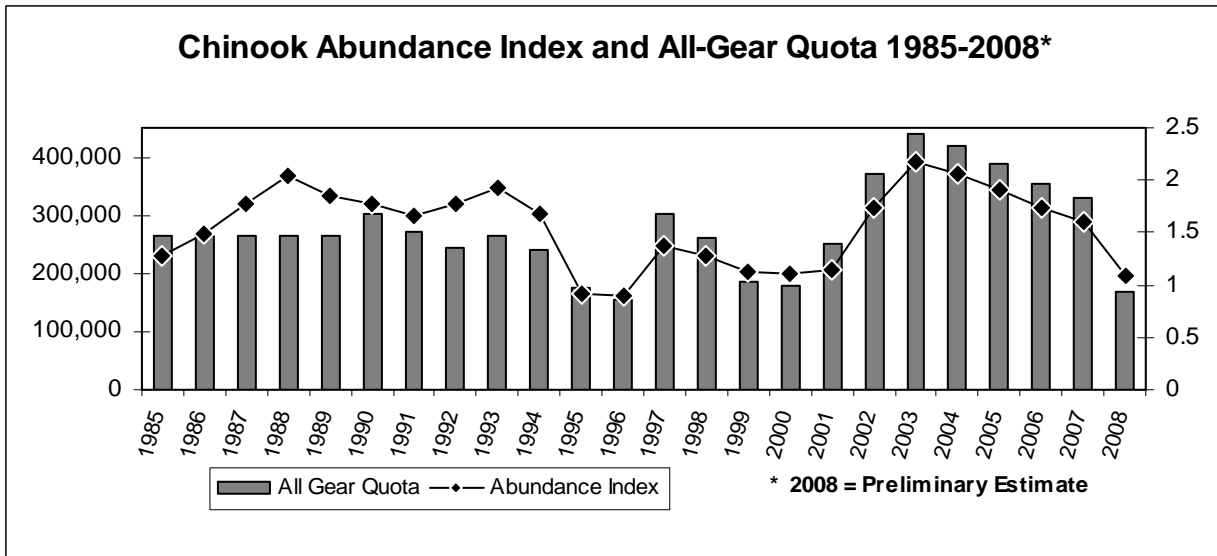


It is important to emphasize that the 2008 quota is based on the existing Treaty annex, which expires Dec.31 and has nothing to do with the current Treaty negotiation. Talks continue as the PSC tries to develop a new agreement. It's been rough going for Alaska's representatives. High on the list of issues: Endangered Species Act listed chinook in Puget Sound; West Coast Vancouver Island wild stocks; and, the outlook for Oregon Coastals. Meetings in late April and early May will be telling as to where things will head from here.

ATA needs additional funds to help defend the fleet's fair access to chinook, as well as working your many other issues of concern. We've hired contract help and budgets have worn thin from added and rising expenses. Membership, donations, and assistance with travel costs are immediate ways you can help. It's tough to ask for contributions in a season like this, but it's more important than ever that the fleet have a presence in all arenas that affect your livelihood. Please do what you can.

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2008 Chinook Quota	
Troll	125,410
Seine	7,310
Drift Gillnet	5,930
Set Gillnet	1,000
Sport	31,350
Transboundary Rivers	
<b>Stikine</b>	
Alaska	12,000
Canada	9,500
<b>Taku</b>	
Alaska	0
Canada	0



Winter Fishery	Total	Permits	Landings	Avg Wt.	Avg. Fish Ticket Price
<b>*2007-08</b>	<b>13,256</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>2,369</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>\$8.86</b>
2006-07	46,872	503	3,900	14.0	\$6.10
5 yr Avg (2003-07)	11,518	212	609	13.0	\$4.81
10 yr Avg (1997-07)	10,024	175	542	13.7	\$3.85

\* As of 4/16/2008



### From the Director's Desk...

Anyone out there confused about this thing called Global Warming? Well, after 10 inches of snow on April 17th and a wicked Sou'wester with snow dogging our harrowing flight from Pelican the day before, I sure am! It's real apparent something's up on planet earth - but what?

We've confronted unusual cold in some places and warm fronts in others. Violent storm activity is erupting in areas not often on the national radar. There's warm water to 100' in parts of our region - with ambient temps on the below-average-to chilly side. There's been a dead zone off Oregon and experienced Alaska longliners have set gear in their usual spots - only to have it come right back at them. A booming population of predators has been more than a wee bit annoying, and I'm including the high seas driftnet fleet, which I suspect is chasing squid a bit closer to our homeshores than they've had to for a few years. Some people push to list polar bears under the ESA, while others are just trying to sort out the bigger question of why the ice is melting out from under them so fast.

Sardines are back, but then there's salmon... is lower abundance circumstantial - like water diversions - or is it more complex natural cycles, latent effects of the Sumatran earthquake, or overall climate change - what's to blame? My guess is all of the above and more. When will we know the answers or find solutions? I reckon for the natural events, only time will tell. Sadly, that's probably also the case with the habitat issues that go unaddressed in neighboring places.

Regardless what's driving the abundance of fish stocks up or down, we will always work closely with ADFG to ensure that Alaska's resources are managed in a cautious manner, while affording fishermen as much fishing access as possible. I know the fleet is committed to sustainability - you proved it again during our spring port meetings. We discussed deep quota cuts and you accepted the news of a lean year with a winning attitude - for the sake of the salmon and the long term health of our communities.

Rest assured that the concerns of fishing families are highest in mind as we confront the 2008 season and look ahead to factors that will influence 2009 and beyond. Your input and assistance as we find and pursue the path are not only appreciated, they are essential.

Yet again you might have heard a friendly new voice in the office the last couple of months. Angelina Ahrens signed on in the midst of board meeting chaos and weathered the storm with professionalism and grace. Unfortunately, the state must have been watching, as they've snatched her away! Angelina will do a few projects for me as I re-think our ongoing staffing challenge, but obviously I remain a staff of one. Please bear with as travel and meetings continue to be heavy. Don't hesitate to give your local board member a call if you can't reach me.

No Surrender! dk 

**Special  
Thanks**

**Seafood Producers Cooperative**

**Sitka Sound Seafoods**

**Triad Fisheries**

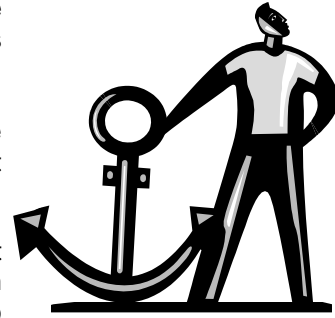
Your exceptional support helps ATA stay on the job.

## President's Message

We recently finished our spring Board meeting and as usual were very busy. The main topic that we dealt with was treaty. As many of you probably know this upcoming season is the last season under the present 10-year agreement.

Northern Panel members have been working on a new agreement with the various parties involved and at present there is nothing to report. The next meeting is in early May and hopefully things will become more clear at that time.

Another issue that we spent time on was Board of Fish proposals. We will submit several proposal addressing topics of interest to the fleet. The next Board of Fish meeting is next winter in Sitka. I am sure that we will have a number of issues to deal with at that meeting.



As you should know, doing this work is time consuming and expensive. If you are not a member you certainly should be, to help take the burden off the members who do support these efforts. We appreciate the support of all of you who are members. Without someone helping to watch your back no one will be fishing.

We have many challenges to deal with to keep us on the water. I am sure that if certain parties had their way then we would go the way of other fleets around both coasts. We do our best to keep all of us fishing.

**Dave Otte, F/V Sarah E**

### Good Lawsuit Gone Bad

Last year the EPA was sued over ballast water regulations that failed to hold certain vessels accountable for noxious chemicals and the transport and release of non-indigenous species. A huge and growing problem, invasive species costs the US billions of dollars each year.

As so often happens in the courts, the judge overreached and decided that the EPA should no longer exclude any vessel from discharge permitting.

The current exclusion expires Oct.31 and nearly 17 million vessels - from recreational boats to the largest work vessels - could need discharge permits for ballast, bilgewater, greywater, and deck wash.

Senator Ted Stevens and friends have introduced **S. 2645** as a remedy. This bill would exempt vessels under 79' from permit requirements. The bill is getting some resistance - particularly in California - so we encourage folks to make some calls to congress right away in support of this bill.

Your congressman's number can be found here:

[www.visi.com/juan/congress](http://www.visi.com/juan/congress)

### New Bi-Partisan Healthcare Bill

ATA, Commercial Fishermen of Alaska, and UFA have worked to secure **S.2630**, which seeks to provide healthcare access to the fishing industry. Stevens and Murkowski are sponsors. ATA will support this and other options that might surface for decent healthcare delivery to fishing families.

### USCG Pushes for More Safety Regulations

The push for more safety regs continues as Congress considers two USCG Reauthorization bills. Stability, mandatory inspections, new training requirements, and possible equipment modifications are just a few items of concern. **H.R. 2830** is the worst of the bills.

USCG also published a federal register notice in March detailing new requirements they suggest will enhance maritime safety. ATA supports reasonable measures that improve fleet safety, but questions whether the proposed regulations truly hit the mark.

In the 1980s, an average of 37 fishermen died each year in Alaska. Since safety regulations were implemented in 1990, the rate of fishing related fatalities has been cut by more than half, with an average of 11 lives lost in each of the last five years. Obviously, many of the current regulations have helped improve safety, as have changes in the conduct of some fisheries.

ATA will continue to work on this issue and hopes you'll consider submitting comments by the **July 29 deadline**. Comments can be faxed (202-493-2251) or submitted online at: [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), where you can also read the proposed rule. In your comments, refer to: **Docket #USCG-2003-16158**

### Coming Soon...

A bill is in the works to improve protections for consumers who are increasingly at risk from contaminated seafood imports.

## 2008 Raffle Winners

PRIZE	DONOR	CITY	WINNER
\$2500 Grand Prize	ATA		Norman Cheney
\$1000 Second Prize	ATA		Bob Nickinovich
\$500 Third Prize	ATA		City Market
\$100 Seattle Marine Gift Certificate	Hoonah Cold Storage	Hoonah	Paula Terrel
\$100 Seattle Marine Gift Certificate	Hoonah Cold Storage	Hoonah	Ashley Allen
\$100 Seattle Marine Gift Certificate	Hoonah Cold Storage	Hoonah	Ladonna Dybdahl
Original Watercolor Painting	Mark Vinsel-Juneau Artists Gallery	Juneau	Allen Gillie
One Night Stay in Suite	Westmark Baranof - Juneau	Juneau	Ralph Ash
Gift Certificate	Taku Fisheries/Smokeries	Juneau	Carter Hughes
Gift Basket	Alaska Wild Salmon Co.	Juneau	Carter Hughes
Hat	Wells Fargo	Juneau	Door Prize
7 Piece Wrench Set	Napa Auto Parts	Juneau	Walt Pasternak
\$50 Gift Certificate	Harri Plumbing and Heating	Juneau	Rick Godfrey
\$50 Gift Certificate	Harri Plumbing and Heating	Juneau	Bob King
8 Piece Combo Screwdriver Set	Napa Auto Parts	Juneau	Stephanie Madsen
Fleece Vest	Wells Fargo	Juneau	Kerry Suomelo
Art Print	Rie Munoz	Juneau	Carlos Piedra
Grab Bag	Petro Marine	Juneau	Door Prize
Indoor/Outdoor Thermometer	Petro Marine	Juneau	Door Prize
Grab Bag	Petro Marine	Juneau	Door Prize
Travel Mug	Petro Marine	Juneau	Door Prize
Grab Bag	Petro Marine	Juneau	Door Prize
Grab Bag	Petro Marine	Juneau	Door Prize
Grab Bag	Alaskan Brewing Co.	Juneau	Joseph Emerson
\$200 in Troll Gear	Fishermen's Bend	Juneau	Ladonna Dybdahl
100 Gallons Fuel	Anderes Oil	Ketchikan	Tom Fisher
100 Gallons Fuel	Anderes Oil	Ketchikan	Janet Engle
\$100 Cash	E.C. Philips & Son	Ketchikan	Earl Pirtle
Fishing Spoons	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies	Lynwood	Steve Wilson
Fishing Spoons	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies	Lynwood	Ladonna Dybdahl
Fishing Spoons	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies	Lynwood	James Bray

PRIZE	DONOR	CITY	WINNER
Fishing Spoons	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies	Lynwood	James Bray
Fishing Spoons	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies	Lynwood	Dan Doak
Fishing Spoons	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies	Lynwood	Ajax Eggleston
Fishing Spoons	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies	Lynwood	Bob Hansen
Fishing Spoons	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies	Lynwood	Door Prize
Fishing Spoons	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies	Lynwood	Door Prize
Fishing Spoons	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies	Lynwood	Door Prize
Fishing Spoons	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies	Lynwood	Door Prize
Fishing Spoons	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies	Lynwood	Door Prize
Art Print	Assoc. of NW Steelheaders	Milwaukie, OR	Freeman & Son
Art Print	Assoc. of NW Steelheaders	Milwaukie, OR	Jeff Longridge
Hooded Sweatshirt	Lisianski Inlet Café	Pelican	Rudy Johanson
Hooded Sweatshirt	Lisianski Inlet Café	Pelican	Randy Konrad
\$75 Cash	Petersburg Rexall Drug	Petersburg	Tom Fisher
\$75 Cash	Petersburg Rexall Drug	Petersburg	Gary Freitag
One Day on the Railway	Petersburg Shipwrights, Inc.	Petersburg	Rory Bifoss
\$50 Gift Certificate	Piston & Rudder Service, Inc.	Petersburg	Doug Neal
1 pkg Octopus Hoochies	Pacific Net & Twine	Richmond, BC	Jim Dybdahl
6 Hot Spot Flashers	Pacific Net & Twine	Richmond, BC	Melvin Fairbanks
2 pkg Octopus Hoochies	Pacific Net & Twine	Richmond, BC	Jim Dybdahl
6 Hot Spot Flashers	Pacific Net & Twine	Richmond, BC	Doug Neal
2 pkg Octopus Hoochies	Pacific Net & Twine	Richmond, BC	Joe Dazey
Waterproof Sweatshirt	Seattle Marine & Fishing Supply	Seattle	Bob Nickinovich
Jacket	Sitka Sound Seafoods	Sitka	Mike Mayo
\$50 Gift Certificate	Aurora Business Supplies	Sitka	Jon Hickman
115 Drill & Driver Set	Sitka Motor Supply	Sitka	Barbara Lessard
Large Waterproof Tote	Skookum Canvasworks	Sitka	Deborah Lyons
Eye Exam & Rx Sunglasses	Sitka Vision Clinic	Sitka	Mike Ljubich
2 Hours Shop Labor	Precision Boatworks	Sitka	George Eliason
\$50 Gift Card	White's Pharmacy	Sitka	Dustin Peters
Bilge Pump	Rocky's Marine, Inc.	Sitka	Walt Pasternak
Whale Tail Pendant	Goldsmith Gallery	Sitka	Lisa Cestnik

Call the office you haven't received your prize. Want to see your name here next year? Tickets on sale now!

## 2008 Events Calendar

<b>April</b>		
28-29	US Section Pacific Salmon Commission	Seattle
<b>May</b>		
5-9	Bilateral Pacific Salmon Commission	Vancouver, BC
<b>June</b>		
2-10	NPFMC	Kodiak
<b>July</b>		
29	Comment Due on USCG Safety Regs	

### ATA Election

Members should be receiving an election ballot in the mail soon for the ATA Board of Directors.

### Division of Investments Lowers Interest Rates

The State of Alaska says it will lower its interest rate by at least 2%. If you currently have a high interest rate state loan, you might want to call and see if you could benefit from refinancing.

### Alaska Legislature Up to Old Tricks?

At the tail end of the session a few Anchorage/Mat-Su legislators, unhappy with recent Board of Fisheries decisions, decided to mix it up with commercial fishermen. Two resolutions were drafted, barely glanced off the committees, straight on to the House and Senate floors - no public comment. Focus was Cook Inlet, but the resolutions were basically anti-commercial in scope. A task force will be appointed, which is to report back to the legislature next February with management options. Disappointing indeed. Perhaps the legislature would like to take on the full 2009 Board of Fisheries cycle during their 90-day session? Next year could be lively. Fishermen of all types must work together to prevent political influence on fisheries management decisions.

### Redfern Hoverbarge Idea Sunk...or in a Holding Pattern?

Habitat staff with the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) informed about 260 Juneau residents this winter that it would likely issue permits for a hoverbarge with a 450 payload and tug to ply the Taku River twice each day in support of the Tulsequah Chief mine. The experimental craft is to be tested in both Scotland and the Columbia River. The day after the public meeting, Governor Palin announced that Habitat Division would be moved from DNR back to ADFG. Transition from DNR to ADFG is likely to take several months and thus far there is no word as to whether Redfern will be allowed to use the hoverbarge system.

### Down on the Farm with Marine Stewardship Council

After a lengthy review process and a list of demands for state managers, Alaska salmon was re-certified for 5 years by the MSC. Now the MSC board is discussing whether or not to certify farmed seafood as 'sustainable'. ATA strongly opposes such action and believes it undermines credibility of the seal of approval along with MSC's stated purpose for labeling seafood. We'll be monitoring this.

### Let's Get Visceral

An 84-year-old cattle rancher in North Dakota is giving NOAA weather a little competition predicting the weather. His cutting edge technology? Pig spleens. Yep - the same method used by his family when they immigrated from Ukraine 100 years ago. He just lines up the foot-long innards and gauges their width. Wide at the stomach and then narrow? Early winter with a mild spring. Narrow then wide? Look out for a nasty spring. His neighbors have come to rely on the predictions, which apparently run about 85% accurate. NOAA's 3-month forecast for the same area is spot on only 60% of the time. Talk about a gut feeling!

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## Welcome New Members

(Through 4/15)

	Boat	Home Port	Type
L Spike Christopher	Vickie Rann	Homer	PT/S
Donald Drumm	Dell-C	Charleston, OR	PT
Craig Barbre	Preamble	Los Osos, CA	PT
Union Machine Shop		Ketchikan	B

**Are you signed up for the ATA/ADFG Call-In Program?** If not, phone in soon. Not sure what it is? Give a call and we'll fill you in. (907)586-9400

### Raffle Event a Smash

To everyone who helped make this year's raffle a success, whether it was with ticket sales, purchases, prize donations, or working the event - **Thank You!**

And in case you missed the party, **Dick HofMann** (F/V Standy) put on a grand show as Master of Ceremonies - what would we do without him? It was a lot of fun and we can hardly wait until next year's bash.

Don't be left out - **tickets go on sale this month** - you don't even have to be present to win.

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

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

## Board of Directors

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*Sarah E, Ketchikan*

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*New Day, Lower 48*

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*Karolee, Lower 48*

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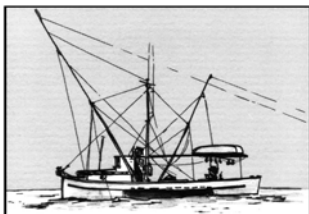
Dale Kelley, Executive Director  
ata@gci.net

### Treaty Team

Howard Pendell, *Rosa Lee*

Dennis Longstreth, *Shearwater*

Rich Davis, *Sundie Lynn*



Alaska Trollers Association  
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 Juneau, AK 99801  
 (907)586-9400 ph / 4473 fx  
 ATA@gci.net

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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			

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ F/V: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone/Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Crew Size:  Ice Boat:  Freezer Boat:  Direct Seafood Marketer:  Processor:  SPC:  UFA:

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, Black, Forest Green, Maroon (L, XL, XXL)  
 Qty. Size (s) Color(s)

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? Yes  No

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

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

