Alaska Troller

WINTER 2009

EPA Vessel Discharge Testing Slated for June 2009

The U.S. District Court in 2006 over-turned EPA's long-standing Clean Water Act discharge permit exemption for commercial fishing vessels. The court would have required nearly 16 million sport and commercial vessel operators to get permits by October of last year (see ATA Newsletter, Summer 2008).



A two-year moratorium for vessels under 79 feet, secured by Senators Lisa Murkowski and Ted Stevens, mandates a study on discharges from commercial vessels. The EPA was given just 15 months to provide a report to Congress for use in determining if permanent exemptions will be granted.

The contractor in charge of testing contacted ATA and several other fishing organizations requesting volunteers to allow their boats to be tested this summer.

Here's some of what we know:

- The testing program is voluntary.
- Testing has already occurred in: VA, MD, PA, MA, FL, AL, LA, and WA.
- Alaska testing will take place in early-to-mid June 2009.
- Test sites: Sitka, Petersburg, and Juneau.
- A team of 4 people will test at least 3 actively fishing boats per day.
- Inspections/sampling can occur at the dock after unloading, or on the vessel for about 12 hrs while actively fishing - skipper's choice.

Infant Survival Suit Update

Federal law requires everyone onboard a fishing vessel to have a USCG approved survival suit, but there are currently no such units for infants and toddlers. While USCG is unable to issue fleet-wide exemptions, they have come up with a compromise until an approved infant immersion suit hits the market:

- 1. All children must have a USCG approved PFD; and,
- **2.** You must write the USCG to request an exemption from the immersion suit requirements for your children.

If your infant/toddler children will be onboard this season, please make sure they're geared up and contact the USCG right away to get a conditional immersion suit exemption (907)463-2810.

NOTE: If you are boarded at sea and do not have a USCG approved PFD for each child and adult onboard, the USCG will terminate your voyage.

Inside This Issue Winter Stats **Call for Nominations** 2 Board of Fish Results 3-4 Raffle Results 5-6 **Welcome New Members** 7

2009 Chinook Quota					
All Gear	218,800				
Troll	161,638				
Seine	9,408				
Drift Gillnet	6,345				
Set Gillnet	1,000				
Sport	40,409				
Transboundary Rivers					
Stikine	3,890				
Alaska	390				
Canada	3,500				
Taku	16,260				
Alaska	8,257				
Canada	8,003				

- Skippers might be allowed to gather samples without EPA staff onboard.
- •Inspection and sampling will include: fish holds, cleaning stations, discharge outlets, fire mains, etc.
- · Skippers will be asked about their boat and operations.

ATA has requested the EPA contractor contact local buyers, to help prevent traffic flow or other issues that might arise at the dock and negatively impact processors and fishermen.

This issue is lawsuit driven, not brought on by the agency. EPA hopes to allow a permanent exemption for fleets like ours, so needs solid data to support their efforts and those of our congressional delegation. If you are interested in participating, please call or email ATA for additional information.

PAGE 2 WINTER 2009

Winter Fishery	Chinook	Pounds	Permits	Landings	Avg Wt.	Avg. Fish Ticket Price
*2008-09	21,281	292,599	405	2,455	13.76	\$6.88
2007-08	21,824	315,949	466	3,304	14.48	\$8.62
5 yr Avg (2004-08)	44,185	595,247	464	3,868	12.9	\$6.62
10 yr Avg (1999-08) * As of 4/29/09	39,054	547,086	388	3,113	13.4	\$5.13



From the Director's Desk...

What a crazy few years it's been! Treaty, Board of Fisheries, and many other issues have kept us hopping at ATA. It's great to get some good news this week about potential price and chinook abundance - not to mention a bit of sun to help with the attitude and boat work.

This winter, the full ATA board dug in at the Sitka Board of Fisheries meeting. It was a two week grind that left most of us wondering where we ended up. Many of our proposals received no action, or are still pending. But on reflection, I think we faired pretty well. Why?

Because all we lost was some opportunity. No fish were taken, some outreach was made with the more reasonable charter reps, and trollers with divergent views came to terms on a few fleet issues. Not too shabby.

Sure, we didn't get any more time and area on the Transboundary Rivers, but with some more effort on our part, maybe by next Board cycle folks will see that our fishery has a rightful place on the Taku and Stikine and there is little to fear from a bit more trolling. Until then, we'll still fish those areas in most years that they open.

The biggest disappointment in terms of lost opportunity has got to be the failure of the Board of Fish to take more seriously our requests to establish annual limits on coho for non-residents, or to shore up the possession limit definition. For some reason, the Board prefers to avoid acting on sport matters until there is a conservation or allocation crisis. Why can't we ever get ahead of that curve and establish common sense rules that would help prevent future fish fights? Well, all is not lost, as a committee was established to further consider such issues. The Board developed a charge statement for the group and gave them a deadline of fall 2009 to begin meeting. Findings and recommendations will be presented to the Board in 2010. I am one of the two commercial representatives and look forward to working with the charter industry to establish progressive rules to help ensure stability and a better working relationship between the groups. It would sure be nice to have help on 95% of the issues we have in common.

Many thanks to those who wrote comments, testified, contributed, and otherwise assisted with our Board of Fisheries efforts. I hesitate mentioning names, as I'm sure to miss a few, but you know who you are and we are grateful for your support! Rock on...dk

Halibut Lawsuit?

The charter industry is apparently planning to bring suit over the one fish daily bag limit that NMFS just set. If they take this unfortunate step it is likely to be expensive, no matter what the outcome.

If you fish halibut, it's important to keep all the gear groups and the Halibut Coalition strong, so they can fight for your interests wherever necessary.

Make sure your gear group dues are current and consider a contribution to the Halibut Coalition. Send a check to: P.O. Box 22073, Juneau, AK 99802. Or, to use VISA/MC: http://halibutcoalition.org

ATA Board of Directors Election: Nominations Open thru May 31

The following seats are open for nomination: Handtroll, At Large (1 seat), Sitka (2 seats), Northern Rural, Southern Rural, Juneau, Wrangell, Lower 48.

To nominate candidates, both you and the candidate must be members in good standing. Handtrollers nominate HT and Powertrollers nominate PT.

Board terms are 2 years - Nov. 2009 to Nov. 2011. ATA pays board meeting expenses, which includes two board meetings a year and teleconferencing.

Look for nomination forms in the mail or contact the ATA office for more information.

Alaska Troller Page 3

	Board of Fisheries Proposal	ATA Position	ATA Proposal	BOF Decision
137	Groundfish bag limits	S		Failed
138	Groundfish bag limits	S		Failed
224	Exception chinook bag limit during Golden North Derby	S amended		Passed
225	Double bag limit in hatchery access areas - all areas	О		No Action
226	Double bag limit in hatchery access areas - Ketchikan only	0		Failed
227	District 8 Transboundary Rivers Fishery 7d/wk for troll >>>ATA offered compromise of 5 days per week	S	₩	Failed
228	Open Fredrick Sound to troll M-W only in May/June	Withdrawn	₩	No Action
229	Non-resident annual chinook limit - Stikine River stocks >>> Amended to annual limit of 6 fish over 28"	S		Passed
230	District 11 Transboundary Rivers Fishery 7d/wk for troll >>> ATA offered compromise of 5 days per week	S	*	Failed
231	Dist. 11 Transboundary Rivers Fishery open district-wide >>> ATA offered modified boundaries	S	₩	No Action
244	Exclude PNPs from hatchery allocation plan	О		No Action
245	NSRAA and hatchery allocation	О		No Action
246	Close Coffmann Cove to commercial fishing	О		No Action
247	District 8 waters can be managed for any fishery	S		Passed
248	Uncouple troll and set gillnet openings in Yakutat	S		Passed
250	Allow gillnet and troll gear onboard simultaneously. >>Proposal 251 passed and allows any two gear types.	S only w/#252		No Action
252	Offload from one fishery before participating in another	S		Passed
266	Increase allowable set gillnet length for Yakutat area	О		Failed
269	Expand Neets Bay harvest area / increase sport king limits	О		No Action
286	Possession limit means maximum number fish taken home >>> Issue moved to Board of Fish Committee & Statewide 2010	S	*	Failed
288	Annual limit of 12 coho for non-residents & harvest record	S	₩	Failed
289	Amend harvest reporting for non-residents to include coho	S	₩	Failed
295	Plan to address sport catch and release mortality	Support concept		No Action
296	Modify the definition of sportfishing gear in SE Alaska	S w/amendment		No Action
297	Modify the definition of a fishing rod in Southeast AK >>> Moved to Statewide 2010	О		Tabled
298	1. Electric reels for sportfishing >>> Moved to Statewide 2010 2. Black cod limits – 2 daily / 4 possession / 8 annual limit. NOTE: BOF teleconferenced after Sitka and changed to: 4 daily / 8 in possession / 8 non-resident annual limit	O - Electric Reels S - Bag Limits		Reel Issue Tabled Bag Limits Passed

PAGE 4 WINTER 2009

	Board of Fisheries Proposal	ATA Position	ATA Proposal	BOF Decision
299	Allow beach seine, cast net, purse seine, gillnet for herring	О		No Action
303	Allow unguided angler an additional rod/line to jig herring	S		Withdrawn
305	Prohibit use of felt soles for wading in freshwater (as of Jan.1, 2011)	S		Passed
308	Restrict subsistence and personal use fishing when guiding	S		No Action
310	Develop fish ticket system for guided sportfishery (<u>Note</u> : BOF did urge ADFG to tabulate logbook data inseason - guides supported).	S		No Action
311	Monitor/Inspect guided sport vessels, lodges, facilities >>> Moved to Board of Fish Committee & Statewide 2010	S		No Action
312	Monitor/Inspect guided sport vessels, lodges, facilities	S	₩	No Action
313	Monitor/Inspect guided sport vessels, lodges, facilities	S		No Action
320	Unharvested winter chinook to be caught by increasing spring caps >>>ATA worked with proposer and ADFG on amendment	S		Passed
321	Don't count hatchery fish against winter guideline harvest	O		Failed
322	Remove the Stikine River winter troll closure in Dist. 8	Withdrawn	₩	No Action
323	Repeal Cross Sound pink and chum fishery	No Action		Passed
324	Allow fishing 7 days per week in Cross Sound in June	S		No Action
325	Extend troll fishery closure date to September 30th	S	₩	Failed
326	Delay coho fishery opening to July 10th and extend fishery to 9/30	O		Failed
327	Extend troll opening in Behm Canal to September 30th	S	₩	Failed
328	Allow transferrable HT permit holders 2 power gurdies	O		Withdrawn
329	Increase number of HT gurdies to 4 West of Cape Spencer >>>ATA worked with proposer and ADFG on amendment	S		Passed
333	Raise lingcod guideline harvest in Central Outside SEAK	0		Failed
334	Increase sport allocation of lingcod	О		No Action
335	Equal shares lingcod allocation for commercial and sport	О		Withdrawn
337	Make any surplus dinglebar quota available to troll fleet	Withdrawn	₩	No Action
341	Increase sport allocation of DSR rockfish to 25% >>>Amended to 16% (equals recent year catch shares tallied after subsistence is subtracted from TAC)	O		Passed



Seafood Producers Cooperative
Sitka Sound Seafoods
Triad Fisheries
The Boat Company

Your exceptional support helps ATA stay on the job.

ALASKA TROLLER PAGE 5



18th Annual ATA Raffle a Success

The raffle was a tension buster during the Board of Fisheries meeting, with folks setting aside any differences of opinion to enjoy an evening of fun. Thanks to the skills of long-time raffle ringmaster, Dick HofMann (Standy) and ATA treasurer Jeff Longridge (Saami), our fine selection of donated raffle spoils were doled out to folks far and wide. Congratulations to the nights biggest winner (and gillnetter), Jeff McKean, who walked away with - count 'em - three nice items, including the \$2500 grand prize.



During the event, the Friend of the Troll Fleet award was presented to SSRAA's John Burke, after a searing roast by one of his best partner's in crime, Gary Freitag. Of course, a few fishermen couldn't help but pile on and some good story was told before night's end. John has served both the state and industry for many years, improving hatchery technology and safeguarding our wild stocks, while producing a bounty of fish for all user groups. Thanks to John for his committed service, and also to the many people and businesses who each year help to make the raffle a success!

PRIZE	DONOR	CITY	WINNER
Grand Prize \$2500	ATA		Jeff McKean
2nd Prize \$1000	ATA		Ajax Eggleston
3rd Prize \$500	ATA		Francis Kadrlik
Fishing Spoons	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies	Lynnwood, WA	Marion BiFoss
Fishing Spoons	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies	Lynnwood, WA	Jeff McKean
Fishing Spoons	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies	Lynnwood, WA	Jim Olson
Fishing Spoons	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies	Lynnwood, WA	Jeff Longridge
Fishing Spoons	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies	Lynnwood, WA	lan Cryan
\$50 Gift Certificate	Bear Track Merchantile	Gustavus	Paul Barnes
Gift Certificate	Madison Lumber & Hardware	Ketchikan	Dennis Northrup
2 Hours Shop Labor	Precision Boat Works	Sitka	Lew Schumejda
\$100 Cash	Ballard Sheet Metal Works	Ballard, WA	Bob Fredrickson
\$50 Cash	Bellingham Cold Storage	Bellingham, WA	Jeff McKean
\$50 Cash	Bellingham Cold Storage	Bellingham, WA	Gregg Bigsby
Art Print	Fishermen's Eye Gallery	Sitka	Craig Shoemaker
\$75 Cash	Petersburg Rexall	Petersburg	Arnold Enge
\$75 Cash	Petersburg Rexall	Petersburg	Mitch Eide

PAGE 6 WINTER 2009

PRIZE	DONOR	CITY	WINNER
Prescription Sunglasses	Sitka Vision Clinic	Sitka	David Kanetomi
\$50 Gift Certificate	Harri's Plumbing	Juneau	Bob Thorstenson
\$50 Gift Certificate	Harri's Plumbing	Juneau	Cheyne Blough
Barometer & Clock Set	Petro Marine	Juneau	lan Cryan
\$50 Gift Certificate	Piston & Rudder	Petersburg	Elmer Mork, Jr.
\$50 Gift Certificate	Tatsuda's IGA	Ketchikan	Wayne Jackson
Windproof Fleece Jacket	Hoonah Cold Storage	Hoonah	Dick Curran
Windproof Fleece Jacket	Hoonah Cold Storage	Hoonah	Mark Klingler
Windproof Fleece Jacket	Hoonah Cold Storage	Hoonah	Wrangell Oil
Art Print	Assn of NW Steelheaders	Milwaukie, OR	Mark Roberts
Nautical Mirror	Alaskan Brewing	Juneau	Mike Fitzsimons
Smoke/Pack 100 lbs fish	Cedars Lodge	Ketchikan	Dennis Northrup
\$20 Gift Certificate	Old Harbor Books	Sitka	Hope Kjerstad
2 Walkie Talkies	Stereo North	Sitka	Jeff Longridge
Hammerdrill/Impact Driver	Spenard Builders Supply	Sitka	Chris Carroll
\$100 Gift Certificate	Murray Pacific	Sitka	Wayne Jackson
\$100 Gift Certificate	Murray Pacific	Sitka	Curtis Schloe
\$100 Gift Certificate	Murray Pacific	Sitka	Jeremy Brown
6 Gallons Motor Oil	Petro Marine	Sitka	Lon Garrison
\$100 Gift Certificate	Sea Mart	Sitka	Volney Smith
Gift Certificate	Lakeside Grocery	Sitka	Tom Reinholdt
Gift Certificate	Lakeside Grocery	Sitka	George Eliason
Art Print	Rie Munoz	Juneau	Rich Dudas
6pk Canned White King	Trident Seafoods	Ketchikan	Martin Gowdy
6pk Canned White King	Trident Seafoods	Ketchikan	Joe Dazey
6pk Canned White King	Trident Seafoods	Ketchikan	Bob Thorstenson
6pk Canned White King	Trident Seafoods	Ketchikan	Casey Mapes
3 Liter Big Tattoo Red	House of Liquors	Sitka	Door Prize
2 cases Alaska Brew	Cascade Convenience	Sitka	Door Prize
Fishing Spoons	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies	Lynnwood, WA	Door Prizes
Canned White King	Trident Seafoods	Ketchikan	Door Prizes
Tote Bag	Skookum Canvas	Sitka	Door Prize

ALASKA TROLLER PAGE 7

Welcome New Members

(Through April 30)

	Boat	Home Port	Туре
Ron Nevaril	Valle Lee	Port Angeles	Retired Troller
Kelly Klingler	Puffin	Sitka	CW
Ceri Malein	Helen A	Sitka	CW/S
Hans Baertle	Northern Star	Douglas	PT
Edward Gray	Marie	Sitka	PT
Ron Merritt	Hardtack	Wrangell	PT
Ryan Wilson	Shelly J	Sitka	PT/S
Bruce Weyhrauch		Juneau	B/S
Upgrades			
Deborah Lyons	Kraken	Sitka	HT/P
Chuck Piedra	Mrs. Mac	Juneau	PT/S
Russ Miller	Sunlight	Bayside	PT/S
Charles Hanas	Sand Dollar	Ketchikan	PT/G
Bob Schell	Alice Faye	Sitka	PT/G
David Barth	Agile	Sultan	PT/P
Matt Peavey	Anne Louise	Craig	PT/P
Dennis Enderle	White Cap II	Juneau	PT/P

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. ATA 586-9400 / ADFG 772-5234 or 747-8434

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

Murray Pacific, Sitka

Anderes Oil, Ketchikan
Bellingham Cold Storage
Bruce Weyhrauch, Juneau
City of Port Alexander
Craig Bar & Liquor, Craig
E.C. Phillips & Son, Ketchikan
First Bank, Ketchikan
Hammer& Wikan, Petersburg
Hoonah Cold Storage
House of Liquors, Sitka
Lisianski Inlet Café, Pelican
Madison Lumber, Ketchikan
Marine Surveyors of SE Alaska,
Wrangell
Murray Pacific, Ketchikan

Nerka Sea Frozen Salmon
Norquest Seafoods
Ocean Beauty XIP
Petro Alaska, Ketchikan
Petro Marine, Seward
Port Townsend Shipwright
Precision Boatworks, Sitka
Seafood Producers Co-op
Sea Mart, Sitka
Seattle Marine, Seattle
Seaview Boatyard, Seattle
Service Auto Parts, Ketchikan
Shoreline, Pelican
Sitka Boat Watch

Sitka Sound Seafoods
Taku Oil, Juneau
Taku Smokeries, Juneau
The Boat Company, WA, DC
The Office Bar, Hoonah
Timber & Marine Supply,
Ketchikan
Tongass Trading, Ketchikan
Trading Union, Petersburg
Triad Fisheries
Union Machine Shop, Ketchikan
US Seven Oceans, Mukilteo
Wells Fargo Bank, Juneau
Wrangell Oil, Wrangell
Yakutat Seafoods, Yakutat

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Renewal

Signature:

New Member

Hand

Crew

Processor

Power

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