

Alaska Troller

SPRING 2010

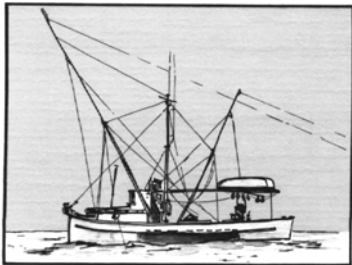
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Southeast Alaska Native Land Entitlement Act

On July 1, Senator Lisa Murkowski announced proposed changes to the Sealaska lands trade bill (S.881). Murkowski encouraged feedback and ATA responded. Senators Murkowski and Mark Begich and Rep. Don Young (H.R. 2099) have tried for several years to finalize land conveyances owed the corporation under the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). Sealaska is asking for parcels that

fall outside the areas congress originally designated in ANCSA for selection. Conveyed lands would be used for logging, other types of development, and cultural purposes.



Senator Murkowski's staff hosted one set of 'listening sessions' on S.881 in select communities. Congress held a hearing in WA, DC on Young's H.R.2099. Sealaska has met with organizations, including UFA, to explain their position and ask for support. Murkowski claims her new draft,..."*addresses the vast majority of the concerns expressed by Prince of Wales Island and other Southeast residents.*" But that remains to be seen. It's still unclear what the

revised bill actually says; what the boundaries of the areas would be; how the Native 'futures' sites would be used; and, what the various trade-offs could mean with respect to habitat, fishing areas, and anchorages.

Southeast gear groups were not asked to participate as these bills were developed. Discussions were closed and largely confidential on this significant piece of legislation, which would put thousands of acres of public land into private ownership. Some of those lands were never envisioned part of the promise made to Sealaska. ANCSA took years to craft and S.881 moves away from its terms, so warrants ample public discussion and process. Credit is due Sealaska for doing outreach, and to the Senator for trying to alleviate some concerns through amendments. However, Murkowski's call for public comment on the proposed revision of this complex bill came on opening day of the summer troll fishery - at the height of the salmon season. She hopes to move the bill soon, and no additional hearings have been announced.

ATA supports Sealaska receiving lands promised under ANCSA, but has questions and concerns about the current bills. Several areas slated for logging are near sheltered harbors and fishing drags. Selections on Kosciusko and Prince of Wales island are of particular concern and could create safety issues, particularly in light of logging damage that has already occurred in neighboring areas. We're told some of these parcels have been adjusted and that there are trade-offs to better protect habitat, but without detailed charts, the right people onshore to review them, and ADFG's input, it's nearly impossible to fully grasp the extent of the new proposal or analyze its impact. And how will the new selections effect years of multiple use planning in the Tongass? Will people still be able to access these lands for transit, hunting/gathering, and recreation?

ATA consistently defends fish and wildlife habitat. Southeast fishermen helped fight for, and mostly won, 100' buffer strips on both the state and federal lands. The exception is on Native land, where the standard is 66' and there are variance provisions, which can allow for logging within the buffer strips - and they do. S.881 land selections include a lot of prime coho habitat. ATA requested that new lands transferred to Sealaska be subject to 100' buffers and state and federal standards. To our knowledge, 100' buffer strips are still not in either bill.

ATA opposes S.881 and H.R. 2099 as written. Again, we support the ANCSA land trades, but it is our hope that the congressional delegation will work more closely with all Tongass stakeholders prior to passing legislation. It's likely that locals can come up with a better package than envisioned in the 1970s, improve on the bills proposed today, and accommodate the needs of both Sealaska shareholders and our communities.

ATA's mission is to preserve, promote, and perpetuate the fishing industry in Alaska. To that end, we work for conservation, sound management, good public policy, and safety at sea for the general welfare and mutual benefit of all.



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Your exceptional support helps ATA stay on the job.



From the Director's Desk... As outlined in the previous newsletter, ATA is working with a Stakeholder Panel on a chinook mitigation package. In this edition, we'll tell you a bit of the back story and get you up to speed with where things are headed (see pp.3-5). We've been hesitant to report absolute details about the program, because it's still in flux. I ask for your patience and encourage you to call with questions. And in case it's lost in the noise of reporting, know that ATA very much wants to hear your thoughts now and as we head into the next round.

Those of you on the water these past few months have largely been spared the daily visual reminders of the geyser that's referred to as a 'spill' in the Gulf of Mexico. "Spill"...as if you could grab a roll of paper towels and quickly mop it up! We Alaskan's know the story of oil spillage far too well - no pun intended. Many Exxon Valdez survivors are on the grounds assisting our industry brethren in the Gulf on everything from assessing biological impacts to advocating safeguards and assistance for all manner of health issues. Having lived in both the Gulf and Prince William Sound, I can speak to nature and beauty defiled by oil in both places, and pervasive illnesses for some who selflessly dove in to help with clean up. Who knows when this 'spill' will be capped for good, much less when the Gulf and its residents will be healed? A full 21 years later, Alaskan's are still waiting. The whole situation is tragic, for lack of a truly fitting word.

So...what can we do, how can we help? There are organizations we work with who can put cash donations to good use for people, pets, and wildlife. Can you spare a few bucks? I'll set up a dedicated account for those who would like us to pass through funds when we see solid ways to assist; will also share some links below and on ATA's Facebook pages - search us out at Alaska Trollers or Alaska Trollers Association. Will you help supply fish for fundraisers? Are you willing to write a letter on behalf of the Gulf when needed? All those things will help a lot. Importantly, we must remember not to forget the families of the Gulf when the news teams turn their attention to the world's next crisis. Pressure must be put on BP, its subcontractors, and the federal agencies to clean up the mess, make people and the Gulf whole, and prevent similar incidents, but in ways that don't harm other maritime interests. It will take a hands across the water effort - and strong organizations - just like during Exxon Valdez. We can do that!

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<http://www.bayoukeeper.org/Home/Home.html>

T-Shirt Fundraiser (code: FISH) <http://fleurdeliswear.com>

Pet Support - For out-of-work fishermen and others with pet food and veterinary care needs: <http://la-spca.org/Page.aspx?pid=509>

Free Healthcare Clinics: New Orleans Aug.31-Sept.1 & Others
<http://www.freeclinics.us/index.php>

For the Gulf... dk



2010 Chinook Mitigation Program

Many of you attended port meetings this spring or have discussed with board and staff the mitigation options ATA suggested. At the end of the day, it's the state that makes the final decisions on how the money will be spent. Even after those decisions are made, implementing a program like this is never quite as easy and fast as you'd hope. We will continue to work through the particulars with the state agencies. Timing, legalities, and the logistics of distributing the money are all part of that process. So, what follows is what we know, today. There could be some changes before it's all done.

Background

Last November a Stakeholder Panel was appointed and given just two short meetings and a teleconference to come up with a plan to distribute the first half of a \$15 million chinook mitigation fund. This federal money is intended to offset another 10 year quota cut under the Treaty. Troll and sport projects are the focus. In meeting speak, 'two short meetings' is code for 'several months of hard labor', so the trollers on the Stakeholder Panel - Howard Pendell (Rosa Lee), Steve Merritt (C'est La Vie), and Rich Davis (West Bank/processing rep) - deserve your thanks for setting aside their winter fisheries, boat projects, and probably some good hunting days and holiday cheer for this grueling task.

We set to work looking across the region for affordable projects that could improve things like ice and fuel delivery, quality and value, and perhaps backfill another loss of fish production with enhancement. This was a tough job, especially given the limited amount of money and restrictions placed on us, by circumstances and the state and fed, as to how specific we could be in our final requests. For instance, we can mostly choose our enhancement projects, but there aren't many big opportunities left. We know the fleet badly needs infrastructure in specific places, but the state can't encumber a competitive bid process by deciding in advance who gets the money, nor can anyone quickly resolve the issues confronting some of the areas with needs. Marketing money for frozen-at-sea product was a goal, since ice machines won't help those producers much, but we ran into problems due to signals from federal appropriators that marketing money might not meet with their approval. Even timing could dictate what gets funded – some projects might not be able to wait for next construction season when the money will be available. This is just a sampling of the stew of challenges filling up our plate.

ATA selected some infrastructure and enhancement projects and then developed a two year direct payment program, which is outlined later in this newsletter. We recognize it will be a token amount, and it's the first time ATA has ever asked for such a thing, but after years of mostly politically motivated treaty cuts, it seems appropriate to put some money directly into the hands of fishermen who keep losing. This was no easy sell. It looks like the fleet will receive payment in 2010, but we have a lot of work to do with at least one legislator and the state agencies in order to secure a second round in 2011. If this is important to you, we will need your help in the coming months.

The ATA board is a large and diverse group of people. It was tough to reach decisions on funding options, but they did – and unanimous at that! From there we negotiated a package with the Stakeholder Panel that was mostly approved by the state. We are hoping there will be time and the means to better communicate with the fleet in the next round. The port meetings have been helpful, but if you have thoughts about the program, please contact us right away. The Stakeholders will meet again this fall and your input will be extremely valuable as ATA prepares for that process.



The Stakeholder Panel and The State

The Stakeholder Panel sent a proposal to the Governor's Fish Cabinet last March with troll and sport projects totaling roughly \$7.5 million. This first increment of federal chinook mitigation money should be available to the state sometime this summer. President Obama has already requested from Congress the second \$7.5 million for 2011.

2010 Stakeholder Panel Recommendation

- Infrastructure \$2.6 million
- Consumer Research \$0.3 million
- Enhancement \$2.4 million
- Direct Payments (2010) \$1.5 million

The **Governor's Fish Cabinet** is made up of several agency commissioners and staff members. They accepted most, but not all, of the Stakeholder's recommendations. For instance, they denied a request for \$800,000 to be set aside to pay the expenses of the 2010 troll direct pay program and provide seed money for direct payments in 2011. Money can be held in reserve for several years, and should still be available for troll projects and administrative costs, but the state would not agree to earmark money for a 2011 payment.

The state is now going through the tedious process of generating regulations and requests for proposals. There will be short comment periods on any necessary regulations, prior to a request for proposals. From there, projects will be selected and money distributed - hopefully according to plan. Bottom line is that most of the money won't be sent out until late fall, or even winter, so we shouldn't expect instant results.

Project Areas and Anticipated Use of Funds

(Note: The state is still working on the specifics.)

Infrastructure

\$1.1 million for Ice Making Equipment for both Northern and Southern Outside areas

\$315,000 for Fuel Delivery Systems

\$335,000 for Infrastructure and Equipment Grants, to improve quality, wholesomeness, and the value of hook and line caught salmon.

\$850,000 for Sport Related Projects

Consumer/Quality Research for Frozen-at-Sea Salmon

Up to \$300,000 split into multiple grants.

Enhancement

At this time there are limited options to ramp up production with new fish, so in addition to the projects listed, Stakeholders approved programs and infrastructure improvements to: increase the survival rates of existing hatchery projects; improve estimates of hatchery contribution; and, help hatcheries cut expenses and reduce reliance on cost recovery.

Chinook and Coho Projects

NSRAA

Green Lake chinook increase to 2 million smolt
Deer Lake coho increase to 3 million smolt.

Armstrong-Keta

Increase chinook and/or coho by up to 1.2 million smolt

Port St. Nicholas Hatchery

Saltwater netpens to rear chinook smolt.

Klawock River Hatchery

Saltwater netpens to rear coho smolt.

Direct Payments for Trollers

Trollers and support businesses are struggling due to reduced quotas. Mitigation funds are intended to help people take care of boat repairs, fuel bills, safety upgrades, or to purchase essentials and cover other expenses that troll families may be postponing due to lost income. This money should help the entire community as those goods and services are purchased.

Any number of ways could be used to structure a direct pay program, but it is important to develop a simple process with clear criteria, so that money can be distributed as quickly as possible. We wanted a fair and reasonable system that wouldn't bog down with complicated base periods, and included as many people as possible.

ATA developed the following three-point plan taking into account: the overall health of the troll fleet; troll permit values; the market impacts of lost production; and, lost opportunity and revenue for individual troll businesses.

2009 was used as the qualifying year for the program, because it was the first season of the new treaty agreement and the data is readily available. The **summer king fishery** is used as the basis for calculating participation and production-based check totals, since it is the only fishing period the department specifically adjusts to stay within the treaty quota.

Remember, the state has the final say. This is what ATA asked for - and why - but the end result could look a little different when the agencies get through setting it up.

2010 Direct Payment Formula

Total: \$1.5 million

1. \$750,000 for a production-based formula paid out according to the actual round pounds of chinook each troll permit holder caught during the 2009 summer chinook fishery.

Rationale: To acknowledge individual production and reliance.

2. \$375,000 distributed as a permit fee credit for 2009, using a 2:1 ratio [Powertroll (2) to Handtroll (1)].

Rationale: In recognition of potential reduction in permit values and other market conditions that impact all troll permit holders. 2:1 ratio is used because the powertroll permit fee is twice the cost of the handtroll fee.

3. \$375,000 divided between all permit holders who landed a king salmon during the 2009 summer troll fishery, paid at a 3:1 ratio [Powertroll (3) to Handtroll (1)].

Rationale: Intended to help compensate for lost fishing time that all trollers suffer during the summer chinook salmon fishery as a result of reduced quotas. A 3:1 ratio is based on the typical differential between power and handtroll permit prices.

IMPORTANT: Trollers will have to apply to receive these funds. Once the program is set up, **the state** will send applications to all permit holders – probably in late summer/early fall. Be on the lookout for the form and get your applications turned in on time!

Questions? General thoughts on mitigation? Ideas? Write or call the office soon. Any and all correspondence will be shared with the ATA board and troll mitigation team. ATA will put together the next proposal during our fall board meeting in Juneau, but the sooner we hear from you the better.

2010 Raffle Results

PRIZE	DONOR	CITY	WINNER
\$2500 Grand Prize	ATA		Casey Mapes
\$1000 2nd Prize	ATA		Dennis Northrup
\$500 3rd Prize	ATA		Casey Mapes
\$100 Cash	Petersburg Rexall Drug	Petersburg	Les Woodward
\$50 Cash	Petersburg Rexall Drug	Petersburg	Jeff Thomas
\$50 Gift Certificate	Harri Plumbing and Heating	Juneau	Curtis Schloe
One day on the marine railway	Petersburg Shipwrights	Petersburg	Ken Olsen
\$100 Gift Certificate	Tatsuda's IGA	Ketchikan	Dan Doak
Polarized Sunglasses	Sitka Vision Clinic	Sitka	Ajax Eggleston
1 case Smoked White King Salmon	E.C. Phillips & Son	Ketchikan	Robert Hunley
Hooded Sweatshirt	Lisianski Inlet Café	Pelican	Bob Thorstenson
Brenda Schwartz Print "Home Port"	Lisianski Inlet Café	Pelican	Ajax Eggleston
\$50 Cash	Taku Fisheries/Smokeries	Juneau	Henry Robinson
\$50 Cash	Taku Fisheries/Smokeries	Juneau	Wanda Battrick
\$100 Seattle Marine Gift Card	Hoonah Cold Storage	Hoonah	Dennis Northrup
\$100 Seattle Marine Gift Card	Hoonah Cold Storage	Hoonah	Bert Bergman
\$100 Seattle Marine Gift Card	Hoonah Cold Storage	Hoonah	Jeff Longridge
Alaskan Amber Changing Light Pub Sign	Alaskan Brewing Co.	Juneau	Jeff McKean
Fishing Spoons	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies	Lynwood	Jeff Longridge
Fishing Spoons	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies	Lynwood	Les Woodward
Fishing Spoons	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies	Lynwood	Martha Egerton
Fishing Spoons	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies	Lynwood	Russ Gordon
Fishing Spoons	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies	Lynwood	Rich Dudas
Fishing Spoons	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies	Lynwood	Jeremy Brown
JBL AM/FM/CD Sirius Ready Receiver	Seattle Marine and Fishing Supply	Seattle	Scott Visscher
Zinc Etching/Collage	Dianne Anderson	Douglas	Wendy Tully
Picasso Jasper and Silver Necklace	Thyes Shaub	Juneau	Craig Barbre
Silkscreen	Frank Borman	Juneau	Dan Doak
\$200 of Boat Survey	Tom Pope	Port Angeles	Nathan Coble
Stikine River or Leconte Glacier Trip for Two AND One Nights Lodging	Breakaway Adventures and Zimovia Bed & Breakfast	Wrangell	Scott Visscher

20th Annual Raffle

\$2500 Grand Prize



Tickets on Sale Now...

NOTICE

2012 Board of Fisheries Proposals: Due April 11, 2011

This fall ATA will begin work on 2012 Board of Fisheries proposals. If you have concepts that you would like the board to consider, please write, email, or fax them to the office by Oct. 1st. ATA encourages trollers to work together on pre-proposals, and also throughout the Board of Fisheries process. Strength through unity!

ATA Board of Directors Election Ballots: Due Sept. 30th

Have you voted? If so, thank you! Are you a member, but didn't receive a ballot? Contact the office @ 586-9400 and we'll gladly remedy the situation.

Welcome New Members

(Through June 15)

	Boat	Home Port	Type
Larry Bemis	Dove	Yakutat	HT
Greg Friedrichs	Cape Cleare	Port Townsend	PT
Max Mielke	Chelsey	Juneau	PT
Steve Enge	Monarch	Port Townsend	PT
Brian Merritt	Sharlene C	Wrangell	PT
Michael Nichols	Longshot	Point Baker	PT

Upgrades

Dennis Watson	Myrna	Craig	PT/S
Ken McGee	North Star	Juneau	PT/S
Kurt Slentz	Marcia K	Rapid City, SD	PT/S
Dick Curran	Cherokee	Sitka	PT/G
Dwight Downer	Bavaria	Haines	PT/P
Calvin Robinson	Lady Jo	Sitka	PT/P
Seattle Marine		Seattle	B/S

Did we miss you? Give a call!

Are you helping with 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...

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 Craig Bar & Liquor, Craig
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 Hoonah Cold Storage
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 LFS, Inc, Bellingham
 Lisianski Inlet Café, Pelican
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 Marine Surveyors of SE Alaska,
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 Murray Pacific, Ketchikan

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 Port Townsend Shipwright
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 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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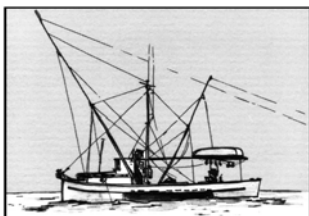
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Gold	400	300	160	2500	1000	
Platinum	500	400	300	5000	2500	
LIFE	3000	2000	750			
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Short-sleeve	\$25	_____	_____	Raffle Ticket:	\$20	_____

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

Signature: _____

