Alaska Traler

New EPA Discharge Rules for Freezer Boats

On March 1, small seafood processors were brought under an onerous Clean Water Act discharge permit for disposing seafood waste in federal waters. The

new law removes an exemption, previously secured by ATA, for vessels discharging no more than 1,000 lbs a day or 30,000 lbs per year of seafood waste. Fishermen who eviscerate fish and sell to a processor are still exempt, but those who freeze may have to get this permit and follow all requirements, including grinding seafood waste.



The new rules make compliance seemingly impossible. You must apply for a permit 90 days before disposing of seafood waste. Failure to secure coverage under the permit can mean stiff fines. Operational plans are required. Fish waste must be ground to 0.5" and discharged below the surface, with daily logbook reporting on the grinder system and any residues floating on the surface. Discharge must not attract fish or wildlife and counts must be taken of Stellar sea lions, otters, and select birds. There are annual reporting requirements and quarterly testing for a number of pollutants. Seafood discharge is not allowed near wilderness areas, game reserves and sanctuaries, or marine parks and monuments. ATA is working with EPA, the state, and congressional delegation to find a solution by July 1.

ATA Develops Mitigation Proposal

This winter the state appointed a stakeholder panel to develop recommendations for use of \$15 million intended to mitigate hook and line fishermen for the most recent Treaty chinook cuts. ATA has three representatives: Howard Pendell (Rosa Lee), Steve Merritt (C'est La Vie), and Dale Kelley (ATA). Rich Davis (West Bank) represents processors. Three sport representatives and one each from Tlingit-Haida and the Southeast Conference round out the group.

The Stakeholder Panel was given a very short timeframe to develop a plan. ATA went to work on a proposal based on four categories: enhancement, infrastructure, marketing, and direct payment. Our goals included: distributing benefits across the region and throughout the fleet; improved chinook and coho production; securing ice needs in key areas; analyzing market issues for frozen at sea product; and a cash payment to fishermen based on: losses in the 2009 summer fishery; permit holder status; participation; and, individual production.

In late March, the Stakeholders approved nearly all of ATA's proposal. Sport reps are still working on their ideas. The panel sent its recommendations to the Governor's Fish Cabinet, which is expected to either accept the package or send it back to the Stakeholders for more work. Even if everything passes muster, the state will still have to put some of the projects out for competitive bid. Additional details to follow after the Fish Cabinet makes its decision.

WINTER 2010

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Welcome New Members

Winter King Fishing

By Danny Whitson

Wake up at four-thirty, hope that I can go. Listen to the weather to see if it will blow.

Weather man says southeast forty,

but I know he can be wrong. So I fire up the Jimmy and join the throng.

Out past Six Mile, not too bad yet, toward Cape Edgecumbe to get what I can get.

On past the Rock Pile, gettin kinda rough. To winter fish in Alaska. you gotta be tough.

It's getting light now, I missed all the debris. Squalls, squalls as far as I can see.

On towards the Island, gotta pay for my babies. Hope I'm on the hot spot, better put in the stabies.

Gear is in the water, I'm watching my springs. Hope I get the skunk off, you know those Winter Kings.

Sometimes you really get-um, It's hard to say. But most of the time It's "one, maybe two a day."

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.

Page 2 Winter 2010

2009 Preliminary Estimated Chinook and Coho Salmon Catches*											
Gear	Total Coho Catch	Total Chum Catch	Total Chinook Catch	AK Hatchery Catch	% AK Hatchery	Wild Terminal Exclusion	AK Hatchery Add-On	Treaty Catch	Quota/ Allocation	Chinook Over/Under	
Troll	1,591,500	299,725	175,644	20,523	12%	0	16,663	158,981	161,629	-2,648	
Purse Seine	298,600	3,541,361	29,012	15,973	55%	0	15,430	13,582	9,408	4,174	
Drift Gillnet	351,400	2,849,836	23,592	12,817	54%	4,019	11,703	7,870	6,345	1,525	
Setnet	133,800	871	1,533	0	NA	0	0	1,533	1,000	533	
Sport	254,100		42,686	12,075	28%		10,201	32,485	40,407	-7,922	
_											
Total All Gear	2,629,400	6,691,793	272,467	61,388		4,019	53,997	214,451	218,789	-4,338	

^{*} Includes Annette Island Catches

Winter Fishery (thru 4/27/10)	Chinook	Pounds	Permits	Landings	Avg Wt.	Avg. Fish Ticket Price
2009-10	31,698	418,663	414	3,244	13.24	\$7.46



From the Director's Desk...

As we closed out 2009 and reflected on yet another decade passed, many of us did so with a mix of feelings and emotions beyond the normal anticipation of that fresh start and positive challenge of new opportunities ahead. In all my years working for you I have yet to see a year so full of loss. To those of you who are missing friends and loved ones, my deepest condolences. Many of those in the fleet who passed I was lucky enough to call my friends and I

grieve with you. There are also the folks who endured epic boat events in '09. To you, I wish better times, safe passages, and success in the year ahead.

Unfortunately, my own family's year of illness, death, and dying has meant communications to you have suffered. You should see two newsletters in rapid succession; in this one, I'll recap a few of the issues of 2009 to catch you up with our activities. Hopefully you will see that lack of contact does not mean operations ground to a halt. In fact, it's been a very busy year at ATA.

As you prepare to head out this season - check that safety gear and keep ATA in mind if you need help on the grounds. Last season it was an honor to give a small assist to several people in urgent situations. As part of the fleet/industry family, just know that I will always do what I can to assist from shore. Peace... dk

Your Name Here?

We get a few questions about the box below and its significance. Simply put, these businesses make annual contributions far and away above the maximum dues levels and ATA wants to make you aware of their commitment.

This is not to diminish the fact that many businesses support ATA each year through dues and raffle donations. We couldn't do it without them. Remember to help your gear groups and those businesses that support the fleet!



Seafood Producers Cooperative
Sitka Sound Seafoods
Triad Fisheries
The Boat Company

Your exceptional support helps ATA stay on the job.

ALASKA TROLLER PAGE 3

Note to the Fleet from the ATA Board of Directors...

The ATA Board of Directors recently met and we noticed that membership is down somewhat. This is no surprise considering the low prices and small fish. Fortunately, our core group of supporters, including contributors like SPC, Sitka Sound Seafoods, and Triad Fisheries were there for us despite hard times.

We are grateful to all the trollers and businesses that understand the importance of supporting ATA. The fact is, we need all trollers to join ATA. Membership dues are used for board meetings, teleconferences, legal matters, newsletters, and travel expenses for the executive director and board members to attend important meetings and events, like the Board of Fisheries or North Pacific Fishery Management Council, to protect our fishery from attack. This representation is essential to the survival of the troll fleet. We encourage all members of the troll fleet to support ATA by becoming a member.

There are various levels of membership, including a category for retired trollers who are changing focus, but still support the industry. There is also a **new payment option for first time members** who may be having a rough year.

Remember, even if you are experiencing tough times, at least you are fishing. This is not true of many other troll fleets on the West Coast. This would not be possible without the hard work from volunteer members of your fleet and our devoted and underpaid executive director. Insolent bumper stickers and angry tirades on the radio buy you zero credibility with those who have power over your fishery. Well-informed, ever-present, organized representation is what has kept the troll fleet on the water.

If you are not a member, please consider joining ATA to insure your fishing future. The Board of Directors would once again like to thank our current membership for their support. We would also ask you to help us recruit new members to strengthen ATA. Convincing someone new to join is accomplished far easier by a friend or stall mate than by a stranger. And if you are interested in doing more, think about getting on this board; some of us have been here a long time and your fresh perspective will be welcome!

New Payment Option for First Time Members

First time members can now join for an initiation rate of half-off of the listed prices. For instance, the basic membership dues would be \$150 for powertroll and \$100 for handtroll. The special price is good for your first year only. Basic level renewal rates will be \$300 for powertroll and \$200 for handtroll. There are other levels to choose from.

While this option is available for those who need it, we still encourage trollers to join at the full rate if possible, even if you need to spread it out over two payments. Call the office (907-586-9400) for more details if you'd like to set up payments, or send a note to that effect along with your dues form and payment.

Board of Directors Election: Nominations Open thru June 6

The following seats are open for nomination:

Ketchikan • At Large • Petersburg • Lower 48

- To nominate, both you and the candidate must be ATA members in good standing.
- Powertrollers nominate powertrollers; handtrollers nominate handtrollers. There are no handtroll seats open at this time.
- Board terms are 2 years Nov. 2010 to Nov. 2012.
- 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.

NOAA Call-In: Aquaculture

NOAA will host a call **May 6th** to take public comment on a new policy to address all forms of marine aquaculture. An Alaska hearing is planned for mid-May, but no details yet. At this writing, there is also no draft policy to review. Look for updates at: www.nmfs.noaa.gov/aquaculture/policyl

Call Information:

- Time: May 6 11am 1pm (Alaska)
- ∘ Toll Free number: 1-877-779-7421
- Participant Passcode: NOAA

PAGE 4 WINTER 2010

Year in Review: 2009

Board of Fisheries: ATA participated in both the Southeast and Statewide meetings and secured another commitment from the Board to review options for possession limit definition, regulation, and enforcement. Despite the best efforts of the commercial gear groups, UFA, and others, the legislature denied the appointment of Brent Johnson, a set-netter and outstanding candidate from Clam Gulch. As former Gov. Palin was leaving office, she appointed Janet Woods, of Fairbanks, who has since resigned. The legislature has yet to confirm her replacement, Mike Smith, also of Fairbanks, who will assume the position July 1 and be in the awkward position of having to vote an entire cycle before confirmation. Smith works for the Tanana Chiefs and has both subsistence and commercial fished. He is a member of the Yukon River technical committee who has worked on a variety of Interior fisheries issues. Howard Delo will not been re-appointed by the Governor and we are awaiting word of Gov. Parnell's pick. ATA remains concerned about legislative resistance to confirm many well-rounded, knowledgeable candidates, and that the legislature has so far failed to ensure that individual Board members can fully participate in the regulatory process.

EPA Discharge Regs: ATA and local processors helped EPA get in position to gather congressionally mandated data on vessel discharges. The study stems from a lawsuit that could require fishermen to have

ATA Priority List

Treaty/ESA

Board of Fisheries

Offshore Aquaculture

Sportfish Issues

EPA / DEC Regulations

USCG Safety Regs

ATA/Fleet Communications

operating permits for such things as bilge water, greywater, and deckwash. ATA commented on the study in April. Congress will review the information to decide whether or not the small boat commercial sector will be brought under new rules. The current exemption expires Aug. 1, 2010. This is not to be confused with yet another discharge issue confronting freezer boat operators, who may have to have grinders onboard by the summer season. Finally, the state is now responsible for Clean Water Act permits in state waters, so we'll need to monitor and work closely with them on these issues.

Organic Standards: ATA traveled to WA, DC to address the National Organic Standards Board and work with food safety and environmental organizations opposing organic standards for farmed fish.

NOAA D.C. Fish Fry Cook Off: ATA's executive director was part of *Commercial Fishermen of America's* first place team, led by industry chef Margaret Curole of Galliano, LA. Seafood was gathered from around the country, with several offerings of Alaska salmon in the mix. Congress and the Administration ate it up!

Health Insurance: ATA has worked with Commercial Fishermen of America, UFA, and the Small Business Majority advocating access to affordable, accessible healthcare and insurance for fishing and other small businesses. We provided input in Washington, DC, and also here in the state, where ATA's executive director was made part of Senator Mark Begich's healthcare advisory group. Due to the immense complexities and confusion, along with a variety of opinions in the fleet, ATA did not support any specific piece of legislation, but instead limited efforts to commenting on various aspects. It is still too early to tell if the fleet or organizations will see meaningful benefits from the new law. We remain concerned about the lack of any obvious means to control costs in the face of mandatory requirements for coverage.

Fish Farming: ATA has been very busy on the national front and works regularly with a large network of Alaska and national organizations to make congress and others aware of our concerns about offshore aquaculture and to ensure that any new aquaculture policies protect fish and fishing communities. Salmon Aquaculture Dialogues (international fish farm standards working group); participation in four congressional listening sessions (hosted by Rep. Lois Capps and House Resources staff to take feedback on then draft H.R. 4363); and providing input in WA, D.C. and at a national aquaculture conference, made up a part of ATA's activities in '09.

ALASKA TROLLER PAGE 5

USCG Safety Regulations: ATA commented in writing and in DC on both proposed USCG regulations and initiatives in congress. Concerns persist over pending regulations that are neither practical or affordable for industry. The House USCG Reauthorization bill (H.R. 3619) includes some of the same provisions. The Senate bill does not, so hopefully our delegation can work this out before congress passes a bill. We also met with staff at USCG District 17 USCG, which saw a big turn over last summer. ATA encouraged more reasonable on the grounds safety inspection procedures that do not interfere with active fishing operations. Reports last season seem to indicate improvement. We welcome feedback on this topic so that we can follow up.

Tulsequah Chief Mine: Working with local interests, ATA commented and testified on the proposed re-opening of this mine on the Taku River. A variety of options were floated by Redfern Resources, which were risky for fish and habitat. Redfern has since declared bankruptcy. Chieftain Metals is currently in negotiations to take over the property. If they are successful, they'll need to begin the Alaska permitting process from scratch.

NOAA Sportfish Liaison: NOAA stated its intent to hire a sportfish liaison to help provide input to the administrator and otherwise determine, "...how NOAA Fisheries can focus personnel and financial resources on the recreational sector." This met with a large outcry from commercial interests. ATA worked with others to point out the down sides of any one group having a special envoy. NOAA still appears intent on filling the position.

Halibut: ATA coordinated comments with the halibut groups as the NPFMC and IPHC continued to work through conservation and harvest sharing issues. Despite the IPHC allowing more harvest than expected this season, longliners are feeling the impact of more cuts to the coastwide quota, which is down another 10% from 2010.

Pacific Salmon Treaty: ATA's treaty reps worked with the state in an attempt to ensure that the 5-year technical review of the chinook agreement will be based on sound science. Negotiations continued with the Canadians to further flesh out the Taku and Stikine Rivers catch sharing plans.

Treaty Mitigation: Worked to secure mitigation funding from congress for chinook quota cuts and developed recommendations for use of monies, which were ultimately agreed to by the Chinook Stakeholder Panel.

Crew License Data: ATA supported early efforts by the legislature and ADFG to better count deckhands and provide core jobs data that the commercial fishing industry lacks. Industries generally count employees based on unemployment insurance, but most deckhands are private contractors and don't pay unemployment. A committee was convened, studies developed, and work began to fill the data gap. Unfortunately, further study of the issue brought to light a number of concerns, like safeguarding the skipper's privacy; deciding who would be responsible for submitting data; and possible penalties for failure to report. The crewmember data project is now on hold.

CA/OR Disaster Relief: Commented in support of Lower 48 fishermen to secure \$53.1 million in disaster funds. Water and habitat issues in the Sacramento River have led to poor returns and drastic fisheries reductions off southern Oregon and California.

Columbia River Basin Habitat: ATA worked with *Save Our Wild Salmon* to encourage the Obama Administration to enact more fish friendly policy for the Columbia and Snake River watersheds.

High Seas Interception: Trollers John Weyhmiller (Mary Carl) and Frank Murray (Akvavit) found a high seas drift net on the beach near Craig. They retrieved a few pieces and coordinated with us to get it turned in to enforcement. For the past few years ATA has been working with ADFG and the congressional delegation to document what looks to be an increase in high seas interception of salmon. If you see what appear to be marked fish or suspicious fishing gear, note the location; take pictures of the fish; grab two 2'x2' chunks of web and/or any corks (if possible); and give us a call.



PAGE 6 WINTER 2010

	2010 Calendar	
April		
19	Alaska Legislative Session Ends	
May		
6 or 7	Marine Refrigeration 8-hour Workshop	Sitka
6	National Aquaculture Policy Call-In hosted by NOAA Toll Free: 1-877-779-7421 Passcode: NOAA	
11-13	Commercial Fishing Industry Vessel Safety Advisory Committee	Oakland, CA
22	Juneau Maritime Festival http://juneaumaritimefestival.org	Juneau
June		
3	ASMI Board Meeting	Seattle

Tom Pope sa Marine Surveyor

Serving the Fishing Fleet Since 1967

360-452-3455

Email: popesurvey@aol.com

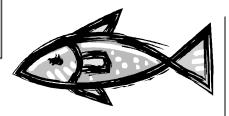
Schedule Spring surveys now for no travel expenses. (SE & BB)

Society of Accredited Marine Surveyors

Changing of the Guard

Last year saw a new line up on the ATA Board, as long time board members Ken Ash (F/V Jennison, Handtroll), Dan Doak (F/V Kodiak, Wrangell), Keith Brady (F/V Ilona B, Southern Rural), and two At Large members, Tony Guggenbickler (F/V Toni Marie) and Dick HofMann (F/V Standy) left the board to concentrate on other things. The fleet and organization have greatly benefited from the knowledge and commitment these fine men brought to the table. We wish them well in their future endeavors.

Stepping up to take a turn are: Handtroller Casey Mapes and powertrollers Mike Rugo, Steve Merritt, Matt Donohoe, and Kathi Warm. Their contact information can be found on p.7 - please be sure and give them a shout if you have suggestions, questions, or concerns.



Did you know...

Naturalized anadromous

Chinook salmon thrive in both New Zealand and Patagonia?

Chinook were introduced to New Zealand waters around 1905 using eggs imported from the McCloud River in California. Spawning populations now exist in many rivers on the east and west coasts of the South Island.

Chile experimented with salmon introductions to its rivers early in the 20th Century, but it wasn't until a 1978-89 program, fueled with eggs from the Cowlitz and Kalama River hatcheries in Washington State, that Chinook took hold and colonized. Today, both juveniles and adults are found on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of Patagonia, and the Island of Tierra del Fuego.

Fair Warning

A marine biology student at Aberdeen's National Hyperbaric Centre is writing a doctoral thesis around a theory that sharks can sense approaching storms through changes in pressure. Her interest was sparked by researchers in Florida, who observed juvenile blacktip sharks moving into deeper water as Hurricane Gabrielle approached.

The Aberdeen student is focusing on lesser spotted dogfish for her study. Who knows? Maybe high dogfish abundance in Southeast will be helpful to local weather forecasters, if not to salmon quality. ALASKA TROLLER PAGE 7

Welcome New Members

(Through June 30, 2009)

	Boat	Home Port	Type
Monte McFarland	Rocinante	Sitka	PT
Frank Kyle	Nona S	Sitka	PT
Frank Balovich	Carole D	Sitka	PT
Jeff Angelo	Chief Joseph	Samoa, CA	PT
Mike Breckon	Northern Husky	Ferndale	PT
Don Nash	Shinake	Haines	PT
Randy Jonjak	Nonsuch II	Wrangell	PT
Jonathan Gombas	Eileen J	Sitka	CW
Stefan Gombas	Eileen J	Sitka	CW
Lisa Fredrickson	New Day	Ferndale	CW
Scott Ruiz	New Day	Mt. Vernon	CW
Upgrades			
Bonnie Westlund	Dove	Petersburg	LIFE/CW
Rober Santi	Mary C	Kihei, HI	LIFE/PT
Eric Oen	Roshell	Sitka	PT/S
Joel Kawahara	Karolee	Quilcene	PT/S
Ben Peters	Jaeger	Pt Angeles	PT/S
Joel Brady-Powers	Nerka	Anacortes	PT/P
Heather Sears	Monique	Sitka	PT/P
Tele Aadsen	Nerka	Anacortes	CW/S
Seattle Marine		Seattle	B/S
		Jeattie	
Yakutat Seafoods		Yakutat	P/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
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
LFS, Inc, Bellingham
Lisianski Inlet Café, Pelican
Madison Lumber, Ketchikan
Marine Surveyors of SE Alaska,
Wrangell

Murray Pacific, Ketchikan

Murray Pacific, Sitka
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

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

Sitka Sound Seafoods

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Join Today!

__Renewal ___ New Member

Basic		Hand	Crew	Processor	Other Business	For Your Convenience
Dasic	300	200	75	500	250	Vou may include negments to these groups
Silver	350	250	110	1000	500	You may include payments to these groups along with your ATA dues:
Gold	400	300	160	2500	1000	·
Platinum	500	400	300	5000	2500	United Fishermen of Alaska (\$150) Commercial Fishermen of America (\$50)
LIFE	3000	2000	750			Halibut Coalition
Retired Troller	50	50	50			Hallbut 00ullion

Name:			F/\	/ :			
Address:				Cit	ty/Zip:		
Phone/Cell:			E-Mail:				
Crew Size: lce	Boat:	Freezer Boat: _	Direct Markete	er: Processor	: SPC	: UFA	: CFA:_
Other Fisheries:							·
				/es No	Call-In Pro	gram? Yes_	No
DONATION: \$	Please	use my extra dor	nation for: Legal	General Purpos	es Pı	ublicity	
T-SHIRTS	S Lt. Blue, B	lack, Forest Gree	n, Maroon (L, XL, XXI s) Color(s)	_) HATS	: navy oilski	n / khaki & bla	ack denim
Long-sle	eeve \$25			Hat:	\$25	<u> </u>	
Short-sl	eeve \$25			Raffle Ticket:	\$20	_	
Method of Payment	: Check _	Mastercard	Visa	Need a Receipt?	Yes No_		
Account #				Exp. Date:	Amo	unt: \$	
Signature:							