

Alaska Troller

FALL 2011

NPFMC Sends Salmon Plan to Secretary

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) recently completed review of the Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP), to ensure consistency with the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA). After nearly two years of meetings and a public workshop, the Council sent a revised plan to the Secretary of Commerce for approval.

Each of the nation's FMP's were subjected to a similar MSA consistency review, because the MSA now requires things like Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures.

The Salmon FMP was implemented in 1978 for fisheries that occur in federal waters. Only the troll fishery has been regulated under the FMP. In 1990, ATA helped the state secure delegated management authority of the FMP. This effectively removed the Council from regulatory meetings and daily management, but retained its responsibilities for ensuring compliance with the Pacific Salmon Treaty and MSA, and implementing the Endangered Species Act.

ATA strongly supports continued state management authority under the terms of the new plan, but not all fishing organizations are onboard with the Council's FMP revisions.

The Council analyzed four management scenarios and selected Alternative 3. This option removes from the FMP three historic areas for commercial net and sport fisheries in the West Area EEZ, while deferring management authority to the state for troll and sport fisheries in the East Area (Southeast/Yakutat). Since the traditional Westward areas would no longer be under the federal FMP, the state could freely manage them. One commercial gear group objects to the Council dropping its fishing area out of the FMP, preferring a system of state management with federal oversight. This would require management plans for the three areas. Unlike West Area fisheries, the Council regulated the troll fishery in the EEZ before deferring its management authority to the state; management objectives and rules were already in place for the East Area. Regardless what trollers or the state might prefer, Treaty and ESA make federal oversight mandatory in our region.

In December, the Council identified six management objectives for the FMP and approved a draft plan that includes: acknowledgment that Alaska's data collection, management plans, and bycatch measures all meet MSA requirements; conform with National Standard 1; and, accomplish the FMP objectives. Troll and sport fisheries would be authorized in the East Area. Optimum Yield (OY) for the East Area would be the equivalent of the annual troll quota. Annual catch Limit (ACL) for Chinook would be the treaty quota; other species harvests would be subject to the state's existing management program, which would be approved as an alternative to ACL's. (Continued p.4)

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They Did it Again...

Many thanks to Kayla and Lisa Fredrickson, Mark Roberts, Tele Aadsen, Joel Brady-Power, John Murray, Steve Spleen, and a few anonymous troller friends who hit the docks for our 2011 membership drive. A few new names were added to the list and some nice contributions received.

The best folks to bring other trollers aboard are ATA members themselves. A year round membership effort is essential for securing our ability to adequately represent the troll industry.

Join or re-up today...and bring along a friend, your deckhands, and a favorite support business, too!



CALL IN PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR 2012

Since the early-90's ATA has helped supply ADFG real time information on the troll fishery. This has helped in many years to shorten the length of our coho closures, or get an extra day or two on kings. Contact the office if you'd like to be involved.

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.

Preliminary 2011 Harvest Review

CHINOOK	Quota Allocation	Treaty Catch	AK Hatchery Add-on	D8 Stikine Exempt	D11 Taku Exempt	Harvest Total
All Gear Quota	294,800			US TAC = 0	TAC = 0	
Troll	218,000					
Winter		47,335	3,174			50,509
Spring		26,432	14,970			41,402
Summer		146,625	3,573			150,198
Annette Island		3				3
Total Troll		220,395	21,717			242,112
Seine		9,140	17,264			26,404
Drift Gillnet		9,436	18,731			28,167
Set Gillnet		1,123				1,123
Sport		49,878	10,660			60,538
Total		69,577	46,655			116,232
Total All Gear		289,972	68,372			358,344

COHO	Catch	2011 % Commercial	Avg % Commercial (1989-2010)	BOF Allocation %	Deviation from Allocation	
					2011	1989-2010
Troll	1,313,594	63%	64%	61%	3.6%	5.2%
Seine	351,994	17%	14%	19%		
Drift Gillnet	285,951	14%	15%	13%	5.9%	15.4%
Set Gillnet	188,067	6%	7%	7%		
Total Commercial	2,077,754					
Sport						
Marine	274,100					
Freshwater	37,400					
Total Sport	311,500	13% of Total Coho Harvest				
Total All Gear	2,391,254					



CHUM	2011 Catch	20 yr Average 1990-2010				
Total Troll	698,657	225,605				

Winter Fishery	Total	Permits	Landings	Avg Wt.	Avg. Fish Ticket Price
2012 (thru Mar 31)	23,378	433	2,666	12.3	\$7.82
2011	22,536		2,502	13.3	
5 yr Avg (2007-11)	15,469		2,178	13.5	
10 yr Avg (2002-11)	23,483		2,496	13.4	



From the Director's Desk...

Farewell to giants. Last year Alaskan's suffered the loss of both Richard 'Dick' Eliason and Ben Grussendorf. The two were amazing as individuals. Together, they were a powerful team.

Dick was an Alaska-born skipper whose last boat was, the Karmon Dee. A fisherman's son, he passed on a fishing legacy and helped to maintain the lifestyle for his own children. He was a wonderful friend, family man, and mentor to many of us. Dick was also esteemed in his role as President of the Alaska Senate. Ben was known by many for his quick wit and quiet ability to

bring people together. A teacher and dog lover, he helped raise a family that included a fisherman son, while serving as Speaker of the House.

As legislators, Dick and Ben are probably best remembered in our industry for their work to secure the ban on fish farming in state waters. Yet they did so much more than that! They were statesmen who combined forces to guard Alaskan's interests on a great many fronts, helping to mold Alaska into the great state that it is today.

There have been many giants trolling among us whose praises have rarely been sung. That hit home for me when we lost John Claussen (Lightly) and Wendell Pitcher (Julie Ann). Wendell spent an amazing 72 years commercial fishing - quiet example to a family of fishermen; plying the sea to provide fish for the nation. Claussen helped to pioneer the Fairweather Grounds and was king amongst Alaska's renaissance men. His advice helped train me up and keep me focused on what's important. Both men earned the friendship and respect of many. Lives well lived.

On behalf of myself and ATA, our thoughts and prayers are with the Eliason, Grussendorf, Claussen, and Pitcher clans and friends. In fact, I extend these thoughts to anyone living with a similar loss. It's been a tough couple of years for losing our fleet legends and there's surely many I've missed. Don't forget to drop by and lend a hand or listen to an elder's stories - remind them how much they are valued today, and always. Peace. dk

The Results are In: Board of Directors Election

With the last two elections we've seeing quite a turn over in the ATA Board line-up. This round, long-time board members Bob Fredrickson (New Day) and John Murray (Sea Bear) decided to step down. Both of these fine men have given ATA many good years, and we have all benefited from their knowledge and thoughtful consideration of the issues. We wish them and their families well as they shift focus to new projects and adventures.

Newbies on the board include Martin Gowdy (Charity), Steve Ricci (Helen A), and Jim Phillips (Pacific Dawn). Each brings a unique perspective to the board and should make fine fleet leaders.

Thanks to returning board members for your time and commitment to the industry. Your service is greatly appreciated!

And the winners are...

Sitka Kathi Warm

Lower 48 Martin Gowdy

Northern Rural Jim Phillips

At Large Steve Ricci

Handtroll Case Mapes

Southern Rural Steve Merritt

Board members serve two-year terms, which are staggered such that elections occur for about half the seats each year.

Nominations will soon open for the following seats: Sitka, Juneau, Petersburg, Wrangell, Ketchikan, Lower 48 and At Large. If you are interested, write or call the office.

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Otte Makes a Move

Board President, Dave Otte (Sarah E, Ketchikan) decided to change things up last fall, announcing that it was time for someone else to take the wheel. Otte chaired the ATA Board for nearly a decade and served as Ketchikan's rep for many years prior to that. He's accepted the Vice President post, but hopes to free up time for other pursuits.

Dave was an asset to ATA in his role as president, particularly given his considerable knowledge on the regional hatchery program. We thank Dave for his past and ongoing work for the fleet.

Southern Rural rep, Steve Merritt (C'est La Vie, Craig), was elected president. Congrats, Steve!



**Special
Thanks**

Seafood Producers Cooperative

Sitka Sound Seafoods

Triad Fisheries

Yakutat Seafoods

Your exceptional support helps ATA stay on the job.

Salmon FMP (continued from cover)

The FMP adopts the state's peer review system for generating scientific information and fishery recommendations. The federal limited entry permit program for salmon is considered obsolete and will be eliminated. NMFS anticipates that no one will be affected if this EEZ only permit is deleted. If you are a troller who still has one of these permits, we'd appreciate a call!

NMFS will accept comments through **June 1, 2012** on Salmon FMP Amendments 10, 11, and 12. There are two federal register notices, but you should be able to write one letter addressing them both. Both NMFS and the Council posted the public notices and other helpful documents online. It might take some study to fully understand the intent and affect, so give ATA a call if we can help clarify things.

Salmon FMP Links

NMFS: <http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/salmon/default.htm>

NPFMC: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/fishery-management-plans/salmon.html>

USCG Seizes Hi Seas Driftnet Vessel

In September, the USCG seized the 140' *Bangun Perkasa* for illegally operating a 3-mile long gillnet 2,600 miles southwest of Kodiak. Onboard were 22 crew members, 30 tons of squid, 30 sharks, 10 more miles of net, and a large colony of rats. The ship was held in federal waters off Dutch Harbor until the rats were eradicated at a cost of \$200,000. Numerous environmental hazards had to be dealt with before the ship was allowed into Unalaska, where it will remain for the time being.

Enforcement took the crew to Anchorage and held them until translators could be found to assist with questioning. The crew members said the ship was from Indonesia, but officials there denied the claim. Federal officials working with international partners ultimately determined that the vessel is an unclaimed, stateless pirate ship, prompting the US to formally cite and seize the ship.

Senator Mark Begich and Representative Don Young introduced legislation to allow seized vessels to be sunk 50 miles offshore, but the EPA has resisted that idea, due to potential risks to the marine environment. The fate of the vessel remains in limbo, while the US works through the courts and develops a plan to ensure that the *Bangun Perkasa* has made its last illegal fishing trip.

ATA has worked to fight illegal high seas fishing since helping secure legislation in the 1980's. In recent years, we've collected pictures of net marked fish from the fleet. When Senator Ted Stevens re-focused efforts on illegal fishing the last few years of his career, those pictures helped us show him what appeared to be an ongoing presence of high seas gillnetting. We've also been able to facilitate recovery of high seas gear. So if you see net marked fish or illegal fishing gear out there, please contact ATA right away. It's important to take pictures of both sides of suspicious fish, then give the fish and your story to the ADFG port sampler. If you see nets, secure them on the beach, if possible, and call in the location - we'll try to get them picked up. Sending a clean section (2'x2') of any web, buoys or gear you find would be helpful. It is important to document where and when marked fish and gear are found.

Pacific Salmon Treaty: Total Mortality

The Total Mortality (TM) provision was added to the 1999 & 2009 Treaty Agreements. Alaska's negotiators believed that it would eventually bring the fleet more fish to counteract years of Chinook reductions. By rights we should have started seeing positive results in 2011. Unfortunately, we did not. So what is TM, why didn't we get the fish, and what's the prognosis for the future?

In the early 1990's there was a huge abundance of Chinook in the Alaska fishery - far more than the years before the Treaty was signed. This abundance, coupled with deep quota cuts and a growing charter industry, reduced our summer fishery to as few as 3.5 days. As a result, we were releasing more Chinook during the summer fishery, which led to higher bycatch mortality. In response, a Chinook Task Force was formed by the Board of Fish and we re-tooled the fishery. Trollers showed a firm commitment to reduce mortality and stay within the Chinook allocation. Troll seasons, time, and area were significantly altered. ATA supported the plan, but it was a difficult and contentious process for the fleet.

Treaty agreements have been progressively more restrictive for quota fisheries; our fishermen and state are chronically asked to accept more risk and less fish. Alaska negotiators were promised that by 2011 we would finally see some benefit from this sacrifice, through the potential to increase catches under TM.

Simply put, if Alaska and the other quota fisheries in Canada successfully reduce incidental mortality compared to the 1985-1995 base period, a percentage of the fish saved would be added to the quota. A boost in annual harvest was intended to be added incentive to maintain protective regulations and look for ways to further reduce bycatch mortality. ATA and ADFG took this seriously and have worked to sustain reduced rates of mortality through the regulatory process. For instance, areas of high Chinook salmon abundance were closed during the coho fishery. Time/area restrictions and caps were put in place, to reduce the harvest of quota fish in winter and spring and lengthen the summer Chinook fishery.

The data shows that Alaska significantly reduced incidental mortality, and to a lesser extent, so did Canada. Under the TM regime, Southeast salmon fishermen should have shared about 54,000 additional Chinook salmon in 2011. So, what did we get last season in return for many years of sacrifice? Nothing. Zip. Nada. Precisely Zero more fish. What's up with that?!

In short, the Southern Commissioners blocked it. The TM regime involves a three part approval: 1) The Chinook Technical Committee (CTC) must complete specific technical tasks; and, 2) the CTC must determine that it's possible to implement a TM regime; and, 3) the commissioner's must agree to implement TM. The first two boxes were checked, but the Southern US commissioners and NMFS refused to support the TM regime. Therefore, the issue couldn't go to Canada for discussion and approval.

The Southern and NMFS Commissioners apparently do not want to honor the treaty deal, at least when it means more fish for Alaska. The TM regime can work both ways, and we're guessing they would have gladly pushed to implement TM if it involved an Alaskan cut.

There is an array of excuses to justify the lack of support - some even claim they didn't fully understand the very agreement they helped write and sign, not once, but twice! From our perspective, the arguments are just not valid. The stocks in our fishery are healthy and abundant, in part due to our sacrifices. Trollers lost harvest share and changed their fishery to reduce the mortality caused by treaty cuts. This came at a great cost to our industry - jobs and opportunity were lost in the process.

Perhaps the other Commissioners were banking on Alaska increasing mortality and losing fish under TM. They have no apparent interest in Alaska or Canada harvesting one fish over the current quotas. Alaska's quotas were conservative in the extreme, even before they took off another 15% in 2009 to get a deal with Canada. So what about 2012 - will the TM regime be implemented? Once again, no go. At this time, it's unclear what Alaska will need to do to prevail on TM in 2013.

Thanks to all of you who signed ATA's petition and wrote the governor on this issue. Due to the efforts of several board members, we were able to quickly gather nearly 1000 signatures and send the message to the governor that trollers expect fair play for Alaska fishermen. ATA's executive director met with the Governor and ADFG Commissioner, committing to do what we reasonably can to assist the state in its efforts to implement TM. If you want to help, a donation to ATA's legal fund would be useful.

ATA will always fight to maintain healthy salmon stocks and fishing communities coastwide. What we want is not unreasonable and will not harm the resource - it's simply what Alaska was promised. A deal's a deal.

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

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City of Port Alexander
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Hoonah Cold Storage
House of Liquors, Sitka
LFS, Inc, Bellingham
Lisianski Inlet Café, Pelican
Madison Lumber, Ketchikan

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
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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
Wrangell Oil, Wrangell
Yakutat Seafoods, Yakutat

Exports Rising

Alaska exported \$2.5 billion in seafood last year - an increase of 35 percent from 2010. The times they sure are a changin', as evidenced by the current Top 10 list of trade partners.

Country	Millions
China	\$836.1
Japan	\$589.2
Korea	\$303.6
Germany	\$201.4
Netherlands	\$159.4
Canada	\$89.5
France	\$46.3
Thailand	\$34.6
Spain	\$33.8
Portugal	\$30.3

2011 Troll Harvest & Value

	Chinook	Coho	Chum
Harvest	242,112	1,313,594	698,657
Value	\$12,962,963	\$10,410,473	\$4,905,356
20 yr Avg	\$7,974,904	\$11,592,079	\$938,392

Did you know...

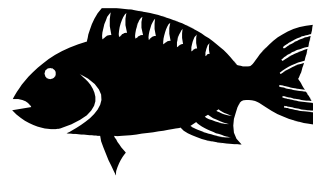
🐟 NMFS Alaska Region is responsible for fisheries that pull roughly 50% of the US seafood harvest from waters spanning 842,000 square miles off Alaska's coast.

🐟 Herring - uhm - pass wind? Three scientists earned an Ig Nobel award for this discovery. Ig Nobels are awarded in recognition of "achievements that make people laugh at first, and then make them think." Bet the Swedish Navy weren't laughing that time they mistook a school of flatulent herring for an attacking Russian submarine, but it surely made them think!

🐟 The oldest living thing is now thought to be 200,000 year old sea grass in the Mediterranean Sea. The 'oldest' title was previous held by a 43,000 year old plant in Tasmania.

2012 Priorities

Treaty/ESA
Board of Fisheries
Offshore Aquaculture
EPA / DEC Regulations
USCG Safety Regs
ATA/Fleet Communications
Healthcare



Welcome New Members

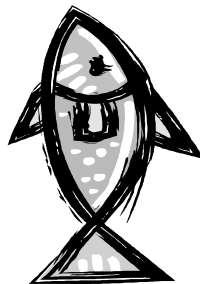
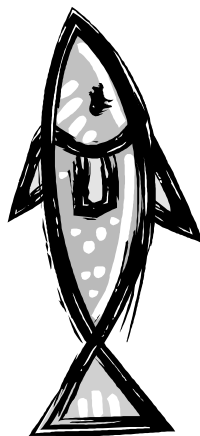
(Thru Oct 20, 2011)

	Boat	Home Port	Type
Tracy Rivera	Surf Scoter	Juneau	HT
Andrew Friske	Allure	Sitka	PT
Todd Butler	Abby M	Ketchikan	PT
Steve Fish	Kariel	Sitka	PT
C. Alan Ross		Thorne Bay	PT
Brad Baldwin	Arcola	Juneau	PT
Ward Person	Heritage Hoonah		PT
Jim Daniels		Sitka	PT
Steve Kort	Judith	Sitka	PT
Jamison Mork	M.W.	Pelican	PT
Ken Bates	Ironie	Eureka	PT
Alan Anthony	Ingrid Elaine	Seward	PT
Evan Norbistrath	Swan	Port Angeles	PT
Jeff Farvour	Suunta	Sitka	PT
Tracey Emanuel	Sitka		PT
Sean Roberts	Good Luck	Ward Cove	PT
Michael Erb	Legacy	Anchorage	PT
Lynn Steyaart	Honeywilya	Petersburg	PT
Fred Sears	Pala 2	Morro Bay	PT/S
Mick Watkins	Biorka	Ferndale	PT/P
Brady Young	Carol Ann	Auke Bay	CW
Tom Jacobson		Pahoa, HI	R
City of Craig		Craig	B

Upgrades

Paul Olson	Valiant Hunter	Sitka	PT
Jim Phillips	Pacific Dawn	Pelican	PT/S
Dave Otte	Sarah E	Ketchikan	PT/S
Jeff Thomas	Kathleen Jo	Ferndale	PT/G
Lance Preston	Seaboy	Sitka	PT/G
Scott Visscher	Standy	Haines	PT/G
Les Woodward	Venus	Wrangell	PT/P
Ian Cryan	Sharon Sue	Juneau	PT/G
Jason Gjertsen	Katie J	Sitka	PT/G
Paul Olsen	Valiant Hunter	Sitka	CW/G
Tele Aadsen	Nerka	Anacortes	CW/P
Ken Bare	Chanty	Kaunakakai	CW/LIFE
The Boat Company		WA, DC	B/S

Did we miss you? Give a call!



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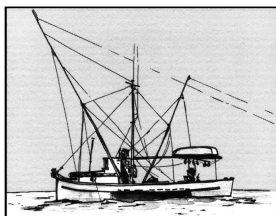
Treaty Representatives
Howard Pendell, *Rosa Lee*
Dennis Longstreth, *Shearwater*
Dale Kelley, *ATA*

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 747-8434

Old News... After many hectic months, ATA's lead deckhand found herself with three partial newsletters on the computer - what to do? Solution: merge the most important pieces into two newsletters and push them out the door. If you're reading this and worry that you might have pitched one, thinking it was a duplicate, head to www.aktrollers.org and read the newsletter section, where full versions will be posted for a couple of months. Computer-less? Check your processor for a copy or give the office a call. Thanks for your patience and apologies for the long delay!

**Alaska Trollers Association**

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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			
1st YR Initiation Rate	150	100				
Retired Troller	50	50	50			

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	Qty.	Size (s)	Color(s)	Qty.	Color(s)
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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 ___

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Signature: _____

