The fate of AquaBounty’s Atlantic salmon mash up with a Pacific Chinook salmon and an Arctic eelpout hangs in the balance as we approach FDA’s April 26th comment deadline on genetically engineered salmon (GE). Have you made your views known?

AquaBounty claims that the genetic boost they’ve given their fish will make them grow to market size more quickly than a typical Atlantic salmon. Supporters believe that this template provides the recipe to lessen the impact of farmed salmon and feed the world. Skeptics question whether or not the product has been adequately tested to assure its long term safety, both for humans and the environment. Who’s ‘right’? Who knows? For now, ATA stands with the skeptics.

The AquaBounty GE salmon is being analyzed by FDA as an animal drug, not a food. This limits the review process and allows the trade secrets to be kept under wraps. While the promoters point to over 15 years of study and review, the public was really only invited to the discussion in late 2009, and then just barely. There are scores of other GE fish and animals on the horizon and ‘Big’ Agriculture and Biotech are busy nurturing developers, while this salmon is offered as the test case.

The precise path for getting GE fish to market is still a mystery. FDA says the permit will only allow GE salmon eggs to be shipped from a facility on Prince Edward Island, Canada and grown to commercial size in upland tank farms in Panama. So why would the FDA spend so much time and money approving a product that won’t even be raised on US soil? The clue might be found in an article touting AquaBounty’s latest $500K grant from the USDA, where the firm’s chief executive points to willing farmers ready to grow GE salmon in at least four US states. The US has invested millions in GE salmon, and despite the company being on its lips numerous times, AquaBounty always finds a willing benefactor to keep it afloat. There is a lot of money riding on these fish and you can bet that heavy pressure is already on FDA to allow them to be Made (and sold) in the USA.

Concerns of the public are repeatedly batted away by AquaBounty and its supporters, who claim the fish is safe to eat and no threat to the environment. The review process did little to alleviate concerns and was shrouded in secrecy. When documents were finally unveiled, long term, peer reviewed safety studies were absent. Minimal testing was done; with sample sizes often less than 10 fish to study important questions like allergenicity. Many of the GE test fish were not full grown and none were raised at a production scale farm, so not representative of a finish product.

As for risks associated with escaped GE fish, we’re told not to worry – all fish will be sterile females. Yet it is well known that the process of creating such a fish is imperfect, which is why FDA will allow a 5% margin of error. If capable spawners escape containment in Panama, FDA claims they won’t survive the warm climate, despite the fact that other trout have been successfully introduced there. We already know farmed fish can be resilient – we catch farmed Atlantics in Alaska. What if they reach a river system – in Panama or the US? Invasive species already cost this country and others billions of dollars a year. GE fish just seem like a bad idea – on so many levels.

ATA has been working with organizations around the world who share concern over the GE issue. Hopefully you will join us and comment to the FDA by April 26. Don’t have much time? No worries – it’s easy! Just go to www.regulations.gov, where you can submit a letter or a quick note in less time than it takes to ice the boat.
## Preliminary 2012 Harvest Review

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHINOOK</th>
<th>Quota Allocation</th>
<th>Treaty Catch</th>
<th>AK Hatchery Add-on</th>
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<th>D11 Taku Exempt</th>
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<tr>
<td>All Gear Quota</td>
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<td>241,118</td>
<td>53,113</td>
<td>US TAC = 0</td>
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<td>191,839</td>
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<td>Winter</td>
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<td>Total Troll</td>
<td>191,839</td>
<td>17,184</td>
<td>343</td>
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<td>209,366</td>
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<td>Seine</td>
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<td>Sport</td>
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<td>10,066</td>
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<td>Troll</td>
<td>1,200,896</td>
<td>63.8%</td>
<td>63.8%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<td>14.9%</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
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<td>303,047</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
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<td>Set Gillnet</td>
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<td>7.0%</td>
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<td>-25%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
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**Total Commercial** | **1,882,762**

**Total Sport** | **Unavailable**

**Total All Gear**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>CHUM</th>
<th>2012 Catch</th>
<th>West Behm Canal</th>
<th>Neets Bay</th>
<th>Homeshore</th>
<th>Sitka Sound</th>
<th>20 yr Average 1992-2011</th>
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**Winter Fishery**

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Permits</th>
<th>Landings</th>
<th>Pounds</th>
<th>Avg Wt.</th>
<th>Avg. Fish Ticket Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>2013 (thru 3/30/13)</td>
<td>14,699</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>2,186</td>
<td>185,727</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>$8.42</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>20,103</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>2,452</td>
<td>247,465</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>$7.76</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 yr Avg (2008-12)</td>
<td>16,048</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>2,131</td>
<td>209,207</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>$7.54</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 yr Avg (2003-12)</td>
<td>22,814</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>2,551</td>
<td>302,039</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>$6.03</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
By President Steve Merritt, F/V C’est La Vie

When I was a young fishermen I joined ATA out of respect for the judgment of ATA board members like Tony Guggenbickler and Lance Ingle. They understood the politics of trolling and I, being quite new to the fishery, had very little interest in all that. My focus was catching fish, period. Over time, I began to realize that catching fish and defending the troll fleet’s political interests are directly related. Twenty years later and ATA president, I now understand that without the dedication of past ATA board members, the troll fishery I built a life on would probably be very different – and not in a good way. It is my turn to represent the fishermen of this fishery in the political arena. I hope to continue what those before me started and inspire the next generation to see the importance of ATA.

There have been many changes in the troll fishery since I began—some negative, but also a lot of positives that ATA helped influence. This can be seen in the development of spring hatchery openings, protections for the winter fishery, and early coho retention and season extensions, just to name a few. ATA has been heavily involved in three stakeholder processes to disperse treaty Chinook mitigation monies that have directly and indirectly benefited the fleet through enhancement, troll infrastructure, marketing, and direct cash payments. On the federal level there have been successful accomplishments like bilge water permit moratoriums, habitat protection, and preventing passage of lax offshore fish farming bills.

By far, the most frustrating and disappointing issue for ATA is the Pacific Salmon Treaty. ATA has very little control in this arena and I warn you not to set expectations too high. We have to be careful to choose battles we think can be won. The ATA Board spends countless hours on treaty issues and the first thing I learned is that it is 10 times more complicated than you think. There is Canada, NMFS, the Bolt Decision and Baldridge Stipulation, Panels and Technical Committees, Transboundary Rivers, and state, federal, and tribal commissioners all interacting in one big complicated mess.

The state sends highly qualified representatives to treaty - don’t sell them short. They are doing the best they can with the hand they have been dealt. Alaska’s commissioner has only one vote – there are three others who have to agree, plus the feds.

Several fishermen have voiced disappointment and are demanding action from ATA and the state to increase the quota. It is easy to capture the rage of fishermen who feel the impact of treaty cuts—we all feel it! I have heard the expression “break windows” and calls to stage a public demonstration to express our anger. Yet sometimes throwing rocks is not the right approach – those rocks could bounce off a wall and the only broken windows would be Alaska’s. With some treaty Chinook stocks returning at the lowest levels since the 1970’s, there are no simple solutions for negotiating more fish for Alaska. Despite our anger, we must make prudent decisions that are in the best interest of our trolling future. ATA is committed to that.

This is the time for the fleet to be united on the political front. We have the upcoming 5-year Chinook review and the 2018 treaty negotiations to get ready for. NMFS is out of control and on an anti-commercial fishing rampage. Board of Fish meetings, enhancement allocation, fish farming problems and genetically engineered salmon all loom on the horizon. A strong central representative organization is the best way to deal with these things.

Unfortunately, ATA is facing big economic challenges. As we all are experiencing, the cost of everything has gone up. The office and travel budgets have been hit hard and both are crucial to inform and represent the fleet at the Board of Fish, Council, congressional hearings, etc. We also need more money in our treaty and legal funds. The ATA board always has legal questions that need answering—that’s not cheap.

Membership is improving, but large gains in this area are needed to make up for the generation that is retiring and other lost funding sources. The formation of coalitions and other organizations is taking its toll on our funding. ATA has fought for this fleet for 88 years and always will be the best representative for our interests, but it takes money to continue this work. So if you have a trolling buddy or supplier that isn’t a member, please make the effort to get them to join. It will be the best money they ever spent to help protect their financial future.
ATA Mitigation Goals

- Develop multi-year program to offset the lost treaty harvest opportunity of hook and line Chinook fishermen.
- Provide meaningful mitigation to each affected Southeast troller.
- Work with other Stakeholders to define mutually beneficial projects.
- Develop and improve troll related infrastructure.
- Distribute mitigation benefits throughout the Southeast/Yakutat. region.

Troll Mitigation Team

Steve Merritt, Troller
30 yr. fisherman, SPC Member, ATA President

Howard Pendell, Troller
39 yr. fisherman, SPC Member, Treaty Rep

Rich Davis, Troll Processors
43 yr. fisherman, SPC Board, Former Treaty Rep

Dale Kelley, ATA / Troll Deckhand
25 yr. ATA Executive Director, Treaty Rep

Treaty Mitigation: Phase II Set to Begin

The next phase of the SE Chinook mitigation program has launched. This program is intended to offset the losses of troll and sport fishermen under the 2009 Pacific Salmon Treaty. All total, ATA secured over $6.45 million for direct payments to trollers, plus millions more for infrastructure and enhancement. It’s taken quite a bit of time to get where we wanted to go. Trollers and anglers on the Stakeholder Panel agreed on the current project list last May. The Governor’s Fish Cabinet accepted the Stakeholder’s plan in June and the agencies crafted new regulations for the program, which went through a lengthy approval process. The Lt. Governor recently signed the regulations and the agencies are off and running. Hopefully the fleet will be pleased with the results.

Direct Pay Program

Applications were mailed to qualified trollers around March 1, so if you don’t have one yet, make sure CFEC has your current address. You can also find the forms online. **Deadline to apply: May 13th**

The 2013 direct payment will cover two fishing years: 2010 and 2011, making it very important to apply on time. There is one application for both years. In 2014, qualified trollers will get one final application to cover fishing year 2012. The new program is slightly different than the one used for the 2009 season. 75% of the fund will be shared by trollers who landed at least one king salmon; 25% will be split according to individual tonnage. $3.3 million will be paid out in 2013, and the fleet will receive $1.5 million in 2014.

If you qualified for the last round but did not receive payment, you are in luck! Due to the short notice of last year’s payments, ATA was able to secure a second chance for about 70 qualified trollers who missed out. Those trollers should get a separate application. This is a one-time deal for the 2009 fishery only — there will be no similar program for 2010-12. Don’t forget to get those applications in the mail! **Suggestion:** use ‘Certified Mail’.

Infrastructure

You should be able to ice up in Pelican this summer, thanks to this fund and a lot of hard work by folks in Pelican. The equipment will produce 35-40 tons of ice per day, and there is a 60 ton storage bin. This was ATA’s top infrastructure priority. On our list this year is more ice, dock/work float, and boat haul-out improvements in key areas. The sport reps are looking for cleaning stations and ice. The state is currently taking proposals. **Deadline: April 16th.**

Enhancement

Funds will target more coho and Chinook projects in the Southern areas, along with inside remote release sites for Chinook. These hatchery projects are being paid for by both troll and sport funds, and the fish will be shared by all user groups.

Chieftain Metals Stops Water Treatment at Tulsequah Chief Mine Site

Redfern Resources went bankrupt in 2009 and Chieftain Metals quickly announced its intent to purchase the Tulsequah Chief Mine site. Commercial and sport fishermen, regulatory agencies, elected officials, Governor Sarah Palin and the US State Department immediately contacted the Canadian government, to express longstanding concerns related to acid drainage at the mine site. In response, British Columbia officials stated that, as a condition of the company’s acquisition of the mine site, Chieftain Metals would be required to address acid mine drainage. Further assurances were made to Alaskan’s and the U.S. that a permanent cleanup would be done once the Tulsequah Chief mine site is reclaimed. Many were skeptical about Chieftain’s ability to follow through on the clean up requirements.

In March 2012, Chieftain installed an Interim Water Treatment Plant. Just three months later, in a letter to Environment Canada, Chieftain noted its intent to close the plant at the end of June, due to technical and financial problems. By July, Chieftain released a report calling off water treatment until the company can raise the $300-500 million necessary to develop the mine. Ironically, earlier letters by both ATA and Juneau Mayor Bruce Botelho predicted such problems. Chieftain’s financial challenges are large, from an apparent absence of investors to the Taku River Tlingit First Nation’s resistance to an access road. It seems unlikely that this operator will be able to raise the funds needed to reinitiate mine operations any time soon, if ever. Options to address acid mine drainage must be developed, and in a way that does not rely on the presence of a working mine.

The Taku River produces more coho and Chinook than any other river in Southeast—contributing 40% of Southeast’s Chinook return. At the urging of ATA and others, a Legislative Task Force was formed last spring to review options to better protect the river. The river’s trans-boundary status, among other things, makes it rather complicated. Hearings were held and a report was filed. The Juneau legislative delegation is now considering their best course of action. Fishermen are encouraged to contact legislators with their concerns.

From the Director’s Desk…

When I was a kid, my parents always said that time was flying by, while I’d complain that it just crawled. Funny how quickly my folk’s concept of time became my own. Know the feeling? Each year more issues get piled on and the pace gets faster and faster, leaving me wondering just how much more fun we can stand. The legislature left Juneau after one of the most disorienting sessions I’ve seen. They ran the gamut from barbless hooks, to waxing another fine Board of Fish (BOF) member, and nearly annihilating the ADFG budget in Southeast. Luckily, we were able to defend most of the Department’s budget and have so far prevented the legislature from wading into fisheries management. But Vince Webster will leave the BOF on June 30 and the search is on for a knowledgeable commercial representative from Bristol Bay. We’ll have to revisit many of the same bills next year, and it will probably be another battle to try and secure some semblance of balance on the BOF.

Disappointing news for trollers this spring was the low king salmon quota. Production is down for many Chinook stocks, which is reflected in the abundance based quota. Biologists now say that there was less fish in 2012 than the model predicted. The 2013 forecast indicates lower returns for some of the stocks we catch, like early Fraser River, West Coast Vancouver Island, and a significant set of ‘driver stocks’ - the Upriver Brights from the Columbia River. Recently, the Brights have been returning at near record levels and a record is forecast this year. However, an unusually high number of young fish in the mix has muddled things. Typically, we harvest 5 year old Chinook in Southeast, but nearly 43% of the Bright run is expected to be 3 year olds —more than twice the norm! Most 3 year olds are under 28”. There will also be about 10% more 4 year olds. So, the fish might be in the fishery, but not big enough to harvest. This shift in age class could explain some of the more petite fish we’ve been seeing. Of course, the additional 15% treaty cut we’ve been getting since 2009 just adds insult to injury. It’s possible that the small fish could point to increased abundance and quotas in the next year or two—time will tell. But while we await that answer, you can bet that time will crawl. Keep the Faith! dk
**Calendar**

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<tr>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>26 GE Comment Deadline</td>
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<td>3-5 ATA Board Meeting—Members Welcome!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13 Chinook Mitigation Applications Due</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TBD ATA Port Meetings</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>TBD ATA Raffle</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3-11 North Pacific Fishery Management Council</td>
<td>Centennial Hall, Juneau</td>
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**2013 Priorities**

- Treaty/ESA
- Board of Fisheries
- Offshore Aquaculture
- EPA / DEC Regulations
- USCG Safety Regulation
- Healthcare

**Special Thanks**

Seafood Producers Cooperative
Sitka Sound Seafoods
Triad Fisheries
Mike & Barb Rugo

Your exceptional support helps ATA stay on the job.

**Board of Directors: Nominations Open thru May 31st**

The following seats are open for nomination:

- **At Large, Sitka (2), Juneau, Wrangell, Lower 48**
- **Northern Rural, Southern Rural, Handtroll**

- Both the candidate and the person who nominates them must be ATA members in good standing. Powertrollers nominate and elect powertrollers; handtrollers nominate and elect handtrollers.
- Board term is 2 years - November 2013 to Nov. 2015.
- ATA pays board meeting expenses, which includes two board meetings a year and teleconferencing.

Contact the office right away if you are interested in running or nominating someone for the board.

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Welcome New Members
(Thru Dec 31, 2012)

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Boat</th>
<th>Home Port</th>
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<td>Sophia</td>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>PT</td>
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<td>Nelson Merrell</td>
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<td>Happy Time</td>
<td>Petersburg</td>
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<td>PT</td>
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<td>Miss Teale</td>
<td>Craig</td>
<td>PT/P</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Miss Amy</td>
<td>Hoonah</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Edward Brown</td>
<td>Aquilla</td>
<td>Oak Harbor</td>
<td>CW</td>
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<td>Port Angeles</td>
<td>CW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayla Cantelow</td>
<td>New Day</td>
<td>Port Angeles</td>
<td>CW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Wrangell</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Did we miss you? Give a call!

Board of Directors

Steve Merritt, President
cestlavi@aptalaska.net
C’est La Vie, Southern Rural

Dave Otte, Vice President
daveotte@hotmail.com
Sarah E, Ketchikan

Joel Kawahara, Secretary
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Karolee, Lower 48

Jeff Longridge, Treasurer
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Saami, Sitka

Kathi Warm
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Restless Wind, Sitka

Ken McGee
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Northstar, Juneau

Mark Roberts
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Cape Cross, Petersburg

Mike Rugo
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Barbi J, Wrangell

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Charity, Lower 48

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At Large

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Helen A, At Large

Jim Phillips
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Pacific Dawn, Northern Rural

Casey Mapes
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Mai Tai, Handtroll

Staff
Dale Kelley, Executive Director
ata@gci.net

Treaty Representatives
Howard Pendell, Chaos
Dennis Longstreth, Shearwater

Dale Kelley, ATA
Join Today!

___ Renewal    ___ New Member

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Power</th>
<th>Hand</th>
<th>Crew</th>
<th>Processor</th>
<th>Other Business</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>75</td>
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<td>Silver</td>
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<td>Gold</td>
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<td>Platinum</td>
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<td>LIFE</td>
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<td>2000</td>
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<td>1st YR Initiation Rate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retired Troller</td>
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</table>

For Your Convenience...
You may include payments to these groups along with your ATA dues:

___ United Fishermen of Alaska ($175)
____ Commercial Fishermen of America ($50)
____ Halibut Coalition ($ )

Name:__________________________________________ F/V: __________________________________
Address:____________________________________________________________ City/Zip:____________
Phone/Cell:________________________________________ E-Mail:______________________________
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 ____ Treaty ____ General Purposes ____ Publicity ____

T-SHIRTS: Slate, Forest Green (L, XL) HATS: navy oilskin / light blue microfiber
Long-sleeve $25 ___ ___ Color(s)
Short-sleeve $25 ___ ___ QTY. Color(s)

Hat: $25 - TEMPORARILY OUT OF STOCK Raffle Ticket: $20 ___

Method of Payment: Check ____ Mastercard ____ Visa ____

Need a Receipt? Yes____ No____

Account #:________________________________________
Exp. Date:______ Amount: $__________ Signature:__________________________________________

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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