

ALASKA TROLLER

Newsletter of the Alaska Trollers Association

January 2021

ATA Priorities

To reverse the longstanding trend of reduced troll harvest

Allocation / management (ADFG & Board of Fish)

Membership recruitment & activation

Bycatch and interception (NPFMC)

Marketing (Genetically Modified Salmon & fish farms)

Transboundary River & habitat concerns

Steller Sea Lions & other marine mammals

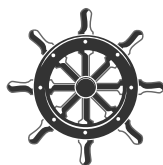
Mitigation Funding Possibilities

State Legislation

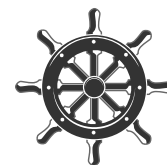
High Seas Driftnets

Data Preparation for effectiveness in all venues

Raffle and fundraising



FROM THE WHEELHOUSE



Hi Trollers,

2020 was a tough year for Trollers is an understatement. The good news is that ATA's defense in response to WFC's lawsuits, with contributions from fishermen and others, helped keep trollers on the ocean in 2020. The bad news is that besides the expensive legal effort, universal Covid disruptions including loss of markets and the worst Coho season in 40 years, ATA still needs to deal with the Board of Fish (BOF) currently scheduled for this spring.

At the BOF Trollers will face at least one very significant issue: the proposals to reduce the troll King Salmon harvest in years of low quota. Proposal 83 states that Treaty concessions, such as the payback clause and the new tier system, give the guides, **"...insufficient harvest opportunity for the sport fishery during low abundance"**. SEAGO seems to forget that their President and Vice-President were Northern Panel Treaty Sport Representatives who supported these changes AND the major reductions in SEAK's Chinook harvest. SEAGO wants to take fish away from commercial trollers because apparently it doesn't matter if trollers have, **"insufficient harvest opportunity"**.

Attending a long BOF meeting is one of our biggest expenses but our attendance is critical and fundamental to our organization. If you want to keep fishing please pay your annual membership fee and consider additional contributions to keep ATA working for you. Thank you.

*Yours,
Matt Donohoe,
President ATA*



MANY THANKS TO PLATINUM PROCESSOR MEMBER SPC FOR THEIR GENEROUS PLATINUM MEMBERSHIP AND RAFFLE DONATION

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ATA Staff

Amy Daugherty,
Executive Director
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Happy New Year Trollers!

2020 at ATA was highlighted by our lawsuit intervention and subsequent fundraising. Thank you for helping us raise \$45,000 to defend trollers against the Wild Fish Conservancy. Of that, the communities of Sitka and Petersburg contributed \$5000 each and the City of Craig gave us \$2500. Additionally, Triad Fisheries owner Mark Tupper was incredibly generous by contributing \$7500. And so many other donors chipped in and helped. Thank you.

We have paid \$25,000 to our attorney, Thane Tienson, to date and \$1400 to McDowell for a legal exhibit. As much as we'd like to think the balance will take us past the goalpost, the WFC seem to take every opportunity to appeal or revise and/or amend their efforts to shut us down. While we see nothing on their website targeting our fishery, their determination is clear and unwavering. Our belief remains that the State will rise to the occasion in the near future so we won't have to ask for additional contributions from a fleet which is already besieged.

We are asked why we don't point to other fisheries which bycatch significant numbers of Chinook. As tempting as it is, this will not make our problem go away. The SRKW problem stems from the unbridled growth and consequent pollution in Washington State as portrayed by our president, Matt Donohoe, in this newsletter. It should be clear to everyone who bycatches and catches these beautiful salmon, that trollers are only the "low hanging fruit" of what seems to be the one of the first exercises of a misled NGO battle against a commercial fishery. Sadly, the contributions to our legal fund from other commercial fishing groups were far lower than expected.

This board and I have your back in this now very complicated world of fish regulations, statutes, policies, treaties, plans, programs and lawsuits. Our goal is to keep us trolling, that is, maintain your way of life and livelihood for as long as possible. Our basic membership fee equates to less than a dollar a day for ATA support! Every troller should join so sign up or renew now, if you haven't. ATA is here for you. Thank you. - **Amy Daugherty**

Problems with the WFC, their Fish Traps and their Lawsuit

By Matt Donohoe, ATA President

On Fish traps

The Wild Fish Conservancy (WFC) says it exists in order to protect wild fish. WFC lobbies to eliminate hatcheries while at the same time the WFC promotes in-river fish traps that depend on hatchery produced salmon and also impact wild salmon. WFC claims that their fish traps aid wild Chinook in successful spawning, but they overlook the fact that handling and sorting both impact the wild fish while they select out the hatchery fish.

Most Chinook passing through the fish trap are successful spawners. These fish have survived the ocean gauntlet for 3 to 6 years and should be left alone. What is the spawning success of wild fish that have passed through these in-river fish traps? Have any studies been done on this? How many hatchery fish avoid the WFC's in-river fish trap? Escaped hatchery fish interbreed with the wild fish which return at the same time. Unlike Washington, Oregon and Idaho, Alaska does not permit hatcheries in front of or in rivers.

Old time Alaskans will tell you that much of the reasoning that prompted Alaska to become a state was because commercial fishermen wanted to ban fish traps. This led to the inclusion of the Natural Resources Article (Article VIII) in Alaska's State Constitution. Before statehood, fish traps were decimating Alaska's wild salmon stocks. After fish traps ended, wild stocks in Alaska rebounded.

Quality

Because spawning Pacific Salmon stop feeding and consume their own mass as they approach their spawning grounds, fish caught in rivers are inferior in food quality to ocean caught salmon. Ocean caught Troll salmon are world renowned as the highest quality salmon. The ocean troll fishery could not have survived for over 100 years if it were not sustainable. In those 100 plus years, the fishing technique of trolling has not changed and trollers pride themselves as being the cleanest commercial fishery known to man.

An environmentally camouflaged sport gear group and their sleight-of-hand

If WFC wants Puget Sound salmon and killer whales to survive, it should focus on their local problems: pollution, habitat loss, noise, and vessel congestion. Instead WFC blames a 100 plus year old, resident small boat artisan fishery located thousands of miles away. WFC blames a fishery in a place where Puget Sound Chinook or Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW) don't go. In so doing they are blaming folks that have fought pollution and habitat destruction for decades. It is because commercial salmon fishermen fought to protect wild fish that the State of Alaska, unlike Washington, banned fish farms and in-river hatcheries.

WFC Law Suit

In spite of record Columbia River Chinook returns, Orcas in Puget Sound remain endangered . . The WFC claims that this is because SEAK trollers catch Columbia River Chinook and therefore there's not enough for killer whales. Orcas outside of the Salish Sea are thriving. Fish habitat in the fastest growing metropolitan area in North America (Seattle & Vancouver) is being decimated at record rates.

WFC is supported in large part by the save the Southern Resident Killer Whales movement, whale watching folks, large industry, and in river fly fishermen. Ironically, some of WFC's board consists of representatives of (or retired from) polluting industries that profited from habitat destruction.

Are these whales sick and struggling to breed because of PCB poisoning? In their lawsuit or on their web site WFC does not mention poisoning by POPs (Persistent Organic Pollutants) particularly PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls). SRKW are the most PCB polluted mammals in the world. The Salish Sea (which includes Puget Sound) is a known as

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THANKS TO PLATINUM PROCESSOR MEMBER SITKA SOUND SEAFOODS WHO ANNUALLY CONTRIBUTES A PERCENTAGE OF THEIR TROLL PURCHASES

one of the worse areas in the U.S. for concentrations of PCB pollutants. Although manufacturing of PCB is banned in the US, it is still heavily used in industry, particularly in electronics. PCBs are found in thermal and electrical insulation, flame retardants, glues, laminates, and industrial lubricants etc. PCBs aren't used much anymore but if they are not dredged from marine sediments they will persist in the environment for decades.

Washington's Department of Health recommended that human consumption of Puget Sound Chinook be limited to no more than one pound per month. Top predators such as SRKW accumulate PCBs in their body fat. They can eat up to 300lbs of PCB polluted salmon a day. Exposure to POPs is mainly through contaminated food or transmitted to future generations through the placenta or mother's milk. Orca milk is 80% fat. Lactating Orca mothers are literally poisoning their nursing babies. WFC's suit ignores this. Are Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW) losing weight because they are sick or because there's not enough prey due to SE Alaska trollers?

WFC does not mention harassment of SRKW. Washington State's commission on SRKW recommended a 3 to 5 year moratorium on commercial whale watching. In the face of lobbying by the area's tourist industry (41.9 visitors spent \$8.1 billion in Seattle and King County in 2019). It's not surprising that the State ignored this recommendation from the Governor's Task Force.

Seattle and Vancouver, both with growing heavy industries, are also a tourist destination and popular departure ports for the cruise industry. This results in lots of tourist dollars of which a large amount goes to Orca viewing. Noise and harassment from Navy training exercises, tourism, marine transportation, and recreational boats harass SRKW wherever they go. Organized consortiums of whale watching boats chasing every whale pod, spooks prey and confuses the whales. The whales use echo location to find prey and need a peaceful ocean to hunt, live and survive.

The WFC does not mention the genetic pool of SRKW

In the 70s and 80s SeaWorld paid WA to take hundreds of Orcas out of the Southern Resident threatened population. Most of these were young females. Orcas were killed in the process. Taking future breeding females out of the gene pool is bad husbandry and the population has still not recovered.

The WFC insists that SRKW only eat large wild King Salmon (not hatchery fish)

Hordes of sport fishermen high grade Chinook in Puget Sound. Except during Blackmouth season, when the sport fishery targets immature king salmon: they keep the big fish and release smaller fish. SEAK commercial trollers, on the other hand, keep all legal Chinook, big and small, until their short season closes. Contrary to WFC claims, for a few months every year in the fall "resident" Orcas come into Puget Sound and feast on chum salmon. WFC's touted studies were flawed as they were only carried out when the Chinook were returning when it's not possible to tell whether the fish are wild or hatchery by their poop, which the study was based on.

Hope for the future.

In recent years the whales have spent less time in the Salish Sea - A problem for the whale watching industry but a successful move for the whales as Orcas have recently gained weight. In 2020 two cows gave birth to two calves. The now-world-famous Tahlequah (J35) is the female carried her dead calf for 17 days in 2018. WFC was quick to blame the death of this calf on starvation and not the actual probable cause of PCB pollution. They claimed that it was the fault of SEAK trollers by catching mostly Columbia River Chinook and almost no Puget Sound stocks that starved J35's calf.

In 2020 the artisan SEAK trollers once again fished their tiny treaty allocation on a noticeably quieter and healthy ocean. As in 2019 there were lots of Chinook in the North Pacific and a much better than predicted return to the Columbia River, a historic major source of SEAK's Chinook harvest.



Report from the PSC Northern Panel

By Deborah Lyons

The Alaska and SUS meetings of the Pacific Salmon Commission have been underway via ZOOM. At the Panel and Commissioner level the focus is on reporting on the past season, preparing for discussion with our Canadian counterparts and report updates on progress completing the tasks that the State agreed to as part of the 2019 Agreement.

Each meeting opens with a summary from Commissioner Vincent-Lang. The Commissioner supported the 2019-2020 Alaska fisheries harvest of all Chinook allocated under the Treaty. The COVID impacts to tourism and conservation restrictions to the Nets and Recreational fisheries resulted in an additional Troll harvest of approximately 13,000 additional Chinook in the summer fishery, by default.

The Alaska Treaty Chinook allocation was managed to within 500 Chinook of the 2020 Chinook catch limit, thanks to close cooperation between Trollers and the Troll Fisheries Manager Grant Hagerman. Thanks to all trollers that have been calling in with information for Grant. The Commissioner asked fishermen to remember to thank ADFG staff for their efforts to implement an as-normal-as-possible fishing season under stressful conditions.

The Chinook Technical Committee are working on reviewing rates for incidental mortalities per the new Treaty agreement. They are also working on implementing Calendar Year Exploitation Rates as the new metric to evaluate ISBM fisheries performance; ISBM fisheries currently account for 2/3 of the catch in the Treaty area. Alaska is managed as an AABM fishery and is not directly affected by the ISBM provisions; however, AK wants to see the tighter requirements that the CYERs would provide. Chinook mortality is of concern to Trollers and the new Treaty Agreement calls for a total mortality cap for AABM fisheries. Total mortality is not in the picture to affect our Troll fisheries in the near future.

Reports were given on the past fishing season. In short it was a terrible year with poor returns of all stocks overall and limited fishing for the net groups. The Transboundary Gillnet catches were extremely poor. On the Northern Boundary (of Canada) poor pink returns combined with a very compressed sockeye return negatively affecting both The Noyes Island Seine and Tree Point Gillnet fisheries. The Northern Boundary area was closed to Trollers for a portion of the Coho season due to poor returns. Troll effort in this area is so much lower than in the past that the Alaskan and Canadian managers have been discussing and utilizing other fishery indicators of abundance. There is a general awareness that some new, mutually agreed-upon methods be developed to implement Coho conservation.

The continued mixed performance of Chinook escapement is of concern to Trollers. The Treaty Chapter 3 Chinook model incorporates Alaska Chinook escapement data from the Situk, Chilkat, Unuk and Chickamin Rivers, and Alaska has a treaty obligation to manage for escapement goals for 3 of these stocks and the 3 transboundary river stocks. The Alsek, Taku, and Stikine are classified as Transboundary Rivers and the Chinook, Sockeye and Coho wild and enhanced returns are managed in coordination with the Canadian fisheries under Chapter 1 of the Treaty. The Transboundary Chinook returns are also incorporated into the Chinook model as indicator stocks.

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Funding through Commerce to support the 2019 Treaty Agreement will continue to support habitat and enhancement efforts in Puget Sound for the next 2 years and to increase prey species for Southern Resident Killer Whales through the remainder of the Agreement as required by the mitigation action in the SEAK Biological Opinion (BiOp).

The ADFG Commissioner acknowledged that hatchery stocking will be impacted in outgoing years due to a loss of hatchery surcharge revenues and by damage caused by recent flooding as well as aging infrastructure. He is hoping to mitigate this by replacing the lost surcharge revenue with a new surcharge. The Governor is submitting a new proposal for surcharge.

The up-coming Board of Fisheries will take up issues touched upon at our Treaty meetings, and we will work to help inform the ATA Board and members of ATA whenever possible.

2020 ATA Raffle Winners

Donor	Prize	Winner
Alaska Trollers Association	\$2,500 Cash Grand Prize	Glen Fredrichs
Alaska Trollers Association	\$1,000 Cash 2nd Prize	Darrell Stuart
Alaska Trollers Association	\$500 Cash 3rd Prize	Chip Porter
Hammer & Wikan, Petersburg	\$100 Cash	Melissa Landis
Seafood Producers Cooperative	Fish (\$500 value)	Wendi Stickwan
Delta Western	Diesel (\$300 value)	Tracy Goldsmith
Delta Western	Oil & Fuel Filters (\$140 value)	Jeff Farvour
LFS Inc., Sitka	\$250 Gift Card	Gary Mulligan
Landing Hotel, Ketchikan	Executive Suite One Night	Brett Stillwaug
Precision Boatworks	2 Hours Labor	Jim Moore
Tatsuda's, Ketchikan	\$100 Gift Certificate	Shellee Atwood
City of Craig	1 Ton of Ice	Kit Kraft
Lisianski Inlet Café, Pelican	Hoodie & Mugs	Mike Breckon
EC Phillips, Ketchikan	Half Case of Fish (\$200 value)	Logan Atwood
EC Phillips, Ketchikan	Half Case of Fish (\$200 value)	Joe Emerson
Silver Horde	Spoons & ASMI Swag	Mary Davis
Silver Horde	Spoons & ASMI Swag	Mary Jean Brady
Silver Horde	Spoons & ASMI Swag	Brad Saalsaa
Sitka Sound Seafoods	Hat & Hoodie	Mike Sofoulis
Sitka Sound Seafoods	Hat & Hoodie	Joel Kawahara
Alaska Glacier Seafoods	Hat & Hoodie	Fran Fox
Alaska Glacier Seafoods	Hat & Hoodie	Charles Hawks III

PST Mitigation-A brief update

By Jim Moore, ATA Board Member & Past President

It's hard to talk about Pacific Salmon Treaty mitigation without a word or two about the Treaty itself. This is not the place for a complete history, of course, but here are a few lines about the aftermath of the last agreement.

I haven't met a troller who is particularly happy with the results of the 2019 revision of the PST. How could we be? "It could have been worse", is about as good as it gets. It may be some consolation that the State having agreed to another reduction of our harvest share under the renegotiated treaty provides us a better standing in the WFC lawsuit. Since our fishery is conservatively managed under an international Treaty agreement supported by scores of biologists and technical people, we have pretty good cover against WFC and its "pocket science", no matter how well funded they are.

But this Treaty agreement also brought Alaska's newly-adapted CPUE method of determining Chinook abundance without a mechanism for in-season adjustment. For the past couple years it has allowed us more Chinook harvest than the old treaty model would have, thanks to ADFG's spot on management to the numbers. Management using a predetermined quota or harvest share robs us of the opportunity to have a really exceptional season when the right conditions occur. The models cannot reliably predict these occurrences. The phenomenally high encounter rate our fleet saw two years ago was unforeseen by both models. How the CPUE method performs this coming season and in the future remains to be seen.

What is most distressing about Pacific Salmon Treaty is our industry's loss of access to our primary product- Wild Chinook - relative to their overall abundance over the past thirty years. It is one thing to "give it up" for conservation, but something else to "give it up" for somebody else. And no amount of mitigation is acceptable for the loss of our ability to be productive in our work. Overall abundance of king salmon has remained relatively constant for many decades, cycling up and down, as our harvest share through PST has been incrementally reduced.

Our State's willingness to accept another significant loss to Chinook fisheries was predicated, in part, on a mitigation package designed to offset the economic consequences of another harvest reduction. With the signing of the 2019 revision of the Treaty, there were agreements amongst the parties in the US section concerning funding for important US interests. This included \$22.4 million for Southeast Alaska "to help mitigate the substantial reduction in Alaska's Chinook harvest that was negotiated in order to facilitate the reductions in Canadian harvest required to address issues with Chinook populations in the Pacific Northwest listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)." (CSMI Terms of reference, 5 November 2020)

The mitigation program as it now stands includes the following 3 components:

- 1) Hatchery fish marking, tagging and evaluation- \$4.7 million
- 2) Hatchery enhancement projects- \$17.7 million
- 3) Hatchery Research- Treaty funds that may be used for brood stock development, ocean survival studies, migration studies, etc.

As federal mitigation money is appropriated through NMFS each year it becomes available to our state for projects recommended by a 10 member stakeholder mitigation panel. The panel is appointed by the Treaty Commissioner and encompasses a range of stakeholder interests. The numbers of members representing various interests are as follows: sport (2), troll (3), gillnet (1), seine (1), hatchery operators (3). The panel recommends projects to be funded from proposals submitted each year according to specific criteria which are then approved by the Commissioner.

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Projects recommended and approved for FY20 NOAA mitigation grant funding were as follows:

AKI	Port Armstrong Hatchery Coho Production- Net Pen Purchase	\$226,623
NSRAA	Sawmill Creek Hatchery Expansion- Phase 1 intake and distribution	\$451,600
NSRAA	Sawmill Creek Hatchery Expansion- Phase 2 new water supply line	\$204,240
SSRAA	Neets Bay Hatchery- net pens for early entry salt water coho	\$340,000
SSRAA	Whitman Lake Hatchery- spring rearing net pens	\$175,000
subtotal:		\$1,397,463

FY20 Funding through Dept. of the Interior-

2 automated marking trailers and tagging supplies

(trailers purchased by State and delivered to SSRAA and DIPAC)

\$4,700,000

It was the intention of those treaty reps who negotiated the mitigation package that the mitigation grant money be directed toward projects which could produce benefits to the fleets year after year, thus their focus on aquaculture. The original package designated nearly \$7 million for marking, tagging and evaluation despite grave misgivings amongst the troll fleet and fish culture experts. The benefits to the sports fleet of marking 100% of Chinook are apparent. Similar programs in the lower 48 justify sports fleet management regimes. To date there have been no cases where mass marking has benefitted a mixed stock ocean fishery such as ours. Nor, to our knowledge, has it led to the recovery of threatened or endangered runs.

ATA agreed to the marking and tagging component at a reduced level (2 trailers) contingent on a 3rd party independent study proving the benefits of such, and a science based discussion between the State and industry (fishing and aquaculture). And, NSRAA, at our request, funded the independent study by Mac Dowell Group and respected fisheries scientists, Dave Gaudet and Alex Wortheimer. ADFG produced a “white paper” explaining their view of the benefits of mass marking (MM). A meeting was held via Zoom last spring where the department presented its view endorsing MM and NSRAA presented their different perspective on MM. Representatives from SSRAA and DIPAC were also present. Questions were raised but there was little back and forth discussion and no consensus reached. (At the meeting it was announced that the State had already ordered the two marking trailers!)

The matter is far from resolved. There is much to be worked out yet between the fisherman directed aquaculture boards, and current ADFG management policy makers, and you! I think it’s unlikely that the trailers will be put into operation this year and any possibility of a limited MSF for trollers or benefits from MM are a minimum of 6 years away. In the meantime, do your own research. Read the available studies (links on the ATA website) and please study and let ATA know your views. Contact your troll representatives at NSRAA, DIPAC, SSRAA, and AKI.

There are many good biologists at ADFG that think MM will ensure that we have future Chinook opportunity as we face escalating ESA demands coupled with collapsing salmon runs. We appreciate their sentiment, but their livelihoods are not at risk. The studies show there is a price to pay which includes increased incidental mortality of wild fish and shifting demand effort away from wild towards hatchery fish. The premise of MSF is that hatchery fish are retained and wild salmon are released. We need a very careful evaluation, far more careful than we have seen so far, before initiating such a radical management policy shift. We have a future but we must fight for it. We can no longer judge our state’s performance at Treaty based on good intentions or effort, but on results. It’s our livelihoods at stake.

Go to www.aktrollers.org to find more information on Mark Select Fisheries (MSF)

Where we are: the Wild Fish Conservancy Lawsuit Explained

By Thane Tienon, ATA atty.

The Magistrate Judge, Michelle Peterson, ultimately found in mid-June, 2020, that the lawsuit filed by the Wild Fish Conservancy (WFC) was not filed in a timely manner so the court lacked jurisdiction –legal authority –to do what the plaintiff wanted it to do, which is to stop the SE Alaska troll fishery outside of state waters. The judge said that the lawsuit should be viewed in the context of the relief it asked the court to issue. That relief was the issuance of a preliminary injunction to order a halt to the 2020 summer’s salmon troll fishery in the EEZ. Because of that fact, the judge found the lawsuit was nothing more than a disguised attack on the Magnuson-Stevens Act which authorized the fishery and that meant the lawsuit, in order to be valid, had to comply with the Magnuson-Stevens Act’s 30 day timeline for filing. The 30 day period either began back in 2012 when the State of Alaska received its most recent authority to manage the troll fishery or in 2019 when the most recent Biological Opinion regarding the Southern Orca pod was issued. Either way, the WFC acted too late so she recommended that its lawsuit be dismissed. She also noted that the WFC could have and still can ask for a consistency review under Alaska state law to challenge the troll fishery and they did not do so. Apparently, the WFC chose not to because they knew they would likely lose and didn’t want to be in court in Alaska either. The WFC chose the court in Seattle where there is a lot of public support for helping the Orcas.

The Wild Fish Conservancy then filed formal objections to the Magistrate Judge’s Findings and Recommendations – effectively an appeal to the presidentially-appointed and Senate-approved judge (Judges are appointed under Article III of the US Constitution) in hopes of getting an injunction by mid-July –still not in time to prevent our opening on July 1 though. The Article III judge is Richard Jones in Seattle’s federal court. He has a very heavy case load and is backlogged so we do not know when he will actually get around to officially deciding whether or not to adopt Judge Peterson’s Report and Recommendations. While I think he will, it is not completely free of doubt.

There is no clear precedent for this case because Alaska fisheries are managed by the State under the 2012 FMP Regulations and not by NMFS under annually adopted regulations as they are in the lower 48 for the coastal troll salmon fishery. Despite the differences in the Turtle Island decision issued by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals several years ago which dealt with an attempt to stop the swordfish longline fishery, Judge Peterson and we relied upon this case for our successful arguments that the court has no jurisdiction/legal authority to decide because of the timeframe of the plaintiff’s filing. The plaintiff argues that the judge who wrote the Turtle Island decision said that legal challenges based upon other Federal environmental laws such as the Endangered Species Act were not subject to the 30 day deadline and that, unlike the swordfish fishery, there is no annual regulation by NMFS for the SE troll fishery and consequently, no public notice in the Federal Register to comment to.

Bottom line –our situation is somewhat different from all other prior reported decisions and could result in Judge Jones deciding to side with the Plaintiff. I’m still optimistic he won’t do that and will keep you posted on any developments.

Do we have your current email?

ATA members, if you haven’t received our ATA email newsletters, we don’t have your email on file.

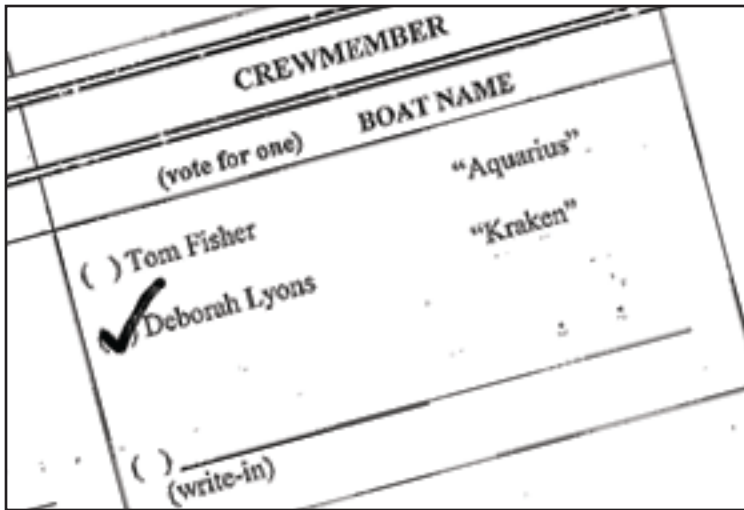


Please contact us at alaskatrollers@gmail.com or ata@gci.net with your current email.

Some Issues on ATAs Radar

By Matt Donohoe, ATA President

NSRAA BALLOT



ATA took a new direction with the hiring of Amy Daugherty in 2018 and is aggressively fighting for fish and the future of trolling in Southeast.

Communication with other Fishery Boards has increased. ATA has board members on NSRAA, DIPAC, SSRAA and Armstrong KETA hatcheries as well as on SPC. We have a good working relationship with ALFA and regional ADF&G Advisory Boards.

Our new Northern Panel Treaty (dream) Team includes ATA members Deborah Lyons and Dennis Watson. ATA member Jacob Miller is on the Transboundary River Panel. Jacob is from Juneau and has generations of experience on the Taku. He is doing great.

Sadly, the only Treaty mitigation Alaska received for the give-away of 12.3% of our remaining historic king catch 3 years ago was 2 tagging trailers as suggested by the former administration. (See the McDowell study that contradicts the 7.5% loss claimed by the state on our website.)

It is unclear how trollers will benefit from these trailers as their purpose is to remove our ocean grounds from our fishery and turn trolling into a terminal Marked Select Fishery, which ATA never supported. NSRAA is the only hatchery that has not accepted marking trailers. You can help: **Vote to keep Deborah Lyons on the NSRAA Board!** There is no one more dedicated to our fishery.

Due to Covid, the SE BOF meeting has been postponed until the second half of April for now. Ideally this meeting will be postponed further until January 2022 when more of our fleet can be available to testify. Write to Glenn Haight, Executive Director, Alaska Board of Fisheries: glenn.haight@alaska.gov to explain why this April is not acceptable and why a virtual BOF will not work. ATA has written but we need our members to weigh in also.

There are problematic proposals on the BoF table coming up. Please plan on attending the upcoming BOF Meeting in April or? or January. Keep up with any date changes via ADFG or the ATA website. www.aktrollers.org SEAGO's President (Sitka lodge owner Tom Ohaus) and Vice President (Ketchikan lodge owner Russell Thomas) have brought forth Proposal 83. While serving in the last Treaty Team, they agreed to a major cuts in State's treaty king harvest, pay-backs, and gave away (for no compensation) Alaska's favorable historic Incidental Mortality (IM) Baseline. Now they are requesting adoption of Proposal 83!

More rivers will likely be added (Stikine, Taku) to the king SOC list at this upcoming BoF meeting. Some Pink and Sockeye runs will be added. The good news is that the Situk, Chikamin, Blossom, KETA and Alsek all made escapement this year.

ATA had pre-covid success working with ADFG, BOF and NSRAA at BoF increasing the king closure Crawfish troll area. So far the lawsuit looks cautiously good. In spite of WFC's appeal, we fished a complete season, although the judge has still not ruled on the appeal. This is ongoing and ATA continues to look for the State to legally enjoin. WFC posted on their private webpage that SE troll caught chinook is not a sustainable fishery. If you can, contact

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Patagonia and Anthony’s, two WFC supporting business, and explain about low impact SE trolling and how WFC is misleading them.

Several marine mammals are an ongoing concern. Critical Habitat (CH) details will be official sometime soon for Mexican Humpbacks. These are rarely seen in Alaskan waters but CH designations are coming due to NMFS getting sued for not following its regulations. ATA commented on CH as well as a proposed rule regarding SSL and seal bombs.

Because ATA has a membership made up of fishermen from the entire political spectrum ATA’s historic political endorsement policy is neutral on political candidates. Therefore, as a UFA Board Member, ATA voted to not endorse the incumbent US senator. Neither did we endorse his opponent.

ATA initiated the UFA efforts that questioned reallocation of Cares Act money to charter interests, many of whom are not Alaska residents. ADF&G had increased the Guided Sport share of Alaska’s \$50 million CARES Act funding for fisheries from what NOAA had proposed which was only a 5.5% allocation for sports. ADF&G increased that to 33% before they reduced that to 27%. This reduction will be felt by processors who had incurred significant Covid operating costs. The ADF&G’s funding formula considers freezer boats processors so this squeezes the processor allocation further.

Channel 16 where are you? ATA has learned from our Congressional delegation that the repair to our remote infrastructure needed to restore our emergency ocean communications and weather reporting is a minimum of 2 years out, but possibly as long as four years. The timeline will be shorter if they obtain additional funding sooner.

WE LOVE OUR BUSINESS SUPPORTERS!

Processor Members

Seafood Producers Coop	Platinum Processor
Sitka Sound Seafoods	Platinum Processor
Triad Fisheries	Gold Processor
Sitka Salmon Shares	Silver Processor
Yakutat Seafoods	Silver Processor
Hoonah Cold Storage	
Yakobi Fisheries	
E.C. Phillips & Son	
Icicle Seafoods	
Tonka Seafoods	
Alaska Glacier Seafoods	

Business Members

Petro Marine Alaska	Platinum Business
Pacific Pride Alaska	Gold Business
Lfs, Murray Pacific	Gold Business
City Of Pelican	Gold Business
Nerka Sea Frozen Salmon	Silver Business
Qi Hooks	Silver Business

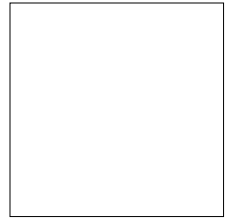
Seattle Marine	Silver Business
Delta Western	Silver Business
Service Auto Parts	
Sitka Boatwatch	
Precision Boatworks	
City Of Craig	
Madison Lumber	
Union Machine Shop	
Pelican Marine Supply	
Sea Mart	
City Of Pt Alexander	
Savage, Inc	
Pt Townsend Shipwrights	
Southeast Pilots	
Timber & Marine Supply	
Grizzly Tackle	
Tongass Trading	
Jinkai Us Seven Oceans	
Hammer & Wikan	
The Boat Company	





Alaska Trollers Association

130 Seward Street #205
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 586-9400
alaskatrollers@gmail.com



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

JOIN TODAY!

_____ Renewal _____ New Member _____ Legal Fund

Category	Power	Hand	Crew	Processor	Other Business
Basic	350	225	75	500	250
Silver	400	275	110	1000	500
Gold	450	325	160	2500	1000
Platinum	550	475	300	5000	2500
LIFE	5000	2000	750		
Special 1 st Year Rate	175	115			
Retired Troller	50	50	50		

Consider adding a legal contribution for our defense against WFC

Name: _____ F/V: _____

Address: _____

City / Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Email: _____

Ice Boat _____ Freezer Boat _____ Direct Seafood Marketer _____

ATA T-SHIRTS: Men's Large Only – Charcoal or Brown or Forest, \$25 each _____

ATA Hats: \$25 _____ ATA Raffle Tickets _____ \$20 each

3 WAYS TO PAY

1. Send checks to 130 Seward Street #205 – Juneau, AK 99801
2. MasterCard _____ Visa _____ Signature: _____
Credit Card Account #: _____
Print Name on Card: _____
3. Paypal address: alaskatrollers@gmail.com or via our website www.aktrollers.org

Your membership is 98% tax deductible. Legal donations are 100% deductible. Let us know if you need an additional receipt.