

Happy 2022 Holiday  
Season From ATA

# ALASKA TROLLER

Newsletter of the Alaska Trollers Association

October 2022

## 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

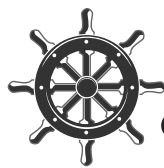
Mitigation Funding  
Possibilities

State Legislation

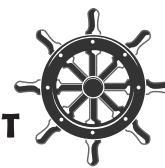
High Seas Driftnets

Data Preparation for  
effectiveness in all venues

Raffle and fundraising



## FROM THE WHEELHOUSE ON THE WILD FISH CONSERVANCY LAWSUIT



On August 8, 2022 a federal district court in Seattle ruled in favor of the Wild Fish Conservancy (WFC) in finding that the approval of the SE Alaska troll fishery was not done consistent with federal environmental laws and that the approvals could cause harm to Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW). ATA intervened in this case in 2020 and has been working diligently to protect the troll fishery in Southeast Alaska. The Court asked the parties for briefing on what would be an appropriate remedy for the violations by the Federal agencies. The WFC filed a motion with the Court in response seeking to shut down the troll fishery during the winter and summer seasons immediately—which would effectively close the entire troll fishery.

ATA members and lawyers have responded to the WFC's request by arguing that there will be no benefit to SRKWs from shutting down the SE Alaska troll fishery. ATA also presented compelling evidence regarding the devastation that shutdown would have on its members and the coastal communities in SE Alaska. There is more to be done. The Court will be hearing oral argument on WFC's requested remedy soon. And ATA will need to file more briefings with the Court as it works to preserve its members' way of life.

The WFC is well-funded by Seattle-based corporate and private interests. That organization raises hundreds of thousands of dollars a year to pursue its goal of no hatcheries and shutting down fisheries like our troll fishery. This is—literally—a David versus Goliath fight: a well-funded Seattle environmental organization versus the small boat fishers of rural SE Alaska! ATA's lawyers are (fortunately) working at reduced rates but we need donations to continue this fight. Our goal is to raise \$45,000 to see us through this. Please donate to our legal defense fund today and support ATA's efforts to protect your fishery. There is a PayPal button on our website [www.aktrollers.org](http://www.aktrollers.org) or please send a check. Thank you.

# Board of Directors

Matt Donohoe, President  
F/V Helen A, At Large

Tim O'Connor, Vice President  
F/V Zephyr, Southern Rural

Thatcher Brouwer, Secretary  
F/V Deep Sea, At Large

Ken McGee, Treasurer  
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Jim Moore  
F/V Aljac, Northern Rural

Craig Ring  
F/V KMZ, Handtroll

Brett Stillwaugh  
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Jeff Farvour  
F/V Apollo

Joel Brady-Power  
F/V Nerka, Non-Southeast

Jacqueline Foss  
F/V Axel, Sitka

Paul Olsen  
F/V Pacific Flyer, WA

Ketchikan - vacant

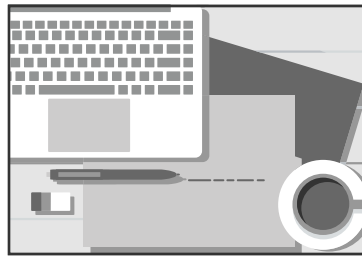
Petersburg - vacant

## Treaty Team

Deborah Lyons, F/V Kraken  
Dennis Watson, F/V Myra  
Transboundary Rivers Panel  
Jacob Miller, F/V Karrie Lee

## ATA Staff

Amy Daugherty,  
Executive Director  
alaskatrollers@gmail.com



## A Note from the ATA President, Matt Donohoe

Good Morning Trollers,

It's just past mid-October. Most trollers are recovering from what I hope was a lucrative summer season. ATA Board Members are preparing for a Juneau Board Meeting in early November. Other than March's successful Anchorage Board of Fish this will be our first face-to-face meeting since the advent of Covid in 2019. As a reminder, we held the status quo in the 80/20 split and were able to open up the latter part of the winter fishery.

There's a lot on our plate but the **two biggest issues** that have the potential to impact the continued existence of Trolling as a viable industry. The first is a lack of Trollers engaging in Alaska fish politics. Running for seats on ATA's Board is a good place to start. Your ATA Board is ageing. Many of our members are in their late 60s or older. More folks are needed to step up and protect this 100 plus year old commercial fishery. The French have a saying, "Those who don't do politics are done by politics". Without active participation ATA, indeed commercial Trolling, cannot survive.

The second existential issue is the Wild Fish Conservancy law suit. ATA recently paid a substantial legal bill and our funds are much reduced. Through bitter experience we've learned not to count on either the Federal or State Governments to protect our interests. ATA made the difficult decision to join the law suit because Trollers must have a seat at the table. Please join me in making another contribution to the legal fund.

Thank you for your continued support of our way of life in Alaska.

**Stay tuned to  
our website  
[www.aktrollers.org](http://www.aktrollers.org)  
for 2020 Disaster  
Fund application  
and distribution info.**

# Trollers begin collecting ocean data for science

From Jim Moore, past ATA president

ATA has contracted with UAF in a two-year research project led by Dr. Tyler Hennon (funded by Alaska Sea Grant and Alaska Ocean Observation System) aimed at establishing year-round ocean monitoring of temperature, salinity and florescence in the water column at various stations (6) around Southeast Alaska via Conductivity-Temperature-Depth (CTD) instruments. The first observations were collected by ATA trollers this August and are continuing on a quasi-monthly basis. The dataset collected by this program should be of great value, both for oceanographic purposes as well as quantifying the environmental parameters important for fisheries management. And speaking as one participant, the sampling opens another fascinating view into the dynamic world beneath the surface.

The program is still in its infancy, but the concept has proven viable. We were provided initially with three CTD instruments and programed iPads that log and graphically display the data. The datasets can then be emailed to Dr. Hennon when a server becomes available. (I have successfully used my cell phone as a wireless hotspot for this purpose). Two more instruments with tablets will be provided next year and trollers will take monthly samples from an additional 2 points. The University has also submitted a grant proposal to the PST Northern Fund requesting three additional units with the optional fluorometer which will provide data valuable to characterizing variability in the upper ocean chlorophyll concentration. In simple terms, chlorophyll is a proxy for the abundance of phytoplankton, the base of the marine food web. This dataset could provide valuable insight into reasons for recent poor Chinook returns.

The partnership between fishing industry and ocean science is a model that is attracting the attention of researchers all around the world. It overcomes one of the major hurdles of any oceanographic field program, namely affordable ship time. The \$50,000 ATA receives during this 2 year project would fall far short of covering the cost of chartering vessels for the sole purpose of collecting these scientific measurements. The fishermen who volunteer to do the sampling will receive fair compensation (to be determined at the next ATA board meeting). So, it's a win/win/win situation. We are expecting the project to continue after the initial 2 year run, and to expand. Interested in participating? Contact ATA.

I must conclude by putting in a word about our friends at Sea Grant. About three years ago, as I began to organize for an electronic version of the ATA logbook program (1976-1991), I was put in touch with Sunny Rice, the Sea Grant coordinator in Petersburg, and without her encouragement, organizational skills and just plain hard work, we might never have connected with Tyler or AOOS. Sunny helped me to organize a zoom conference of likely participants in an oversight, or steering committee for the logbook program. Represented were NMFS, ADFG, Sitka Sound Science Center, USGS, SeaGrant, UAF (nearly all those on that call have agreed to serve on the steering committee). As I was pitching the concept of our collaborative logbook, Dr. Hennon was considering partnering with us ATA folks who had such a commitment to science. His was the proposal that was first funded! Sunny and I are co-PIs with Tyler on the project! Sunny has helped me to put together three grant proposals for the e-logbook and we are hopeful that the third time... We should hear within the month whether ATA will have been awarded the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant to implement a 10 boat pilot project. (Fingers Crossed)

## It's Time to Join Us

ATA staff of one and board members work hard for you. And there is no shortage of issues requiring our attention involving the troll fishery. We urge your membership, your involvement and help with our legal fund. It's your future in the best fishery (still) around. And your membership is 99% a write off!

**Find our membership form on this newsletter  
or go to [www.aktrollers.org](http://www.aktrollers.org) and paypal.**



**MANY THANKS TO PLATINUM MEMBER SPC WHO ANNUALLY CONTRIBUTE  
A PERCENTAGE OF THEIR TROLL CATCH**

# We Are Not to Blame for the Decline in the Population of Southern Resident Killer Whales

From Thatcher Brouwer, ATA board member

The Wild Fish Conservancy is relentless in blaming the plight of the Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW) on Southeast trollers. While we as fishermen know this does not make sense, we need to educate our friends, family, and markets in the lower 48 on some of the reasons why the Chinook salmon we catch up here are not causing the population decline of SRKWs. Below are just a few of the facts from Tad Fujioka, former ATA Vice President:

- Less than 1% of the king salmon caught in SE Alaska are the Puget Sound fall Chinook<sup>1</sup> the fish suggested to be the highest priority food source for SRKWs.
- While the SRKW's have struggled, the Northern Resident Killer Whales of British Columbia, which share some of the SRKW's range, have been in<sup>1</sup>creasing by 2.9% per year and the Alaskan Resident orcas have been increasing by 3.5% per year. <sup>2</sup>
- The difference between Southern Resident Killer Whales and their Northern brethren is that the **SRKWs spend most of their time in the Salish Sea including Puget Sound.** This body of water is subject to heavy industrial and recreational boat traffic and receives the pollution produced by over 4 million people in the Greater Seattle area alone. This results in:
  - Toxic chemicals that bioaccumulate in apex predators like orca  
*"Individuals have been found to carry some of the highest PCB concentrations reported in animals, with levels in blubber exceeding those known to affect the health of other marine mammals."* <sup>3</sup>
  - Auditory and physical disturbances from vessels - *"Studies indicate that whales expend more energy and find less food when vessels are present than when they are not present"* <sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Appendix B1 of PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION JOINT CHINOOK TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT 2021 PSC Chinook Model Calibration TCCHINOOK (2022)-02 shows that from the 1985-2019, Northern Puget Sound fall stocks comprised only 0.17% of the Alaskan catch, and Southern Puget Sound fall stocks made up an additional 0.23%.of the Alaskan catch.

<sup>2</sup> Life history and population dynamics of southern Alaska resident killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) Craig O. Matkin etal; <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/mms.12049>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/salish-sea/southern-resident-killer-whales>

<sup>4</sup> ibid





# A MESSAGE FROM ATA BOARD MEMBER JACQUIE FOSS

Hello fellow trollers! I hope your season ended up in the black and you got a few days on the water that reminded you why you chose to fish for a living.

Many of you don't know me. My husband Zack and I own the F/V Axel out of Sitka. We are younger fishermen and we know how challenging it is to get into the industry. My goal on the ATA board is to maintain and increase opportunities for young trollers who carry boat loans, permit loans and small children.

I joined the board of ATA last year and jumped feet first into an extremely challenging Board of Fish (BoF) cycle. I am grateful for the experience and to every troller and ally who stood by us. The war to keep our access to King Salmon has many fronts. This last BoF meeting highlight was the fight to retain our traditional allocation of 80/20 split -commercial/sport - against a well-funded and politically supported lodge sector. We didn't win but we also didn't lose. Sometimes not losing is enough.

I stood in front of BoF with my grown kids, among trollers who have fished longer than I have been alive, and who remember the first Treaty cycle in the late 90's. They are now teachers and mentors but cannot carry on the heavy advocacy work that keeps all of us trolling. We need the next generation to step in and put in the work.

We need your involvement, young fishermen. Commercial fishermen in general, and trollers specifically, are pinched by misguided court decisions, a ravenous lodge sector, stagnant/declining fish prices, climate change, and the straight up massive expense of owning and running a small business that floats. ATA currently has board member openings in Petersburg and Ketchikan.

Commercial fishing is the backbone of rural SE Alaska. We all need to stand up and show how critical trolling is to our communities. ATA needs your participation so we keep our way of life. Feel free to reach out to me directly. I can best be reached via email at [foss.jacquie@gmail.com](mailto:foss.jacquie@gmail.com)

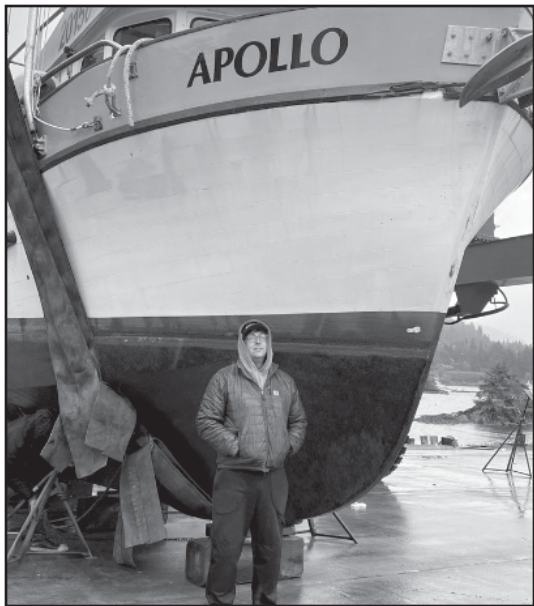


## Troll Hatchery Update

Trollers in Sitka Sound caught a record 829,651 chum worth \$7.4m this year. NSRAA says the 829,651 chum weighed 618,377 lbs, and pretty much all buyers were paid \$1.20/lb the entire season. During the peak week of Aug 7- 13 th, 219 trollers caught an average of over 1,400 chum. SSRAA's good news is their Klawock hatchery program contributed over 109,000 coho to the troll catch. More than 1 out of every 8 troll coho this summer came from Klawock.



*We now have a limited amount of fishing gear to sell trollers,  
courtesy of John Santi of Polaris.*



## New ATA Board Member Intro

Just a quick note to introduce myself for those that don't already know me. I'm Jeff Favour. I have the F/V Apollo and while I've been a commercial fisherman for about 34 years, I've only been trolling with my own boat for the last 12 years. However, trolling is my main source of income and my only regret is that I didn't start trolling earlier in my fishing career. I'm privileged to fill out Matt Lawrie's term and thank him very much for the time he put in on the ATA board.

My background also includes 8 years on the NPFMC's Advisory Panel as a small boat representative of SEAK. I also served 3 years on the Sitka AC before that, put in a few rounds on the IPHC CB and have been on the ALFA board for about 10 years.

While I'm passionate about safeguarding our troll fishery and very much look forward to work with all of you and our wonderful ED Amy, none of this is possible without the support of the fisherman, their families and their communities. It truly takes a strong unwavering dedicated team to do the kind of work that's necessary to protect our fisheries and way of life which I'm fortunate to be part of.

## New MSC Scrutiny as Fallout from the WFC lawsuit

The Southeast Chinook troll fishery is being subject to new scrutiny by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) based on the unjustified accusations leveled by the Wild Fish Conservancy in their lawsuit. MSC's concerns are incomprehensible to us when we know that our low-impact hook and line fishery harvests less than 40% of our historical allocation of Chinook. Retaining the MSC certification is important to our buyers and therefore important to ATA. ATA is working on this as well, in bringing forth our data and real information. Ah, when it rains, it pours!

*Many Thanks to...*  
**Seafood Producers Cooperative**  
**&**  
**Sitka Sound Seafoods**  
*Your exceptional support*  
*helps ATA stay afloat.*



## Tom Pope SA Marine Surveyor

*Serving the Fishing  
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**360-808-1042**

**popesurvey@aol.com**

*Society of Accredited Marine Surveyors*

## 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](mailto:alaskatrollers@gmail.com) or [ata@gci.net](mailto:ata@gci.net) with your current email.*



## Welcome New Members

Richard Adams of Craig - Jaysen Andersen of Sitka - Patricia Atkinson of Sitka - John Bailey of Tennessee - Ryland Bell of Elfin Cove - Rory BiFoss of Port Angeles - Andy Callistini of Sitka - Matt Cole of Douglas - Cody Dahlstrom of Petersburg - Joe Donohue of Longview - Tyson Fick of Juneau - Alan Fisher of Juneau - Tyler Green of Sitka - Chris Guggenbickler of Wrangell - Mark Hawney of Port Angeles - Jim Lane of Anchorage - Lonnie Mikkelsen of Hood River - Dave Turcott of Sitka - Ryan Vanderpoppen of Sitka - Joe Wabey of Seattle

## WE LOVE OUR BUSINESS SUPPORTERS!

### Processor Members

Seafood Producers Coop  
Sitka Sound Seafoods  
Triad Fisheries  
Yakutat Seafoods  
Alaska Glacier Seafoods  
E.C. Phillips & Son  
Hoonah Cold Storage  
Sitka Salmon Shares  
Yakobi Fisheries

Platinum Processor  
Platinum Processor  
Gold Processor  
Silver Processor

### Business Members

Pacific Pride Alaska  
Lfs, Murray Pacific  
City Of Pelican  
Delta Western  
Nerka Sea Frozen Salmon  
Petro Marine Alaska  
Qi Hooks  
Seattle Marine

Gold Business  
Gold Business  
Gold Business  
Silver Business  
Silver Business  
Silver Business  
Silver Business  
Silver Business

City Of Craig  
City Of Pt Alexander  
Hammer & Wikan  
Jinkai Us Seven Oceans  
Madison Lumber  
Norm Pillen  
NW Resource Law  
Pelican Marine Supply  
Polaris  
Precision Boatworks  
Pt Townsend Shipwrights  
Savage, Inc  
Sea Mart  
Service Auto Parts  
Silver Horde  
Sitka Boatwatch  
Southeast Pilots  
The Boat Company  
Tongass Trading  
Union Machine Shop

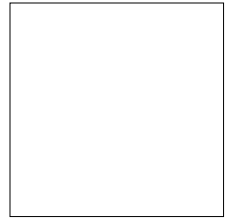


*We now have Paypal - go to our website [www.aktrollers.org](http://www.aktrollers.org)*



## 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 <sup>st</sup> 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

### 2 WAYS TO PAY

1. Send checks to 130 Seward Street #205 – Juneau, AK 99801
2. Paypal address: [alaskatrollers@gmail.com](mailto:alaskatrollers@gmail.com) or via our website [www.aktrollers.org](http://www.aktrollers.org)

Your membership is  
99% tax  
deductible. Legal  
donations are 100%  
deductible. Let us  
know if you need an  
additional receipt.