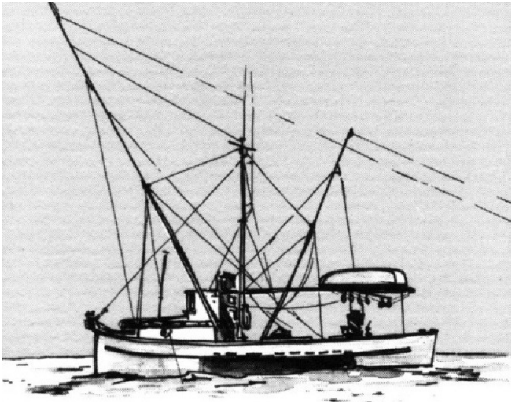




ALASKA TROLLER

Newsletter of the Alaska Trollers Association

Spring 2026

One Hundred Years of ATA



This spring marks more than the start of another season. It marks 100-plus years of the Alaska Trollers Association.

For a century, ATA has represented Alaska's salmon trollers, the families who make this fishery possible, and the communities that depend on it. Through changing times and changing challenges, ATA has remained rooted in the same enduring values: stewardship, hard work, independence, and a deep connection to Alaska's salmon and communities.

ATA has been representing Alaska's trollers since 1925, and that kind of longevity does not happen on its own. It is the product of many people over many years who gave their time, energy, and financial support to keep this organization working on behalf of the fleet and the communities connected to it.

To those who served on the board, thank you for stepping up when the work needed to be done. Your work matters, and ATA would not be here without it.

To the executive directors and staff who helped carry the organization forward, thank you for your leadership, persistence, and commitment.

To the many financial sponsors and contributors who helped sustain this organization, thank you for believing in the value of a strong ATA.

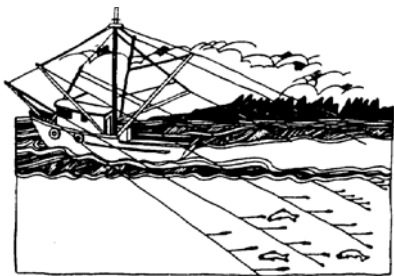
Looking ahead, it is important to recognize that ATA's strength today is built on the work and support of those who came before us. We are grateful for that foundation, and we intend to carry it forward with the same sense of responsibility.

Want to Help Set the Course for the Next 100 Years?

The nomination process for the ATA Board is about to begin and there are a number of seats available. ATA Board terms are three years and the board meets at least twice a year, from mid-fall to early spring. ATA meets in person, online, and telephonically as necessary, to conduct the business of the organization. Seats currently vacant: Sitka (2 seats), Ketchikan, Southern Rural, and Non-Southeast Alaska. Additionally, these seats are up for nomination: Handtroll, Northern Rural, Juneau and Wrangell/Petersburg. Please consider taking your turn on the ATA Board - it's interesting and helps give you a very clear idea about what policies and forums impact your business, which is helpful when pursuing new ideas for the fleet.

ATA's mission is to preserve, promote, and perpetuate the fishing industry in Alaska. We work for conservation, sound management, good public policy, and safety at sea for the general welfare and mutual benefit of all trollers.





From the Wheelhouse ...

My name is Patrick Baum, and I am honored to serve on the board and as President of ATA. I make my living on the water, and like many of you, I know this life not just as a profession,

but as a way of understanding our communities, our economy, and our responsibility to the future.

My time in the pit and the wheelhouse has taught me how much I depend on healthy fisheries, how much our communities rely on working waterfronts, and how quickly we can lose ground when we are not organized.

That is part of what drew me into ATA. I wanted to be involved in protecting a fishery and a way of life that matter deeply to Alaska. ATA has long been a voice for trollers and for the communities connected to this fleet, and I believe that voice still matters today.

We are at a time when that work is especially important. Our fisheries, our fishermen, and our communities are facing real challenges. With strong leadership, engaged members, and a willingness to work together, there is a future for Alaska's troll fleet and for the coastal communities that depend on it.

That future will not build itself. ATA needs help. We need people willing to step into board seats, strengthen the organization, and support the search for strong executive leadership. If you care about the future of this fishery, this is the time to get involved.

Since 1925, the Alaska Trollers Association has stood for Alaska's trollers and the communities tied to this fishery. I believe that legacy is worth carrying forward. Our mission remains as important now as ever: to promote and protect the Alaska troll fishery, to support sound management and conservation, and to help ensure that Alaska's fishing communities remain strong for generations to come.

Respectfully,

Patrick Baum, F/V Deep Sea



Board of Directors

Patrick Baum, President

F/V Deep Sea
Northern Rural

Thatcher Brouwer, Vice President/Secretary

F/V Deep Sea
At Large

Tyler Emerson, Treasurer

F/V Natalee K
Juneau

Matt Donohoe

F/V Helen A
At Large

Brett Stillwaugh

F/V McKenna S
Wrangell/Petersburg

Casey Mapes

F/V Zephyr
Handtroll

Larry Bemis

F/V Dove
Tribal Representative

VACANT

Sitka

VACANT

Sitka

VACANT

Ketchikan

VACANT

Southern Rural

VACANT

Non-Southeast Alaska

Staff—VACANT

YOUR NAME HERE?

Treaty Representatives

Northern Panel

Deborah Lyons, F/V David Roy

Dennis Watson, F/V Myra

Transboundary Rivers Panel

Jacob Miller, F/V Carrie Lee



Treasurer's Update

As the Alaska Trollers Association enters its second century, we find ourselves at a turning point. For more than 100 years, ATA has been the voice of Alaska's troll fleet, protecting our fisheries and advocating for the future of our industry. It's safe to say we wouldn't be fishing anywhere near the same capacity, area, and time without the advocacy of ATA. The next century depends on the commitment of today's members.

Recently, our executive director Amy Daugherty stepped into retirement and we wish her the best. ATA must now try to fill her shoes with someone who has the passion, skills, and dedication to support a small gear group like ours. If you know anyone that might have this skillset, please reach out to the board.

From the gear store, fuel dock, and everywhere else we spend our hard-earned funds, prices have risen significantly. The cost of attracting and retaining qualified staff has not been immune. This means it is ever more challenging for an organization our size to support a full-time Executive Director.

Annual dues were \$250 in 1993. Adjusted for inflation, that's about \$515 today. Current powertroll dues are \$350, meaning each membership dollar supports significantly less than it did 30 years ago. To make matters more challenging, membership has recently dwindled after a large push of support during the Wildfish Conservancy lawsuit. The threats are still out there and mounting.

Our focus is on rebuilding through membership growth. More members mean a stronger voice in fisheries management, greater financial stability, and the ability to expand the Association's capacity to serve the fleet. We're currently in a catch-22: it takes a larger membership to support the staffing needed to maintain and grow the organization, but some are hesitant to join or renew before seeing that level of staffing they expect. Breaking that cycle depends on all of us. Rest assured that each new membership will help us grow our resources and allow us to rebuild the organization and advocate for your interests.

We also need members who are willing to take their turn and step into leadership roles. One of ATA's greatest needs is building the next generation of Board members and volunteers who will help guide ATA into its second century. Serving on the board is an opportunity to make a difference for Alaska's troll fleet, and it is not the overwhelming time commitment that many people assume. We need Board members who will represent their local fleet perspectives, while working with others toward the common goal of protecting and strengthening our fishery .

If you've ever thought about getting involved, now is the time. Fresh ideas, new voices, and a willingness to help and learn are exactly what ATA needs. . We have many open board seats. **Nominations will be open soon and we hope you'll consider running or nominating a great candidate.** Don't hesitate to send us your thoughts about issues in the fishery that matter to you, even if you aren't available for board service.

If you're already a member, thank you for your continued support. I know we have been relatively quiet during this time of transition, but we are still here, trying our best to keep this historical organization afloat and advocating for your interests the best way we know how. If you know someone who isn't a member, please encourage them to join or renew. We can either fall into obsolescence or rebuild through member support. The choice is yours.

Tyler Emerson, F/V Natalee K

2026 SOUTHEAST ALASKA CHINOOK SALMON RUN FORECASTS

Situk River total run is 900 large fish, within the escapement goal range of 500 to 1,000 fish.

Chilkat River total run is 2,650 large fish, within the escapement goal range of 1,750 to 3,500 fish.

Taku River terminal run is 34,000 large fish, within the escapement goal range of 19,000 to 36,000 fish.

Stikine River terminal run is 16,700 large fish, within the escapement goal range of 14,000 to 28,000 fish.

Unuk River total run is 1,800 large fish, at the lower bound of escapement goal range of 1,800 to 3,800 fish.

Renew Your Membership. Or Join ATA.

If you care about the future of Alaska's troll fishery, now is the time to stand with ATA.

ATA only works if trollers are willing to back it. Our fishery does not defend itself. Our communities do not defend themselves. The people who want to chip away at this way of life are not sitting on their hands, and neither can we.

For 100 years, ATA has been a voice for Alaska's salmon trollers and the communities tied to this fishery. That voice matters just as much today. Strong membership gives ATA the ability to keep showing up, keep speaking out, and keep fighting for the future of our fleet. If you have been a member before, please renew.

Many Thanks...

**Seafood Producers Cooperative
Sitka Sound Seafoods**

Your exceptional support helps ATA stay on the job.



If you have never joined, now is a good time to step in and help keep ATA working. Be sure to check the membership application for the **special first year rate!**

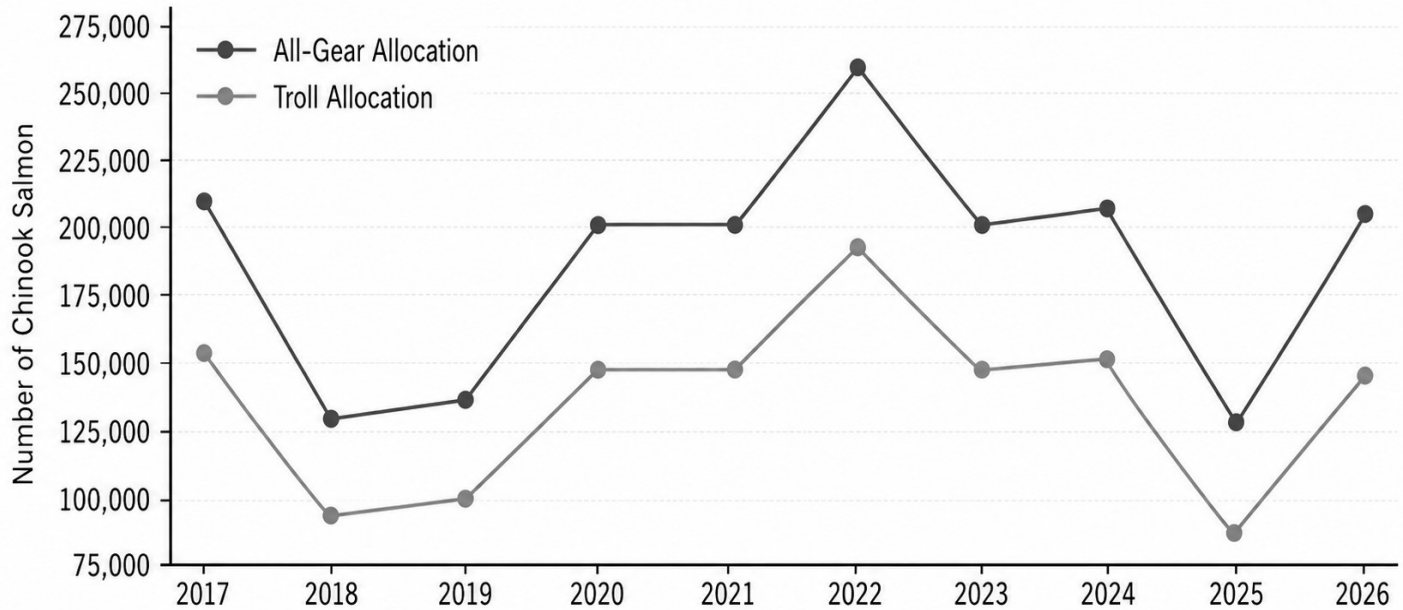
USDA Opens Office of Seafood

The USDA's new Office of Seafood appears aimed at making USDA programs easier for the seafood industry to access. According to USDA, the office will help fishermen, processors, and coastal communities navigate grants, loans, infrastructure programs, procurement, marketing, workforce development, and disaster assistance, while coordinating seafood work across the department. USDA says the office will work alongside NOAA and Commerce, not replace them, and will help carry out an "America First Seafood Strategy" focused on boosting U.S. seafood production, sales, exports, and domestic processing capacity. In Alaska, the most practical value might be better access to USDA's federal buying programs, processing and infrastructure support, and market development tools.

KING SALMON

What changed, 2017-2026 | Treaty method and allocation shifts

Southeast Alaska Preseason King Salmon Allocations at a Glance, 2017–2026



Source: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Note: 'All-Gear' values shown are the Treaty catch limits used for management each year. 'Troll Allocation' is the fleets share of the quota.

2026 Outlook

In April, ADF&G announced a 207,400 all-gear Treaty catch limit. After applying a 1% buffer to help avoid exceeding the catch limit, a 205,300 fish all-gear target was established. Under the Board of Fisheries allocation plan, the net gear allocation is subtracted from the all-gear target, and the remainder is split 77/23 between troll and sport. The troll allocation of the adjusted quota is 146,000.

What changed this year? ADF&G used a 1% preseason buffer in 2026 instead of 2% in 2025. That helped at the margin, but the bigger shift was a much stronger abundance-index result, which pushed the all-gear target - and the troll share under the 77/23 split - well above 2025.

The summer fishery target is what remains after the winter and spring catch is tallied and subtracted. Those fisheries harvested 33,500 fish and 7,300 AK hatchery were subtracted, leaving a total treaty catch of 29,900. ADFG estimates 116,100 fish are left for summer. The July portion is 70%, plus a 3% estimate for hatchery fish, totaling a management target of 83,700.

Gear Group	Allocation	2025	2026
All-Gear Target	100%	130,850	205,300
Seine	4.3% of all-gear	5,620	8,800
Drift Gillnet	2.9% of all-gear	3,800	5,900
Set Gillnet	1,000	1,000	1,000
Sport	23% after net gear subtracted	27,700	43,600
Troll	77% after net gear subtracted	92,730	146,000

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

2026 Statewide Finfish & Supplemental Issues Meeting

The hatchery proposals were the ones that hit closest to home for many trollers. In the end, none of them were adopted. The hatchery community showed up, brought a coherent and organized message, and made a strong case for the value hatcheries bring to fisheries and coastal communities across Alaska.

Outcome	Vote	Proposal	
FAILED	1-6	170	Reduce the permitted egg take level of each hatchery permit containing pink and chum salmon by 25% of the current permitted capacity for those species.
FAILED	1-6	171	Amend Prince William Sound hatchery permits to reduce pink salmon egg take capacity.
NO ACTION	4-3	172	Board-generated regulation that places a moratorium on pink and chum hatchery production.

Another of the hot topics was trawl accountability. These proposals may have felt a little more distant on the surface, but they still matter to trollers. Proposals 163, 164, and 165 would have tightened standards for pelagic trawl gear in state waters by redefining how it is treated, requiring bottom-contact monitoring, and requiring salmon excluders. Proposal 165 especially stands out to trollers, Chinook bycatch in the Gulf of Alaska is not a distant problem, approximately 90% of the King salmon bycatch is from Southeast Alaskan, BC and Washington State stocks. The Board took no action on those proposals.

Something that stands out is that the Board is, in some instances, cautious to act on issues where members feel they need a stronger understanding of the fisheries involved. For Southeast fishermen, this was a familiar situation, and serves as a reminder of how important it is for those closest to these fisheries to stay engaged, keep showing up, and continue providing the Board with clear information and firsthand perspective. Good decisions depend on a strong understanding of the fisheries in front of the Board, and that is something ATA will continue working to help provide.

Sage advice from someone who's been there ...

So next time BOF comes around my advice is to show up. Let's come together in numbers, find a cohesive voice, and drown them with our testimony until there is no way we can be ignored. In the interim stay active and engaged with your fleet-mates and ATA.

*** * * Former board member Joel Brady-Power, FV Nerka - ATA Newsletter, Summer 2018**



**We're grateful for the support of ATA's Business Members and encourages
your patronage of these fine establishments...**

**Alaska Quota & Permit,
Petersburg**

Grizzly Tackle

Madison Lumber, Ketchikan

Norm Pillen, FV Sea Lion

NW Resource Law

Port Townsend Shipwrights

Qi Hooks, Sitka

Savage, Inc., Seattle

Seafood Producers Co-op

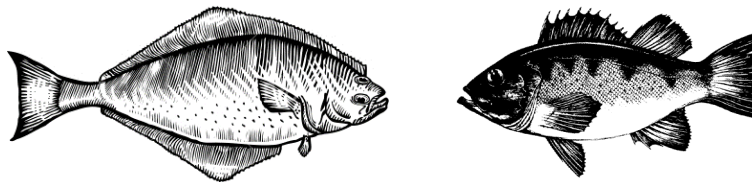
Seattle Marine, Seattle

Silver Bay Seafoods, Sitka

Sitka Sound Seafoods

Tongass Trading, Ketchikan

Yakobi Fisheries, Pelican



New Polaris Mine Proposal in the Taku Watershed



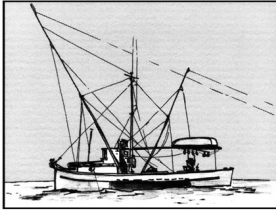
ATA recently submitted comments on the environmental assessment for the proposed New Polaris Mine in the Taku River watershed. The project, proposed by Canagold Resources, is located in British Columbia near the Tulsequah River.

We have worked on transboundary mining issues for many years, because our members live downstream from decisions made upstream. The abandoned Tulsequah Chief Mine remains the clearest example. Its history of pollution, cleanup challenges, and unresolved accountability has left many Alaskans wary of new mining proposals in the same area. New Polaris raises several of those concerns again, including potential impacts to salmon habitat and water quality.

The status of Taku River Chinook makes the issue more serious. Taku Chinook are listed by the Board of Fisheries as a stock of management concern. At a time when Chinook production remains under pressure across the region, we do not believe it is responsible to add another layer of industrial risk to this river system.

We have urged the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office to give full consideration to downstream Alaska interests, tribal concerns, fishery-dependent communities, cumulative impacts, the unresolved legacy of Tulsequah Chief, and the importance of the Taku River salmon system.

The Taku already provides lasting value through salmon, clean water, fishing, tourism, and community use. ATA's position is that this river deserves protection, caution, and enforceable accountability before any new mining activity is allowed to move forward.



Alaska Trollers Association

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alaskatrollers@gmail.com

Join Today! ☐ Renewal ☐ New Member

Name: _____ F/V: _____

Address: _____ City/ZIP: _____

Phone/Cell: _____ E-Mail: _____

Ice Boat: ☐ Freezer Boat: ☐ Direct Seafood Marketer: ☐ Processor: ☐ SPC: ☐ UFA: ☐

Other Fisheries: _____ Call-In Program? Yes ☐ No ☐

A receipt for tax purposes is sent to all members in late January. Do you need an extra receipt? Yes ☐ No ☐

Category	Power	Hand	Crew	Processor	Other Business	More Ways to Help
Basic	350	225	75	500	250	ATA Legal Fund \$ _____ Volunteer Your Time or Expertise Skills: _____ Cell #: _____
Silver	400	275	110	1000	500	
Gold	450	325	160	2500	1000	
Platinum	550	475	300	5000	2500	
LIFE	5000	2000	750			
Special First Year Rate	175	115				
Retired Troller	50	50	50			



Payment Options

- ◆ Send checks to: ATA 130 Seward Street #205 Juneau, AK 99801
- ◆ PayPal address: alaskatrollers@gmail.com or via our website www.aktrollers.org

