

Renee Wheat

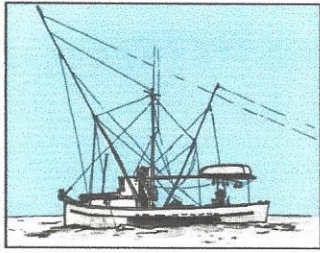
From: Alaska Trollers <alaskatrollers@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 3:12 PM
To: Renee Wheat
Subject: Alaska Trollers Association fef grant proposal
Attachments: ATA FEF Grant Packet.pdf

Hi Renee,

Please find the ATA fef grant proposal packet attached to this email.

Thank you,

*Amy Daugherty
Executive Director
Alaska Trollers Association
130 Seward Street #205
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 957-8004*



Alaska Trollers Association

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Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 586-9400
alaskatrollers@gmail.com

March 20, 2020

Dear Mayor Paxton and Members of the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka,

The Alaska Trollers Association is requesting consideration of a grant of \$5,000 from the Fisheries Enhancement Fund.

How will successful use of the FEF grant enhance Sitka's present and future salmon fisheries?

The funds will help fight back against new, serious and threatening lawsuit. The case is against the National Marine Fisheries Service's decision to issue an Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit that would allow for harvest of threatened species taken in the Troll Fishery under the terms of the Treaty, and other aspects of the NMFS biological opinion. Because it will take time to address the issues raised in the lawsuit WFC is asking that Trolling in Federal waters be prohibited until all aspects of the case are decided. If the injunction is upheld the EEZ will be closed July 1 and fishing prohibitions may extend into other seasons and areas if the biological opinion is reopened for revision.

The NMFS biological opinion made the finding that:

the proposed action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of... (threatened) Chinook Salmon, and the Southern Resident Killer Whale...

For the complete citation see the attachment, "More about the lawsuit."

Wild Fish Conservancy is challenging that finding, and other aspects of the biological opinion. See attachment, "More about the lawsuit."

If granted, the injunction will have an economically costly and seriously disruptive consequence to Sitka's commercial troll, recreational and charter fisheries.

If Trolling is closed outside of three miles for the duration of the summer, access to traditional fishing areas will be lost, and the opportunity to harvest coho salmon will be forgone as well. Please see the attached figure, Exhibit 8 - Coho, illustrating typical Chinook and Coho catch composition of the summer troll fishery in the EEZ. Millions of dollars of Coho will not be landed and processed in Sitka this year.

Also, imagine the impact of having the entire Troll fleet fishing Chinook right on top of residents and charters fishing close to town. It will be a complete mess. It is likely that it will take more time than the usual summer troll opening to harvest the Troll Chinook quota with the offshore areas closed. This will only prolong stress between our fishermen as they struggle to survive the low quota and low bag limits that this season will bring. We cannot afford to allow outside interests to cause this kind of disruption to our fisheries.

ATA had no choice but to fight to protect the fishery from disruption this summer. Especially when we learned that the State of Alaska would not be intervening to fight the injunction. Whether or not the State will intervene at some future date on the overall lawsuit is an unanswered question.

The ATA Board has vowed to remain dedicated and engaged and has been hard at work fundraising. Our recent telethon appeal to members generated over \$10,000 in donations to the ATA Legal fund. The City of Craig just donated \$2,500.

ATA is appealing to you, the members of the Assembly, to act in the interests of the community by making a contribution from the Fisheries Enhancement Fund to help fight to protect Sitka's fishing economy.

Thank you for consideration of this request.

Although I will not be able to travel to Sitka to present this request personally, Sitka members of the ATA Board of Directors will speak to the request when it is scheduled on the Assembly Agenda.

Yours Truly,



Amy Daugherty
Executive Director Alaska Trollers Association

Attachments:

"More about the lawsuit"

History of ATA

Exhibit 8 - Coho and Chinook harvested in the EEZ

Financial Statements

Board of Directors

More About The Lawsuit...and the WFC

NMFS made the finding that:

“After reviewing and analyzing the current status of the listed species and critical habitat, the environmental baseline within the action area, the effects of the proposed action, any effects of interrelated and interdependent activities, and cumulative effects, it is NMFS biological opinion that the proposed action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the Lower Columbia River Chinook Salmon, the upper Willamette River Chinook Salmon, the Snake River fall-run Chinook Salmon, and Puget Sound Chinook Salmon ESU’s, and the Southern Resident Killer Whale distinct population segment, ...or destroy or adversely modify their designated critical habitats.”

on Page 325, Section 2.8, Conclusion. NMFS Biological opinion WCR-2018-10660

This is the wording of the injunction:

“Plaintiff Wild Fish Conservancy (“Conservancy”) hereby moves under Rule 65(a) for a preliminary injunction and respectfully requests the Court enter an order staying the National Marine Fisheries Service’s (“NMFS”) authorizations of commercial Chinook salmon fisheries in federal waters off the coast of Southeast Alaska, set to commence on July 1, to protect imperiled Southern Resident Killer Whales while this matter is pending and while NMFS complies with the Endangered Species Act (“ESA”) and the National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”).

Simply put, there are three main areas of the lawsuit questioning the conclusions of the NMFS Biological opinion,

- Too many fish are being caught in Alaska that should go to Orcas instead, and
- NMFS should have done NEPA, and
- NMFS is proposing a hatchery program to make up for the loss of fish that are being taken in Alaska, and
 - the hatchery program could threaten wild stocks, and
 - the hatchery program is relying on Congressional funding that is not guaranteed to be appropriated.

The overall lawsuit is part of a strategy begun by The Wild Fish Conservancy in January of this year, when the original “Notice of Intent to Sue” was filed. WFC strategy is to exaggerate and sensationalize the impacts of the Alaska fisheries on Southern Resident Killer Whales. The crisis of starving baby killer whales caused by an over harvest of Chinook in Alaska is the rationale of a fundraising drive that casts WFC as the “true champions “ of fisheries accountability and activism to protect SRKW.

WFC challenges the deferral of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council fisheries’ management in the EEZ to the State of Alaska. This deferral has never before been challenged and has been annually approved in a Council management plan between NMFS and the State since 1985.

Ironically, the WFC is actively promoting a come-back for Fish Traps as a harvesting tool. Their twist is to use Fish Traps in terminal areas and in the Columbia River to harvest fish surplus to escapement. They have publicly stated agenda of eliminating the harvest of ocean bright Chinook salmon because the harvest occurs in mixed stock ocean areas. Their website castigates the Alaskan fisheries for their commercial harvest being 97% of non-Alaskan origin. They ignore the fact that the harvest composition has been known for many years, which is why the State signed the Pacific Salmon Treaty in 1985...to cooperate in management and production of a shared resource.

The lawsuit ignores Pacific Salmon Treaty harvest reductions made since 1985 that have passed 7,310,000 Chinook salmon to Canada, Washington and Oregon State. In the meantime, Puget Sound does not have a single Chinook-Technical-Committee-Approved escapement goal. That was their responsibility under the 1985 Treaty.

Please visit the WFC website for a firsthand look at what can only be described as propaganda. When you click on the links to the documents filled you will see these folks have deep pockets, experienced attorneys and the ability to cause grave damage. The website is: wildfishconservancy.org

The injunction to close the fishery outside of State waters was filed April 16, 2020

On April 20, 2020, the ATA Board of Directors hired Thane Tiensen, an attorney experienced in Washington State Federal court, to file for Intervenor status. Mr. Tiensen is with the firm Landye, Bennett and Blumstein LLP, of Portland.

Intervener status was granted and ATA's attorney has been working with our Board members and Treaty representative, Deb Lyons, reviewing the Biological Opinion and documents filed by WFC. Declarations have been submitted to the court and we have composed our facts our facts to counter the claims. Documents from ATA and NMFS were filed with the court on May 11th, 2020. We are awaiting review by a magistrate and judge on whether Trolling will be allowed in Federal waters this summer. The decision may not be made until just days before the fishery is set to open.

Hopefully the Judge will agree that the benefits to closing the fishery to Orcas are small and outweighed by economic harm to fishermen and the harm disruption to established regulatory processes will cause. Other questions raised in the suit may not be quickly decided and may drag on to produce unknown effects on fisheries management in future years.

ATA Mission and History

ATA Mission Statement: *To promote and protect the Alaska troll fishery and to support sound management and conservation.*

ATA was formed in 1925 to represent Alaska salmon trollers. The organization filed Non Profit Articles of Incorporation in April of 1977 and is today in Good Standing with the State of Alaska.

Among Alaska resident power troll permit holders, Sitka residents are predominant, accounting for 40% of the Alaska resident harvest and 35% of the total troll harvest in 2018.

In 2018, Southeast's power troll fishery accounted for a harvest of 13.4 million pounds of salmon (all species) with a total ex-vessel value of \$28.4 million. That same year, 669 permits were fished, representing 70% of all permits held. Today over 350 Trollers are active members of ATA, more than half of those that fished in 2018.

ATA members elect 12 power and 1 hand troll representatives who serve for two-year terms. The Board seats are geographically assigned to reflect the varied interests of Trollers throughout the Southeast economy. Washington State fishermen have trolled in Southeast for years and therefore have representation on the ATA Board.

ATA represents trollers and the organization works to strengthen the statewide and regional fisheries economy through active membership in United Fishermen of Alaska. ATA Board members also serve on the Seafood Producers Board of Directors and on the NSRAA and SSRAA and Armstrong-Keta Aquaculture Boards. ATA Collaborates with groups like the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association, Chinook Futures Coalition, Sitka Conservation Society and SalmonState.

ATA has advocated for fishermen's interests throughout many significant events, from Statehood to the advent of Limited Entry. ATA represents Trollers at Alaska State Legislative hearings, and the Board of Fisheries and North Pacific Management Council regulatory processes. ATA provides comment and perspective in the Federal register concerning the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

ATA nominates individuals to be appointed to the Northern Panel of the Pacific Salmon Treaty to the Office of the Governor. In 2019, At ATA's request, Deborah Lyons was reappointed as the Troll Panel member.

ATA supports healthy habitat for salmon and has commented on regional issues to protect spawning habitat such as the Transboundary Rivers effort to control mining waste discharges, the State Forest Practices Act stream side buffers, the Tongass National Forest management plans, and Congressional legislation that directly effects spawning and rearing habitat for salmon.

ATA maintains a close working relationship with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as they manage the fishery in-season. For many years ATA conducted log book and call-in programs to improve data and management. One of our Board members is spearheading a program to fund and resurrect the collection of data by the troll fleet to help inform issues of climate change, forage and feed for salmon, and other data.

ATA is proud of our participation in cooperative projects, such as efforts to help restore habitat in the Klawock watershed, and our work to recover and report illegal high seas fishing gear.

Exhibit 8

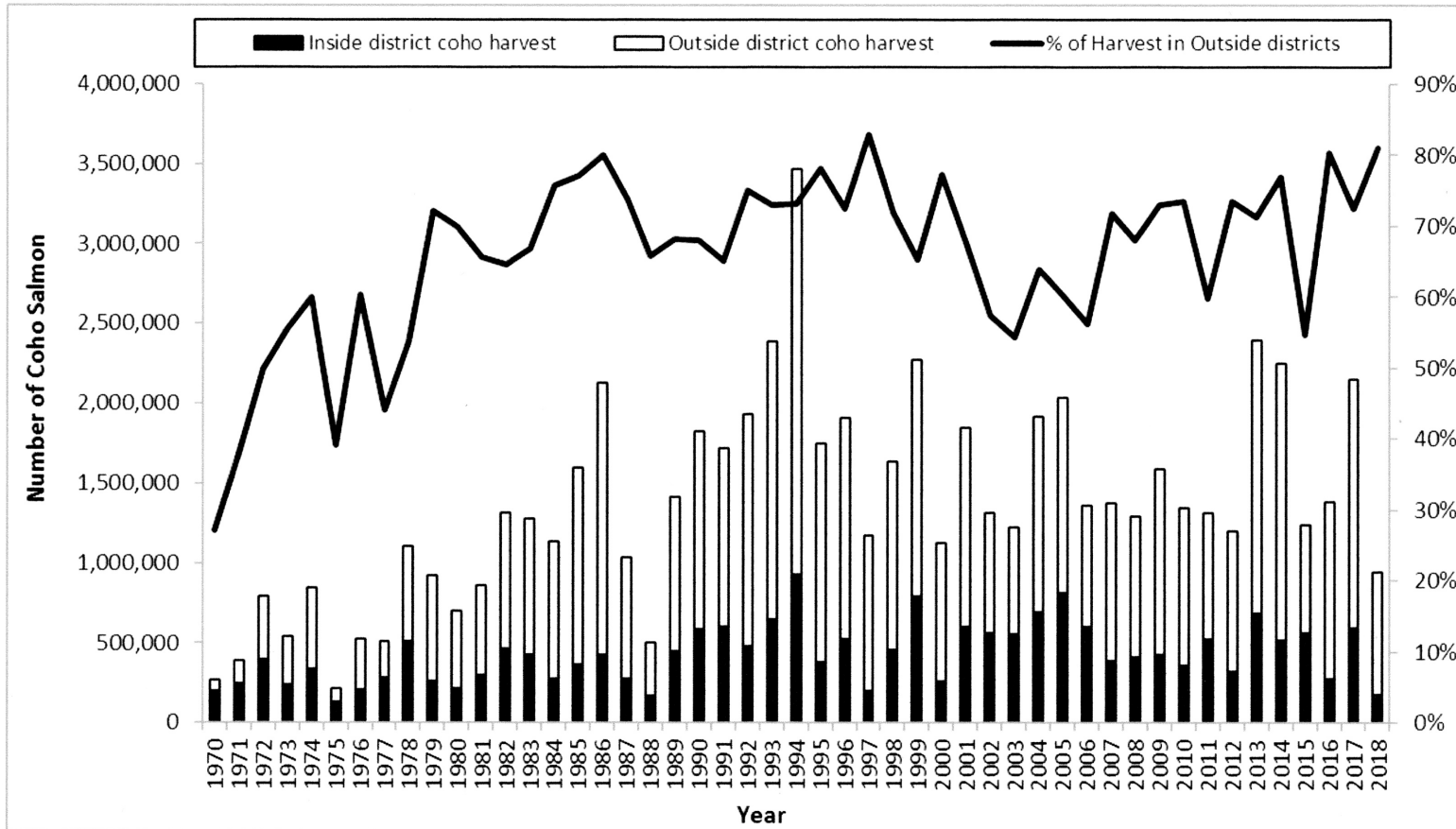


Figure 4.—Southeast Alaska troll coho salmon harvest in the outside (Gulf of Alaska) districts, the inside districts and the percentage of the harvest taken in the outside districts, 1970–2018.

Note: Outside districts are 103, 104, 113, 116, 152, 154, 156, 157, 181, 183, 189, 191; inside districts are 101, 102, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 114, 115.

Alaska Trollers Association
Balance Sheet
As of March 31, 2020

	<u>Mar 31, 20</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Paypal	52.10
Wells Fargo - General Checking	14,059.83
Wells Fargo -- Gaming Account	1,378.93
Wells Fargo -- Legal Checking	2,714.24
Northrim--MasterCard/Visa	2,818.07
Wells Fargo -- Savings	24,007.39
Total Checking/Savings	<u>45,030.56</u>
Total Current Assets	45,030.56
Fixed Assets	
Office Furniture	2,578.00
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>-2,578.00</u>
Total Fixed Assets	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>45,030.56</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Payroll Liabilities	<u>102.00</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>102.00</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>102.00</u>
Total Liabilities	102.00
Equity	
Retained Earnings	48,917.29
Net Income	<u>-3,988.73</u>
Total Equity	<u>44,928.56</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>45,030.56</u>

Alaska Trollers Association
Profit & Loss
January through March 2020

	<u>Jan - Mar 20</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Interest Income	2.14
Memberships	24,268.94
Raffle Income	1,340.00
Total Income	<u>25,611.08</u>
Gross Profit	25,611.08
Expense	
Accounting	521.07
Attorney Fees	304.50
Contributions	300.00
Employee Expense	1,500.00
Lobby Expense	44.22
Membership	2,195.00
Membership Promotion	25.00
Office Supplies	225.00
Payroll Expenses	13,500.00
Payroll Taxes	1,224.75
Postage	155.65
Printing\Reproduction	149.04
Raffle Expense	350.00
Rent	3,108.09
Service Charges	281.24
Telephone & Cable	706.88
Board Expense	720.00
Travel Expense	4,289.37
Total Expense	<u>29,599.81</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-3,988.73</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-3,988.73</u></u>

ATA BOARD MEMBERS 2020

MATT DONOHOE - PRESIDENT

[REDACTED]
SITKA, AK 99835
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

THATCHER BROUWER - SECRETARY

[REDACTED]
JUNEAU, AK 99801
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

JIM MOORE

[REDACTED]
SITKA, AK 99835
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

TIM O'CONNOR

[REDACTED]
CRAIG, AK 99921
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

BEN ATWOOD

[REDACTED]
WARD COVE, AK 99928
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

CRAIG RING

[REDACTED]
KETCHIKAN, AK 99801
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAUL OLSEN

[REDACTED]
LEAVENWORTH, WA 98826
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

TAD FUJIOKA - VICE PRES

[REDACTED]
SITKA, AK 99835
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

KEN MCGEE - TREASURER

[REDACTED]
JUNEAU, AK 99801
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

BRETT STILLWAUGH

[REDACTED]
WRANGELL, AK 99929
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

MATT LAWRIE

[REDACTED]
SITKA, AK 99835
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

JOEL BRADY-POWER

[REDACTED]
BELLINGHAM, WA 98229
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

MARK ROBERTS

[REDACTED]
PETERSBURG, AK 99833
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]