

Dunleavy Appoints Stephanie Madsen, Head Of At-Sea Processors Association To Bycatch Committee, While She Oversees An Organization Whose Members Are Responsible For The Bulk Of Salmon Bycatch In Alaska.

SUMMARY: Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy's appointment of Stephanie Madsen, current Executive Director of the At-Sea Processors Association, to serve on the Bycatch Review Task Force is a disappointment for any who takes the issue of bycatch seriously.

Madsen has made millions representing companies, like Trident Seafoods, American Seafoods and Arctic Storm Management, who collectively catch thousands of salmon each year as bycatch. Just the five companies that are members of APA comprised more than half of the Chinook bycatch in 2021 from the BSAI/GOA pollock trawling fisheries.

Additionally, Madsen has made clear that she supports industry over conservation time and time again, through signing on to letters opposing Biden's 30x30 conservation goals, and through taking minimal action on bycatch in the past. She has also been a consistent donor to Republican politicians, donating over \$20,000 to GOP candidates and causes, including a donation to Governor Dunleavy's campaign.

Governor Dunleavy Appointed Stephanie Madsen, The Director Of A Large Commercial Fishing Lobbying Group Representing Big Commercial Fishing Companies Like Trident

Governor Mike Dunleavy Appointed Stephanie Madsen, The Director Of The At-Sea Processors Association, To A Task Force To "Better Understand" Alaska's Bycatch Crisis. Today, Governor Mike Dunleavy released the list of eleven Alaskans who will serve on the Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force. The mission of the task force is to better understand the unintended bycatch of fish such as halibut and salmon caught in both State and federal waters. The two remaining seats on the task force will be non-voting seats filled by members of the Alaska Legislature... Stephanie Madsen - Ms. Madsen is the Executive Director for the At-Sea Processors Association." [Gov. Mike Dunleavy Press Release, [01/07/22](#)]

- **The At-Sea Processors Association Represents The Six Companies That Participate In The Alaska Pollock Fishery And The West Coast Pacific Whiting Fishery.** "The At-sea Processors Association (APA) is a trade association representing six member companies that own and operate 15 U.S.-flag catcher/processor vessels that participate principally in the Alaska pollock fishery and west coast Pacific whiting fishery. By weight, these abundant, well managed groundfish fisheries account for more than one-third of all fish harvested in the U.S. each year. Fishery managers and scientists employ a precautionary approach to management to ensure healthy fish stocks for years to come." [At-Sea Processors Association, accessed [10/25/21](#)]

Stephanie Madsen Has A History Of Being Laissez-Faire On The Issue Of Bycatch.

Stephanie Madsen Knows Her Industry's Bycatch Problem Is Bad, But Doesn't Want The Industry To Take Responsibility

Madsen On 130,000 Bycaught Chinook Salmon: "I Know The Numbers Look Very Bad."

"About 90 per cent of the 130,000 chinook bycatch was picked up by trawlers, while the remainder was captured by all other fisheries in the Bering Sea. 'I know the numbers look very bad,' admitted Stephanie Madsen, executive director of At Sea Processors Association, which represents seven pollock-processing companies. She said the industry agrees the bycatch in 2007 was unacceptable but they're not sure how to avoid the salmon, which seem to be following the pollock or vice versa. Madsen said rolling closures haven't worked because they close one spot where the bycatch is high, only to find a high bycatch in the next place they throw their nets. 'We're struggling right now to figure out how to stay out of their way,' she said." [Theglobeandmail.com, [02/25/08](#)]

- **Madsen On Bycatch: "I Don't Really Want To Take Credit For The Good Years Because I Don't Want To Take Credit For The Bad Years."** "Madsen said the incentive plan agreements within the pollock fleet instituted in April 2009 that took effect in 2011 appear to be working so far to reduce chinook salmon bycatch. She said there have been very few bycatch transfers among her co-op, indicating that individual vessels are having some success avoiding chinook bycatch. 'They seem to work, but I don't think we can make any nexus between behavior and what's on the grounds,' Madsen said. 'I've said this before -- I don't really want to take credit for the good years because I don't want to take credit for the bad years.'" [Alaska Journal of Commerce, 06/17/11]

When The Trawlers Madsen Represents Were Criticized For Lack Of Meaningful Action On Bycatch, Stephanie Madsen Was "Disappointed," Even Though Her Industry Had Been "Struggling" With The Bycatch Problem For Years Without Meaningful Fixes

Madsen Claimed To Be "Disappointed with Comments About The Bering Sea Needing To 'Wake Up'" Regarding Bycatch. "At the council's June meeting, the council asked the trawl fleets to take voluntary measures to reduce their halibut bycatch by 10 percent. The vessels did what they could to reduce bycatch and were surprised by the emergency reduction proposal. 'I don't believe this meets the action requirements for emergency criteria,' said Stephanie Madsen, executive director of the At-Sea Processors Association, which represents six of the large trawl companies focused on pollock. 'I'm a little disappointed with comments about the Bering Sea needing to 'wake up.' We've been concerned about halibut in the Bering Sea for a long time. The industry did reduce their bycatch through voluntary measures.'" [Alaska Journal of Commerce, [12/17/14](#)]

- **Madsen In 2008: "We Hope People Understand That We're Not Just Out There Hammering Away And That We Are Aware Of The Bycatch Situation... We've Been Struggling With It For Years."** "The corporations that dominate Alaska's billion-dollar

pollock industry generally believe a limit on salmon bycatch would put a damper on pollock numbers and increase the cost of fuel by forcing boats to relocate more frequently, according to Stephanie Madsen, a former council chair who is now executive director of a pollock trade group, the At-Sea Processors Association. If adopted, the limit on salmon bycatch would likely take effect in 2011 and, in some scenarios, could cost the pollock fleet more than \$500 million annually, according to federal estimates. 'We hope people understand that we're not just out there hammering away and that we are aware of the bycatch situation,' Madsen said. 'We've been struggling with it for years.'"
[Nbcnews.com, [06/22/08](#)]

The Companies Madsen Represents Make Up A Large Portion Of The Bycatch Problem In Alaska.

The Commercial Trawlers Represented By The At-Sea Processors Association Are Responsible For 68.5% Of Chinook Salmon Bycatch In 2021

The Five Companies Have Harvested Over 160,000 Salmon As Bycatch While Salmon Stocks Collapse, At-Sea Processors Are Taking More Chinook Salmon Than Are Returning Up Some Rivers To Spawn

Trident Recently Purchased The Catcher-Processor Vessel Owned By Aleutian Spray, Bringing APA's Membership Down To Five Companies. Trident purchased Starbound, the catcher processor vessel owned by Aleutian Spray, in December 2021, bringing APA's membership down from six companies to five. [National Fisherman, [12/07/21](#)]

The Group Has Six Member Companies That Operate 15 US-Flag Catcher/Processor Vessels. The At-Sea Processors Association Represent Six Companies That Participate In The Alaska Pollock Fishery And The West Coast Pacific Whiting Fishery. "The At-sea Processors Association (APA) is a trade association representing six member companies that own and operate 15 U.S.-flag catcher/processor vessels that participate principally in the Alaska pollock fishery and west coast Pacific whiting fishery. By weight, these abundant, well managed groundfish fisheries account for more than one-third of all fish harvested in the U.S. each year. Fishery managers and scientists employ a precautionary approach to management to ensure healthy fish stocks for years to come." [At-Sea Processors Association, accessed [10/25/21](#)]

At-Sea Processor Vessels Have Taken Over 6,000 Chinook Salmon In Trawler Fisheries This Year, As Well As 153,000 Non-Chinook

Trawlers Harvest More Salmon Than Some Streams Will See Return This Year

Biologists Say Only 101,000 King (Chinook) Salmon Were Able To Spawn Upriver On The Kuskokwim River In 2021. "State biologists said that about 129,000 king salmon returned to the Kuskokwim River this year. Of those, the state estimates that about 28,000 were harvested, and 101,000 made their way upriver to spawn." [KYUK Radio, [09/28/21](#)]

Biologists Estimate Only 33,000 King (Chinook) Salmon Returned To The Yukon River. “The upper Yukon River king salmon return fared even worse. State biologists estimate that 33,000 king salmon returned to the upper Yukon, which was below preseason estimates and a 36% decrease from last year.” [KYUK Radio, [09/28/21](#)]

And Only 3,000 King (Chinook) Salmon Swam Up The Unalakleet River. “Further north, less than 3,000 king salmon swam up the Unalakleet River, a 45% decrease from the previous year.” [KYUK Radio, [09/28/21](#)]

At-Sea Processor Association Member Vessels Had Harvested 6,068 Chinook Salmon As Bycatch As Of November 1, 2021. The same vessels have taken in 153,700 non-chinook salmon.

Bering Sea and Aleutian Island And Gulf Of Alaska Chinook/Non-Chinook Salmon Bycatch Totals From At-Sea Processors Association Member Vessels 01/01/21 - 11/01/21			
Vessel Name:	# Chinook Caught As Bycatch	# Non-Chinook Caught As Bycatch	# Of Hauls Sampled
Alaska Ocean	840	2,320	660
American Dynasty	650	3,696	487
American Triumph	687	19,790	483
Arctic Fjord	340	11,003	439
Arctic Storm	441	19,783	408
Island Enterprise	144	2,803	301
Kodiak Enterprise	118	23,206	269
Majesty	0	15	120
Marcy J	71	1	24
Northern Eagle	578	11,018	412
Northern Glacier	113	43	625
Northern Hawk*	385	9,043	406
Northern Jaeger	435	12,894	405
Ocean Rover	563	21,692	473
Seattle Enterprise	332	11,653	361
Starbound*	371	4,740	436
Total:	6,068	153,700	6,632

= Glacier Fish Co.
 = American Seafoods
 = Arctic Storm
 = Trident
 = Coastal Villages

= Aleutian Spray (Boat now operated by Trident Seafoods)

[NOAA.gov, Accessed [11/01/21](#)]

Salmon Bycatch Totals For Each Member Company Of At-Sea Processors Association & Percentage Of Total 2021 Alaskan Salmon Bycatch In The Bering Strait / Aleutian Island And Gulf Of Alaska Trawl Fisheries				
Company:	# Chinook Caught As Bycatch:	# Non-Chinook Caught As Bycatch:	% Of Total 2021 Chinook Bycatch From The BSAI/GOA	% Of Total 2021 Non-Chinook Bycatch From The BSAI/GOA
Aleutian Spray (Starbound LLC)*	371	4,740	2.2%	3.3%
American Seafoods Company	2,913	69,090	32.7%	26.2%
Arctic Storm Management Group, LLC	781	30,786	14.6%	7.0%
Coastal Villages *	385	9,043	4.2%	3.5%
Glacier Fish Company, LLC	953	2,363	1.1%	8.6%
Trident Seafoods	665	37,678	17.8%	6.0%
All At-Sea Processors Association Members Combined	6,068	153,700	72.7%	54.6%
Total 2021 Chinook/Non-Chinook Bycatch From The BSAI/GOA	11,119	211,323	X	X

[NOAA.gov, Accessed [11/01/21](#)]

**The Coastal Villages Regional Fund is set up through the Community Development Quota (CDQ) program to allow communities on the Bering Sea shore a chance to participate in modern commercial fishing. Bycatch from its vessel Northern Hawk is not included in total figures in this document.*

Madsen Has A Long History Of Opposing Conservation Efforts In Her Role As Executive Director Of At-Sea Processors.

Madsen Signed Letter Opposing 30x30 Plan. More than 800 seafood professionals, including top executives at US processing companies, wholesalers, vessel owners and captains, and trade association leaders -- one of the largest coalitions ever organized by the industry -- have joined forces against a single common issue of concern. That’s roughly how many signatures are on a

letter sent Monday to Arizona Democrat Raul Grijalva, chairman of the House of Representatives' Natural Resources Committee, asking him to rethink the provisions of his ocean climate change bill that could result in restrictions against commercial fishing across 30% of US federal waters by 2030. The list includes such notable and diverse names as: Joe Bundrant... and Stephanie Madsen, executive director of the At-Sea Processors Association (APA)." [Seafoodharvesters.org, [11/16/20](#)]

At-Sea Processors Association Apparently One Of The Organizers Of The Letter To Biden.

"That plan, when first unveiled in the Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act, drew a letter from over 800 members of the seafood industry - organized by the At-sea Processors Association, National Fisheries Institute, Saving Seafood, and the Seafood Harvesters of America - who oppose a blanket ban of all fishing activity in 30 percent of oceans owned by the U.S." [SeafoodSource, [01/27/21](#)]

Madsen Opposed Efforts To Reduce Pollock Catch To Protect Seal Populations For Subsistence Hunting.

"The study suggests that to make any real changes, the fishery - which is one of the most lucrative in the United States - would likely need to limit pollock catch to around a million tons in the areas surrounding the Pribilof Islands... One pollock industry booster, Stephanie Madsen, said she's worried about a one-size fits-all solution. 'It would be devastating to just have a blunt tool. And that's what I think this is. It's a blunt tool,' ... She also expressed skepticism that limiting catch would improve the seals' fate. 'When you're talking about drawing circles around rookeries, and preventing fishing from occurring in there, you're making quite a few assumptions about the pollock staying inside that circle, that the fur seals aren't going to go outside the circle,' Madsen said." [KUCB.org, [09/22/21](#)]

Madsen Spoke In Support Of EPA Rule Change Establishing Vessel Incidental Discharge Act.

"Our members support the sections of VIDA and the proposed rulemaking establishing that fishing vessels shall not require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit from EPA nor the states for any discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel, other than ballast water. The rule is really a positive step forward that will provide regulatory relief without affecting the environment since our members do not anticipate changes to their incidental discharge or self-inspection processes." [Targeted News Service, 12/01/20]

Madsen Claimed Portrayal Of Trawlers As Non-Local In Alaska Is A "Myth." The portrayal of trawlers as non-local was challenged as a 'myth' by At-Sea Processors Association Executive Director Stephanie Madsen, via teleconference, citing the ownership of factory trawlers by Alaska community development quota groups." [Bristol Bay Times, [09/21/18](#)]

Madsen Urged EPA To Change Comment Plans, But Commented, "I Certainly Don't Want My Comments Being Interpreted As Supporting Relaxing Drinking Water Protections."

"One industry speaker, Stephanie Madsen of the Alaska-based At-sea Processors Association representing the fishing sector, also urged the agency to revise its comment plan. She argued that it is unreasonable to take comment on all EPA rules at once, and said that the current agenda means any effort to loosen even sector-specific regulatory burdens will run afoul of environmentalists' claims that the true goal is to roll back environmental protections more

broadly. 'I would appreciate EPA being a little more strategic in their request for regulatory burden comments. . . . I certainly don't want my comments being interpreted as supporting relaxing drinking water protections,' she said." [Insideepa.com, [05/02/17](#)]

Madsen Claimed It Would Be "Difficult And Expensive" For Seafood Companies To Comply With Fish Waste Limits Set By EPA. "Under the new EPA permit, seafood plants can no longer dump more than 10 million pounds of waste a year unless they barge the excess amount to sea, grind it into fish meal, or find some other way to get rid of it, said Burney Hill, an aquatic scientist and permit writer for the EPA in Seattle. If they can demonstrate that their waste pile covers no more than one acre, they can get a waiver to the 10 million-pound limit. 'The 10 million pound limit will be difficult and expensive for processors to comply with,' Madsen said. Whether it'll put anyone out of business remains to be seen, she said." [Anchorage Daily News, 08/02/01]

Stephanie Madsen Has Contributed Thousands Of Dollars To Republican Politicians In Alaska And Washington.

Madsen Has Contributed Over \$20,000 To Republican Politicians And Causes. According to FEC information, Madsen has contributed \$20,850 to Republican politicians and causes. [FEC.gov, Accessed [10/26/21](#)]

Madsen Has Contributed \$5,800 To Republican Senator Lisa Murkowski. According to FEC data, Madsen has contributed \$5,800 to Republican Senator Lisa Murkowski. [FEC.gov, Accessed [10/26/21](#)]

Madsen Has Contributed \$4,250 To Republican Senator Dan Sullivan. According to FEC data, Madsen has contributed \$4,250 to Republican Senator Dan Sullivan. [FEC.gov, Accessed [10/26/21](#)]

Madsen Has Contributed \$2,850 To Republican Congressman Don Young. According to FEC data, Madsen has contributed \$2,850 to Republican Congressman Don Young. [FEC.gov, Accessed [10/26/21](#)]

Madsen Has Contributed \$2,000 To Republican Congresswoman Jaime Herrera-Beutler. According to FEC data, Madsen has contributed \$2,000 to Republican Congresswoman Jaime Herrera-Beutler. [FEC.gov, Accessed [10/26/21](#)]

Madsen Contributed \$2,000 To The Senate Georgia Battleground Fund Through WinRed In 2020. According to FEC data, Madsen contributed \$2,000 to the Senate Georgia Battleground Fund through WinRed in 2020. [FEC.gov, Accessed [10/26/21](#)]

Madsen Contributed \$500 To Alaska's Republican Governor Mike Dunleavy. According to Alaskan campaign contribution reports, Madsen contributed \$500 to Republican Governor Mike Dunleavy in 2018. [Aws.state.ak.us, Accessed [10/26/21](#)]

Madsen Has Made Millions While Serving As Executive Director Of The At-Sea Processors Association.

Madsen Made Nearly \$3.25 Million While Serving As Executive Director For At-Sea Processors Between 2007-2018. Between the years 2007 and 2018 (the last year currently available for 990s), Madsen made \$3,238,250 for serving as Executive Director of At-Sea Processors. [ProPublica.org, Accessed [10/26/21](#)]

- **Madsen Made \$279,000 In 2018 As Executive Director For The At-Sea Processors Association.** According to At-Sea Processor Associations' 2018 990 form (the last year currently available), Madsen made \$279,000 in salary for her role as Executive Director. [ProPublica.org, Accessed [10/26/21](#)]