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William Gibbons-Fly  
Executive Director

William (Bill) Gibbons-Fly is the Executive Director of the American Tunaboat Association (ATA). In this capacity, he represents the owners and operators of the U.S. Pacific tuna purse seine fleet, the last true “distant-water fishing fleet” operating under U.S. flag.

Previously, Mr. Gibbons-Fly spent 30 years with the U.S. Department of State where, before his retirement in 2019, he served for 20 months as the acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Fisheries. From 2004 through 2017, he was the Director of the State Department’s Office of Marine Conservation where he led the development and implementation of U.S. policy for the international conservation and management of living marine resources, including as lead negotiator for the United States on a wide range of international treaties, agreements, and arrangements.

Mr. Gibbons-Fly is a former Chairman (2016-2018) of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization’s (UNFAO) Committee on Fisheries, the largest and most prominent international body guiding policy and technical developments for the fisheries and aquaculture sector worldwide. He is a past Chairman of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission, and numerous other international fisheries management bodies. From 2002 to 2016 he served as a Member of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council in Honolulu.

Mr. Gibbons-Fly holds an M.A. in International Affairs from the George Washington University and a B.A. (with honors) from the University of California at Santa Barbara. He lives in Annapolis, Maryland.