



Maine Seafood Alliance

C/o Down East RC&D

P.O. Box 210

Cherryfield, ME 04622-0210

Tel (207) 546-2368 Fax (207) 546-3859

What is MSA? Where did it come from? What can it do?

The Maine Seafood Alliance was formed to represent and advocate for all aspects of the seafood industry in Maine, and to establish Maine as a leader in the industry with high standards of quality and consumer safety.

In the fall of 2005 a group of folks involved in the shellfish industry Downeast decided it was time that the hard working Mainers that are involved in the harvesting, processing and selling of shellfish and seafood from the waters of the State needed a strong voice in determining the well being and future of this most important segment of our heritage and economy. After several meetings the Maine Seafood Alliance was incorporated on March 2, 2006 to:

- Promote confidence and cooperation among persons engaged in the seafood industry in Maine;
- Represent and advocate for persons engaged in the seafood industry in Maine;
- Establish high standards of quality and consumer safety within the seafood industry in Maine;
- Promote any and all activities relating to the seafood industry and its continuing growth;
- Offer guidance, support and assistance to persons engaged in the seafood industry in Maine; and
- Do all such other lawful acts as may be deemed beneficial to those engaged in the seafood industry in Maine.

The organization has been designed to serve all aspects of the industry and provide representation for the entire coast. The by-laws call for:

1. Four classes of members

- Certified Seafood Dealers/Processors
- Non-certified Dealers
- Individual Harvesters
- Associate members, which shall include any other business, organization or individual wishing to support the seafood industry.

2. A board of Directors composed of three harvesters and three business representatives from East of the Penobscot River and the same number from West of the Penobscot, as well as five at large members with no geographic or membership category restriction (total number of 17 members).

Accomplishments

- Lobbied the Legislature to increase funding to DMR for increased testing to mitigate closings
- Attended DMR public meetings concerning Red Tide disaster funding
- Took a position on Red Tide disaster funding, recommending that payments go to harvesters
- Had outreach meetings in St George and Scarborough
- Have started a web site
- Will be exhibiting at the Fisherman's Forum
- Are tracking bills in the current legislature
- Received the Best Area Wide Project award from the Down East Resource Conservation and Development Council

Issues/Concerns

Safety
Legislation State/Federal Local
Licensing
License fees
Testing/Sampling
Effective use of Resources

Closures
Funding
Enforcement
Record keeping
Quotas
Taxation

Research
Accountability
Rule interpretation
Economics
Public relations

How can MSA be effective?

Bring together all aspects of the industry
Provide a unified voice for the industry
Work with all levels of government
Partner with like-minded organizations
Hold educational seminars

Encourage and support research
Develop alternative funding sources
Encourage good stewardship of the resource
Provide pertinent information to the public
Keep the membership informed and up to date

Upcoming Projects/Events

Increase membership
Further discussions with DMR

Hold informational meetings
Support Research grants

What Can I do?

Join MSA

Encourage others in the industry to join

Become a Director
Serve as an officer

The current officers of MSA are

President-James Markos (jmarkos@meshellfish.com)
Vice President-Dan Rogde (atlshell@mgemaine.com)
Secretary-Julie Keene (scotland@maineline.net)
Treasurer-Randy Ramsdell (Machiasbay@netzero.com)

Board Members:

Cecil Wood (cnw5fd@Ptc-ME.net)
Albert Carver (snappy@maineline.net)
Stan Bayley- Scarborough
April Bayley - Scarborough

For Further Information:

Contact any board member/officer or;

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