

Maine Seafood Alliance
Directors' Meeting
July 18, 2006, 2006
Meeting Minutes

Present: Jim Markos, Dan Rogde, Julie Keene, Randy Ramsdell, Bert Carver, Cecil Wood, Larry Matthews, Kevin Athearn (UMM), Mary Ann Clancy (DE Institute), Darcie, Couture (DMR), Hannah Annis (DMR), Dennis Nault (DMR), Gary Edwards (DERC&D)

Item 1 Introductions-those in attendance introduced themselves.

Item 2 Minutes of June 6 meeting-Bert motioned to accept, second by Cecil, motion passed.

Item 3 Treasure's Report-Cecil motioned to accept, second by Bert, motion passed.

Item 4 Kevin Athearn – economic impact- Kevin explained the process he is using and the software he purchased with the grant funds. He then passed out his conclusions that focused on soft shell clams. There was data missing for 2004 that skewed the results, DMR will try and find the missing numbers. Kevin will expand the study to include dealer and other value added parts of the industry. As well as all species of shellfish that are effected by closures. He will be contacting members and others in the industry to continue the study. It was suggested that figures from Fulton's Fish Market report might be helpful.

Item 5 Discuss State Shellfish Disaster plan-

Darcie Couture from DMR explained the development plan that was forwarded to National Marine Fisheries (NMF). The Basic Plan was developed with input fro the Governor's office, DMR staff and input from Senator Snowe's office. It included \$1.23 million for the industry and \$777,000 for research to help mitigate the effects of red tide and improvements to DMR's testing capabilities.

There was some discussion about the planned research but it was decided to save that topic for later and stick to the plan.

MSA membership discussed the components of the plan and came up with two basic thoughts:

1. The research and mitigation efforts in the plan are extremely important but should be funded by means other than disaster funds.
2. That harvesters were most effected by the closures and the disaster relief funds should go there.

A draft response was worked on that will be further discussed on a special meeting called for July 26.