

Maine Seafood Alliance
Directors' Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2007 10:00 A.M.
Down East RC&D Office-Cherryfield

Present: Jim Markos, Cecil Wood, Steve Beatham, Randy Ramsdell, Stan Bayley, April Bayley, Arthur Alley, Gary Edwards (DERC&D).

Item 1 Treasurer's Report: accepted as presented – motion by Dan, second by Cecil, all in favor.

Item 2 Minutes of February 6 meeting: accepted as presented-motion by Cecil, second by Stan, all in favor.

Item 3 Fisherman's Forum- Plans are progressing, Gary has started work on the display, and Dan brought in a new banner with the MSA logo. The booth needs to be manned Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Gary is planning to be there most of the time and plans to set the booth up around 10:00. He will send an email to board members with a schedule for board members to fill in times they can help out. The Maine Softshell Clam Council will be meeting from 1 to 4 on Thursday.

Item 4 Web page- Comments about the web site continue to be positive. A bulletin board was suggested, the present current events page might be the place for this. An on line survey for members was also brought up.

Item 5 Legislative update- There are several bills coming before the Marine Resources Committee. After reviewing those on the agenda for Wednesday 2/21 the board voted to send a letter to the Committee recommending that they support passage of LD403 that would require DMR to have written approval of a local clam committee before issuing a Depuration Harvesting permit in a municipality. Several members have contacted MSA with positive support for the bill. President Markos will send the letter. Gary will try and track bills and let the board and membership know about upcoming hearings. Some discussion was had about being more proactive for the next legislative session and for MSA to get involved with suggesting legislation that would be beneficial to the shellfish industry. It was decided to do a survey of the membership to identify areas of concern. Maybe one could be passed out at the Forum. David Etnier from DMR has been passing along hearing dates.

Item 6 Membership- several new members have been received. Two were on forms downloaded from the web site.

Item 7 Other items

Stan and April reported on a meeting of the Scarborough Shellfish committee where local harvesters expressed concern about the continued closure of the Nonsuch river in Scarborough.

Dan passed on reports that there are some difficulties being encountered with some of the payments for the Red Tide Disaster Program. Arthur Alley reported on a meeting of harvesters in Jonesport that are very concerned about the same subject. There was discussion about the need for a meeting with DMR staff to discuss these concerns coming from the industry. Jim will talk to DMR leadership to set something up.

Next meeting March 6

Adjourn at 12:15