

Maine Seafood Alliance
Directors' Meeting
October 31, 2007 10:00 A.M.
Down East RC&D Office-Cherryfield
Minutes

Present: Jim Markos, Dan Rogde, Randy Ramsdell, Cecil Wood, Stan Bayley, April Bayley, Julie Keene, Frank Batson, Carol Woodcock (Senator Collins staff, Sara Stevens, congressman Michaud's staff.

Item 1 Minutes of May 11 meeting, action postponed to next meeting (Gary forgot to print copies)

Item 2 Treasurer's Report- Balance of \$3,849.42

Item 3 Meeting Schedule- the board agreed to meet in Cherryfield the second Tuesday of the month in Cherryfield. Conference call meetings will be called as needed between regular meetings. The next 4 meetings will be Dec. 11, January 8, Feb. 12, March 11.

Item 4 Water Quality Program Review – Jim & Julie have been serving on the Industry Advisory Panel (IAP) that has been assisting with the process. They both expressed that the process has been good so far with plenty of input from the IAP. The review team is in the field this week looking at sites in Southern Maine, mid-coast and Machias Bay. The Review Team and IAP will be meeting in Lamoine on Friday 11/2 for a wrap up session. The team will then prepare it's final report. One point that Jim made is that no matter the results of the review, the process can be a vehicle that can lead to a coming together of the industry. The Boards agreed and sees this as an opportunity for MSA to take a leadership role in such an effort.

Item 5 Shellfish Committee survey-meetings- DERC&D is working with a UMM student, Frank Batson, and an advisory team to survey shellfish committees in Washington & Hancock counties to identify areas of concern. The plan then is to host a series of regional meetings to discuss the results and explore opportunities for communities to work together. MSA will be asked to participate in these meetings.

Item 6 Dragging in the intertidal zone – Gary reported on an effort to introduce legislation in the upcoming special session to better control mussel dragging in the Intertidal Zone. At the request of Milbridge and other communities Senator Kevin Raye proposed an amendment to the Municipal shellfish Committee law that would add mussels to the species that a municipality can include in its local ordinance. The bill was voted down by the Legislative Council but there is an appeal process. DMR has some options it is exploring. This generated some spirited discussion. There were a lot of questions concerning what practices are taking place for what purpose(s). The consensus was that this is an issue affecting several parts of the industry and merited further study and action by MSA. Congressional staff members Carol Woodcock and Sara Stevens took special interest in this issue and asked to be kept up to date and offered whatever assistance they could provide.

Item 7 Membership – The Board briefly discussed ways to increase membership to better represent the industry. This discussion led to ideas for the annual meeting and events at the Fishermen's Forum. (see next item)

Item 8 Annual meeting – The Board is planning to hold the annual meeting at the Fishermen’s Forum. The discussion about membership led to a discussion about MSA working with the Soft-shell Clam advisory Council, Maine Clammers Association (MCA) and any other partners to expand the program on “clam day” at the Forum as a way to improve the shellfish industry. Gary will contact prospective partners to try and get some started. Denis expressed interest in the concept and expected several groups to be interested. **The Forum is Feb. 28 & 28, March 1, 2008.**

Next meeting: **Tuesday December 11**, RC&D office in Cherryfield.

Adjourn - 11:50

Treasurer’s Report
March 20, 2007

<u>Balance Forward</u>	\$7,052.41
<u>Credits:</u>	
Memberships & renewals	<u>1,225.00</u>
	\$8,275.00
<u>Debits:</u>	
Postage	78.00
Web Page	140.00
Conference Call	92.19
Legal Fees	117.70
Review Contribution	<u>4,000.00</u>
	\$4,427.89
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$3,849.52