

Maine Seafood Alliance
Directors' Meeting
December 11, 2007 10:00 A.M.
Down East RC&D Office-Cherryfield
Agenda

Present: Jim Markos, Steve Beatham, Dan Rogde, Stan Bayley, April Bayley, Dave Corbeau-Scarborough Marine Officer, Denis-Marc Nault-DMR, Frank Batson, Gary Edwards-DERC&D.

Item 1 Minutes of October 31: Motion by Dan, second by Stan, all in favor.

Item 2 Treasurer's Report: accepted as presented

Item 3: PEER Review of DMR Water Quality Program-Jim and others: The Draft report of the review team was sent to Jim on 12/11, he will send it to Gary for distribution to the Board. Anyone who has comments may send them to Jim who will forward them to Valy Steverlynck for submittal to the Industry Advisory Panel (IAP). Jim provided the following summary points:

- DMR is not exceeding minimum ISSC standards
- DMR is under funded
- Report calls for two meetings a year between DMR and the industry
- Report recommends an advisory council
- Several specific technical points were included

Dave Corbeau and Jim agreed that the process was good. Jim emphasized that the Industry needs to work better together and communicate better with DMR. He believes that the direction MSA has taken is the right track to be part of the process. Note: there is a copy of the Executive Summary of the Report attached to these minutes and there will be a discussion about the report on Clam Day at the Fishermen's Forum.

Item 3 Shellfish Committee Project: Frank Batson provided an updated copy of the survey results. There are regional shellfish meetings scheduled in Machias at UMM on January 10 and at the Sullivan Town Office on January 17. Both meetings will begin at 5:00 PM. Frank can be reached AT THE RC&D Office for more information

Item 4 Fishermen's Forum: MSA will have a booth at the Forum on February 28, 29 & March 1. The organization will offer to work with the Softshell Clam Advisory Council to start the process of increasing communication within the Industry. Note: A time slot has been secured for Saturday 2/1 at the forum and invitations have gone out to bring together a panel from different industry segments to talk about communication and working together.

Item 5 Dragging in the intertidal zone: The issue of commercial dragging in the intertidal zone has become an issue in the upcoming session of the Legislature. Senators Kevin Raye and Dennis Damon have submitted legislation that will allow more control at the local level and by DMR. The board agreed to monitor progress of the bills and the consensus was that MSA will support needed changes. Note: On December 27 Senator Raye hosted a meeting in Milbridge attended by Senator Damon, Representative Rob Eaton, DMR, and representation from shellfish committees, worm dealers and the Maine Mussel Dragging Association, DERC&D, Washington County COG and Senator Collins office. Both bills were discussed and it was agreed that with some minor modification they would complement each other and be beneficial in resolving conflicts that arise around dragging in the inter-tidal zone.

Item 6 Membership; Dues notices for 2008 will be going out in January. It was agreed that more outreach needs to be done, especially to sectors of the industry not yet involved and other related business like worm harvesting.

Item 7 Annual meeting: The MSA Annual meeting will be held at the Samoset on Clam Day immediately after the afternoon session.

Item 8 Other:

Jim brought up the concept of sustainability in the industry. As with many other resource based industries, consumers are becoming more active in encouraging environmentally sustainable products. This is working its way down through retailers to wholesalers and producers and is becoming a big issue for the shellfish industry.

Legislation: There are several bills in the legislature that will have an effect on the industry. Gary will track progress and provide reports to the membership and post updates on the web site.

Next meeting: **January 8, 2008**

Adjourn: 11:45

Treasurer's Report
December 7, 2007

<u>Balance Forward</u>	\$3,849.52
<u>Credits:</u>	\$ 0.00
<u>Debits:</u>	\$ 0.00
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$3,849.52