

Maine Seafood Alliance Directors
February 9, 2010
9:30 A.M. Sullivan Town Office

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 9:35 by President Jim Markos.

Present: Jim Markos, Cecil Wood, Becky Beal, Jeff Jewell, Ginny Olsen, Darcie Couture, Bruce Chamberlain, Chris Heanssler.

Item 1 Minutes of January 14 meeting- the minutes were reviewed and approved by the board.

Item 2 Legislative update – Little is going on that is a concern to the board. Bills have been posted on the MSA web site. It is still important to watch the budget process to insure the viability of the DMR to meet ISSC/FDA regulations.

Item 3 Mussel Proposal – Discussion of a proposal to the DMR Water Quality program and the Shellfish Advisory to develop a pilot project with the intent to see if there is a way to keep sub tidal mussel beds open during certain rain closures. Gary will talk to Paul Anderson at Sea Grant about a possible partnership with the proposal. Gary & Ginny will continue to draft a proposal.

Item 4 DMR update. Darcie and Bruce brought the board up to date on what is happening at DMR

- ☞ More budget cuts are likely
- ☞ The water quality positions created for ISSC/FDA compliance are filled and the workers getting up to speed. Because of the way the positions are funded they seem to be relatively safe.
- ☞ Red Tide – no news from NOAA on the disaster funds. The names and addresses of officials dealing with this are listed below if you want to communicate with them.
- ☞ Red Tide – NOAA reports indicate that the cyst beds of concern to New England seem to be spreading to the west. There are two major beds, one off Grand Manan and one off Penobscot Bay. Research efforts are focusing on the Eastern Maine blooms. It appears that the problem is not going away soon.

Item 5 Other Business

Chris Heanssler from Deer Isle/Stonington met with the board to discuss a concern of lobster fishermen in that region. There is a proposed rule change that will effect fishermen that live near the B/C zone lines. The concern is that the because zone lines were extended beyond the State limit to the Federal limit that these rule changes will prevent local fisherman from fishing in traditional waters outside the State limit. No action was taken.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10

Next meeting March 9 – Cherryfield Note: there will be a brief annual meeting before the regular meeting begins.