

DRAFT

MINUTES
MEETING
CT SEAFOOD COUNCIL
APRIL 1, 2009
DEP MARINE FISHERIES
OLD LYME
1:30 P.M.

Meeting called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Co-Chair, Mike Theiler.

Members present: David Carey, Bill Clayton, Nancy Balcom, Linda Piotrowicz, D.J. King, Mike Theiler, Eric Smith and Barbara Gordon, Executive Director.

Correction to minutes of meeting of March 4, 2009: third paragraph on Page 1 stricken due to uncertainty of quote.

CO-CHAIR'S REPORT – MIKE THEILER

There is much uncertainty in the industry as a whole. Not much day-caught fish in Stonington. Mike is meeting on April 2 with 30 Coast Guard cadets for a tour of the Stonington dock. Cadets will tour the Bomster scalloping boat.

Re: lobsters: If another gauge increase occurs – shouldn't allowable number of fish to be caught go up?

BUREAU DIRECTOR'S REPORT – DAVID CAREY

Appears that legislation to impose a \$1.00 fee on each bushel of clams and oysters harvested is not advancing in the legislature.

Bureau has special account to cover costs of necessary repairs – money had been a gift – therefore, hopefully, the legislature will not take this money.

A water quality bill, taking the power of water-testing away from the Bureau and giving it to towns, (Rep. Terry Backer's bill) was approved by committee, despite opposition from Bureau.

Some waters have been closed in Darien. Septic systems are not graded, causing many problems,

Boats are back in the water and samplings are being made.

Temperature in Long Island Sound typically reaches 50 degrees around May 1. D.J. King said he has noticed the water is very clear in Branford. Mike Theiler reported the same in Niantic waters.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – BARBARA GORDON

ED has been sending letters out to Congressional offices re: a meeting to be held on May 6 at the National Marine Fisheries building on Rogers Avenue in Milford.

Members will be able to discuss problems facing the industry. Eric Smith suggested members make up lists of specific needs, i.e. the culch program which needs funding, or certain projects on the Stonington dock which could use attention.

Re: Legislative Reception scheduled for May 21, 2009 at the Capitol. Dave Carey reported that Bureau will be unable to participate due to budgetary restrictions, but members expressed interest in proceeding with the event. Eric Smith and Bill Clayton volunteered to assist in opening clams and oysters and ED will follow through with Board member Paul Formica from Flanders Fish Market and Restaurant who had offered to provide lobster bisque. Co-Chair Larry Williams had also previously agreed to provide product.

ED has been monitoring status of funding for Seafood Council in the state budget as well as funding for the V-Notch program and will continue to do so. ED provided each legislator with 2 Seafood Council / Sea Grant brochures as well as a letter requesting that funding be kept in the budget.

Bill Clayton asked why baitfish species are given game-fish recreational status. He will e-mail Dave Simpson (DEP) for a reply.

OLD BUSINESS

Dave Carey met with Coast Guard representatives re: ticketing of fishermen who allegedly violated the 75/25 percent issue re: illegal employees on boats. Some tickets were given in error. Employees must have legal registered work status. They must be citizens or registered aliens. Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) has been monitoring boats.

Nancy Balcom reported that she and Tessa Getchis of Sea Grant held an event discussing the consumption of fish. Event was attended by dieticians; there was much input. Training will begin in a couple of months for all interested parties.

NEW BUSINESS

Dave Carey reported that Inka Sunila of the Bureau staff, has been participating in disease resistant seed research with other states. MSX showed up in the testing, but thankfully, not in CT seed. CT could however, be at risk, so may stop participating in the program.

April 6 is the deadline to apply for habitat restoration funding from the stimulus package.

Linda Piotrowicz of the Department of Agriculture Marketing Division, spoke of a good relationship with WICC radio – on the talk radio show mornings from Bridgeport. Station will do a Farmers' Market of the week segment.

Also Diane Smith, former co-host on WTIC will be doing a weekly show on CPTV. She is very interested in CT product and farmers' markets.

No further business, motion to adjourn, seconded, approved. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Gordon.
Executive Director