

Minutes

CT Seafood Council Meeting

September 10, 2008 1P.M.

Bureau of Aquaculture, Milford CT

Members present: Bill Clayton, Mike Theiler, Art Medeiros, DJ King,

Others: Courtney Hermann, Linda Piotrowicz, David Carey

Meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Mike Theiler at 1:30 P.M.

Minutes of June 4, 2008 meeting were reviewed and accepted as presented by members present.

Co-Chairs Report- Mike Theiler

Marking product as CT-Grown or Caught and developing a local demand for it. Contacted five buyers and only one called back from Rhode Island. CT, NY, MA did not respond. The Seafood Council needs to open up dialogue with local buyers and distributors. Industry should work together on name branding.

Discussion moved to utilizing Agriculture's marketing department and Linda's radio contacts for free advertising and publicity. She works with Diane and Ray, Phil Mikan, and Colin McEnroe radio personalities and has had great success. Industry needs to personalize their product.

Chef's Event held at the Bureau of Aquaculture facility went extremely well after the conclusion of the heavy rains at 8:30 am. The Industry speakers as well as the chefs exchanged information and ideas on the shortcomings of the availability of CT product to them. The Seafood Council needs to continue to develop that name brand and medium sized distribution network.

Bureau Director Carey reported the shellfish industry as well as the commercial fish and lobster industry were extremely lucky with the effects of Hurricane Gustav. The rainfall closed all shellfish grounds; however significant winds and tidal flows did not materialize. No damage has been reported.

- Seafood Council booth at Big-E on September 23, 2008 a Tuesday, not CT day. Barbara Gordon reported that the lobstermen's Association through Bart Mansi would prepare the Lobster bisque. David will obtain the necessary serving containers and spoons. Scallops will be purchased from Mike Gambardella. Clams and oysters will be purchased from the east, central, and west in order to show the variety. Carey will ask member Larry Williams for the donation of his refrigerated van for

the day. Jim Citak will contact the Massachusetts health department in order to ensure all their conditions will be met. The Banner for the council will be displayed. The lobster men will be given a parking pass, the refrigerated van will need one, and the state van will need the third. Others should get receipts and submit for reimbursement. Tickets will be mailed to those who indicate they will show. Park near Gate number 1.

Carey reported for Executive Director Gordon: She has contacted the majority leader of the Senate informing him that an at large member can be appointed by his position. Reportedly she was attempting to get a mid size distributor appointment as that portion of the industry is currently not represented on the council.

Old Business: Discussion on the dates and time of the regular council meetings occurred. Following the discussion DJ King moved the consensus opinion of those present that the CT Seafood Advisory council would meet the 1st Wednesday of the month at 1:30 P.M. alternating between Milford and Old Lyme (DEP). Reminder notices will go out one week in advance. The motion was seconded by Bill Clayton and the motion unanimously passed. Carey reported that a new state ethics law requires the meeting dates, agenda, and minutes must now be on the Agriculture website. Draft minutes within seven days of meeting.

New Business:

Bill Clayton reported that the public is stealing commercial fishing and trapping gear. He believes the penalty should be greater than a \$75.00 infraction. Desires the hunter harassment law to apply. This is a long legislative session and proposals must be submitted now unless a local legislator is used. The House Speaker and chairmanship of House Environment Committee is likely to change. Art Medeiros reported fuel prices of \$3.35 a gallon. Very pleased but disturbed that the industry is faced with being pleased with that high price.

Art Medeiros moved to adjourn at 2:55 P.M. and D.J King seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Minutes prepared by David Carey