

# MLA's 2011 REVIEW

## January

- MLA submits written comments to the Congressional Delegation in support of funds to continue lobster surveys.
- MLA's Director continues his participation on the Stellwagen Bank Sanctuary's Advisory Council (the SAC). Bill represents the fixed gear commercial fishermen.
- MLA holds yet another successful Annual Weekend and lobster trade show. The event is the only such one that is run by a single Association in New England.
- The MLA which was able to get Mass lobstermen included in the Federal TAA program and kicks off the first meeting of the projects sign-up at the MLA Annual Weekend event.

## February

- MLA's Director meets Congressman's Frank's Aide, Garth Paterson, on a number of concerns the Association has on the federal level. These include the SNE lobster issue, federal funds for marketing and research, the ESA and MMPA (whale) issues, windfarm projects and the Stellwagen Sanctuary's "designation".
- MLA's Director continues his participation representing the Association on the Lobster Institute's Board of Advisors. Bill is the Chairman of this international board.
- MLA's director is the speaker at the Marshfield Historical Society's lecture series. The topic is the history of the lobster and fishing industry in Marshfield. Bill, as usual, gives them all they ever wanted to know, *and more*, and had the MLA material to give out.
- MLA's President, Bernie Feeney, MLA's Sec/Tres Dave Casoni and MLA's Beth Casoni participate in the first "open meeting" held by the State on establishment of a buy local (Mass) initiative creating a market in Boston. Lobster would be one of the products featured.
- MLA's Director continues his participation representing the Association on the Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance (NAMA) Board of Trustees.

## March

- The NMFS Protected Resources Dept holds a whale sub-group meeting for the Northeast. MLA's Executive Director as also a member of the federal whale Take Reduction team takes part in the meeting.
- The MLA Delegates elect the Association's officers for the 2011-2012 term. Bernie Feeney is reelected as president, Sooky Sawyer is reelected as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Gary Ostrom is reelected as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Dave Casoni is reelected as Sec/Tres.
- The MLA Delegates also reelect all incumbents for the Association's Executive Committee. Reelected were-

Area 1 Sue Michaud  
Area 2 Steve Holler  
Area 3 John Barrett  
Area 4 Stays vacant  
Area 5 Bill Souza

- MLA's Director meets with Congressman Keating's Aide, Kevin Hough, on a number of issues including the SNE lobster issue, federal funds for marketing and research, the ESA and MMPA (whale) issues, windfarm projects and the Stellwagen Sanctuary's "designation".
- The MLA voices its opposition to 8 state legislative bills that would ban the commercial harvesting of striped bass.
- MLA's Sec/Tres, Dave Casoni, attends the Lobster Institutes *Town Meeting* representing the Association. This year's meeting was held in St. John New Brunswick (Can).

## March cont.

- MLA's Director continues his participation on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Bill is the "Governor's Appointee" from Massachusetts and one of the three Commissioners from the state.
- MLA's President, Bernie Feeney, MLA's Sec/Tres Dave Casoni and MLA's Beth Casoni attend the International Seafood Show held in Boston at the Convention center. They also attend a meeting held by the National Seafood Marketing Coalition where Eric Schwaab, NOAA's Assistant Administrator for Fisheries and Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA's Fisheries Service or NMFS) is the key note speaker.

## April

- MLA's Director continues his participation on the Mass Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission (MFC) and the Mass Ocean Partnership (MOP). Bill is one of the 9 members on the MFC and the only one representing the lobster industry. Bill is also the only commercial fishing rep on the MOP Governing Board.
- MLA continues to work with state Rep. Jim Cantwell's office on supporting the Buoy Bill and the lobster processing legislation and continues to voice the Association's opposition that would ban the commercial harvesting of striped bass in the state.
- MLA meets Senator Scott Brown focusing on a number of federal issues of concern to the Association. In attendance at this meeting is MLA's President Bernie Feeney, MLA's Sec/Tres Dave Casoni, MLA member Jim Knott, MLA's Beth Casoni and MLA's Director Bill Adler.

## May

- MLA awards nine educational grants to children of MLA members. The grants are in memory of Robert A. Wheeler.
- MLA's Director continues his participation on the Lobster Institute's Board of Advisors. Bill is the Chairman of this international board.
- MLA meets with the state Dept. of Agriculture on its Commonwealth Quality Program where lobster was added to the list. *The Buy local, Buy fresh* is on a roll. Besides the state's DOA representative, the meeting includes MLA's Beth Casoni, Dave Casoni and Executive Director Bill Adler.
- The court case filed by Max Strahan against Plymouth lobsterman Dan Holmes (Whale issue) is dismissed by the court. The MLA has been defending Dan on this case. Max, however, files another suit regarding whales although this time, it's against the state.
- MLA's Director continues his participation on the Stellwagen Sanctuary's Advisory Council. Bill and his alternate, Dave Casoni, represent the fixed gear commercial sector on the Council.
- MLA's Director is interviewed "live" on Fox TV which was featuring Marshfield. The subject, Marshfield's lobster and fishing industry.

## June

- MLA attends a Senator Brown event at Riverdale Mills. This is yet another chance to push the MLA's issues in the federal level. The MLA is represented by MLA's Beth Casoni, MLA's Vice President Sooky Sawyer, MLA's Sec/Tres Dave Casoni and Executive Director Bill Adler.
- MLA's Director takes part in a meeting on proposed windfarm projects in the Southern New England Area. Bill reiterates the fishermen's concerns regarding placing these windmills in fishing areas which could restrict fishing. It is emphasized that (1) fishermen should be at the table in initial discussions of any proposal and that fishermen must be able to receive compensation if they are adversely affected by any project.
- MLA has its booth at the WROR sponsored See New England event in Boston. The MLA was, of course, promoting Mass caught lobster. The MLA booth was staffed by MLA's Beth Casoni, and MLA Delegate Jeff Bartlett. The usual MLA promotional material is handed out to everyone who stopped by the booth.

## June cont.

- MLA's President, Bernie Feeney, along with MLA's Beth Casoni are "live" on WROR's *Loren and Wally* radio show promoting locally caught lobster.
- MLA again holds its Lobster Day at the State house event. This promotional event is designed to call attention to the state legislators of how important "LOBSTER" is to the Commonwealth. The MLA booth was manned by MLA's Beth Casoni, President Bernie Feeney, Vice President Sooky Sawyer, Sec/Tres Dave Casoni and MLA director Bill Adler. Thank you to all the MLA members who came and supported the event.
- MLA's Director again gives a presentation on lobster to high school biology teachers sponsored by the Environmental Learning Center's Outward Bound Program.

## July

- MLA again has its booth at this year Plymouth Blessing of the Fleet event. This is yet another promotional activity designed to educate the public on lobster. The booth is manned by MLA's Beth Casoni, Dave Casoni, Delegate Bob Ward and Director Bill Adler.
- MLA's Director continues his participation on the Mass Ocean Partnerships (MOP) Governing Board and a member of the Board of Trustees on the Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance (NAMA).
- The MLA sponsored *Lobster Foundation of Massachusetts* start to roll. The Foundation is a 501c3 entity designed to solicit grants for lobster research and educational projects.
- MLA's Director delivers oral comments on the Federal NMFS scoping meeting in Plymouth on its proposals for more whale protection. Bill does not suggest any new ideas but explains why fishermen need to have buoys to fish and why it is felt that they have done all that they should for the cause of saving whales. MLA's Sec/Tres Dave Casoni and other fishermen also make their points on the issue.
- MLA's Beth Casoni goes to Washington, D.C to meet Senator Brown, Senator Kerry and Rep. Keating's aides to discuss the importance of supporting the National Seafood Marketing Coalition. Bruce Schactler and Kevin Adams from the Coalition are also a part of these meetings. The day ended with a meeting with Senator Lisa Murkowski (AK) who is sponsoring this bill. The uphill push continues!!!
- MLA's Vice President, Sooky Sawyer, also contributes his thoughts on the NMFS whale scoping meeting held in Gloucester.
- MLA's, Steve Holler is featured on Chronicle on WCVB promoting lobsters. *He's now a movie star!!*

## August

- MLA's Director as one of the Commissioners from Mass. to the ASMFC continues his participation on that Commission. Bill is involved in the ASMFC's Lobster, Herring, Menhaden Boards as well as other species managed by the Commission, many of which do impact Massachusetts lobster fishermen.
- MLA gears up for another MLA Annual Weekend in 2012. The MLA Annual Weekend Committee works on plans for the event.
- MLA's President, Bernie Feeney, and MLA's Beth Casoni participate in an "open meeting" held by the State on establishment of a buy local (Mass) initiative creating a market in Boston. Lobster would be one of the products featured.
- MLA's Sec/Tres, Dave Casoni, gives a presentation on the lobster industry to a group from the Mass. Audubon in Duxbury.
- MLA member, Bill Chaprales, is featured on the Discovery Channel's "shark week". *Here's another movie star" from the MLA.*
- MLA meets Senator Scott Brown focusing on a number of federal issues of concern to the Association. In attendance at this meeting is MLA's President Bernie Feeney, MLA's Sec/Tres Dave Casoni and MLA's Beth Casoni. This event is held at MLA member Jim Knotts house in Cape Ann.

## September

- MLA's Director is the only commercial fishing representative on the *Mass. Ocean Plan Regulatory Advisory Group* established by the Sec of Environmental and Energy to work on regulations for the Ocean Plan (windfarms, pipelines etc) projects. Bill is trying to make sure fishermen are able to be at the table to consult on these projects and possibly receive mitigation funds if such projects, if proposed, adversely affect fishermen.
- MLA's Director continues his participation on the Stellwagen Sanctuary's Advisory Council. Bill and Dave Casoni as his official alternate represent the fixed gear commercial fishing representatives on the council.
- MLA continues its representation on the *Mass Fishermen's Partnership* MFP, a statewide commercial fishermen Association. Bill Adler represents the MLA Association on the MFP Board.
- MLA contacts Mass supermarket chains such as Roche Bros and the Mass Restaurant Assoc to push for more local lobster sales to hopefully increase demand for lobster as local boat prices plummet. The request is to feature locally caught lobster. MLA sends out lobster promotional material to bolster the request.
- MLA's Director discusses with Sen. Kerry's Aide, Amy Kerrigan, the many issues concerning the MLA and its members. These issues include the lack of progress on the TAA program, the Southern New England lobster issue, the need to revamp the ESA and MMPA (whale issues), the Stellwagen Sanctuary Designation, federal funds for lobster research projects, support for the National Seafood Marketing Coalition legislation and even support to help the Boston Harbor clam diggers in their controversy with Mass Port.
- MLA has its booth at the 2011 New Bedford Working Waterfront Festival. This is another promotional and educational event aimed at public awareness. MLA's Sec/Tres again gives his presentation for the public on the lobster industry and fishery. The booth is manned by Dave, Beth Casoni, Julia Logan, Wendy Moran and Bill Adler.
- MLA's Director continues his involvement on behalf of the MLA on the international Lobster Institute. Bill continues his position as Chairman of the Board on the Institute.
- MLA's Beth Casoni is promoted to Associate Executive Director – Congratulations Beth!

## October

- MLA submits written comments to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries (ASMFC) regarding the proposed Addendum XVII dealing with the Southern New England lobster stock area. This includes Lobster Management Areas 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. The Association's position is in support of whatever the Lobster Conservation Management Teams (LCMT) decides they want to do. These LCMT's are made up of fishermen from those areas.
- MLA continues to monitor and work with state legislators on moving the so-called Buoy Bill (H1851) to passage and also continues to lobby for a frozen lobster processing Bill. A Bill is filed by state Rep. Jim Cantwell (D-Marshfield-Scituate). The Bill, if passed would allow the "sale" of processed lobster products in the Commonwealth.
- MLA again has its booth at the Wellfleet Oyster Festival. This is another Promotional and educational event towards the public. The two day event is manned by MLA's Beth Casoni and MLA Executive Committee member John Carver his wife Karen Carver, Bill Souza and Steve Holler. The booth is also manned by MLA member Lori Caron. Thank you to the many MLA members who stopped by to say "hi" and show your support.
- MLA's Director continues his participation on the state's Secretary of EOEEA's *Ocean Plan Regulatory Advisory Group*. Bill is the only fishing representative on the group and continues to push for the commercial fishermen's ability to seek compensation for any ocean project (windmill/pipelines etc) that adversely affects fishermen.

## October Cont.

- The Governor declares October 11<sup>th</sup> as officially Mass Lobster Day in the Commonwealth. The MLA had worked on this proclamation for several months. Similar to past year's thanks is extended to the Governor's office, state Senator Bob Hedlund and State Rep. Jim Cantwell for getting this to happen.
- Still on the move, the MLA has its booth at the Boston Local Food Festival. The MLA promotional material is again given out and "lobster" was the surprise seafood given to the chefs to prepare for the Seafood Throw down. At the event the Mass Dept of Agriculture again announces the addition of locally caught lobster to the state's Commonwealth Quality Program (CQP). MLA's Dave Casoni gives his "famous" talk on lobster to the public. The booth is manned by Dave Casoni, Beth Casoni, MLA's Robin and Rich Rowell, Tracey Abboud, Steve Holler and Bill Adler.
- MLA's Director is the featured speaker at a meeting of the group, *The Friends of Belle Isle Marsh* held in Winthrop. Everything you wanted to know about lobster. Bill has the MLA material to give out at the event.
- MLA's Sec/Tres Dave Casoni is asked to speak on a panel for the Italian Delegation visiting from Sicily at the Boston public Library in the North End. The panel was comprised of fishing delegates from Sicily on the need for more awareness on keeping resources sustainable. Dave explained how the Massachusetts lobster fishery is managed to keep the resource sustainable. The event was well attended and MLA's Beth Casoni and Linda Grindle from the LFoM also attend the event and hand out MLA educational information.

## November

- MLA's Director continues his participation as the Governor's appointee (Commissioner) on the ASMFC. This time the big issue is the Southern New England lobster (SNE) issue. How to keep our fishermen in business.
- MLA continues its planning for the 2012 Annual Weekend event. This requires a lot of work on the part of the Association.
- MLA voices its opposition to a proposed state Legislative bill to revamp the state's boat excise tax law. The proposal if ever passed would cost lobster fishermen more money. The Association also continues its support for the lobster processing bill, the buoy bill and its opposition to bills that would ban the commercial harvesting of striped bass in the state.
- MLA's Director continues his participation on the Mass Fisheries Partnerships association. Bill represents the MLA on the statewide fishermen's Association.

## December

- The buoy Bill (H1851) is finally moved out of the state Senate's Rules Committee is "engrossed" in the legislative and moves on to final approval by the Governor. The MLA has pushed for passage of this state legislation. On Dec 8<sup>th</sup> the Bill is signed into law by the Lt. Governor.
- MLA's Director is asked by the state's Division of Marine Fisheries to attend a hearing by the Secretary of Environmental and Energy Affairs to help try to stop further budget cuts to agencies under the Secretary EOEEA. These agencies include Marine Fisheries, The Office of Environmental Law Enforcement and the Dept of Agriculture. All these agencies are important to the lobster industry. Bill attends and speaks on behalf of the MLA in support of maintaining budget levels for these Departments and Divisions and afterwards submits written comments on the issue.

## December cont.

- The MLA sponsored *Lobster Foundation of Massachusetts* (LFoM) continues to move along on seeking grant money for the lobster projects important to the industry. Linda Rutherford-Grindle had been hired as the Executive Director for the LFoM in September and is now hard at work searching out the funds needed to move the LFoM forward.
- MLA submits written comments to the NMFS on its proposed rule on lobster management in federal waters in Area 1. The Association supports the proposal to limit new entrants into the trap fishery in the area. This proposal was actually recommended by the Area 1 LCMTs and later was adopted by the ASMFC in Addendum XV. This was NMFS playing catch up to what had been adopted earlier by the states Commission.

And the MLA beat goes on!!!!!!!!!!

