

Draft Minutes

CT Seafood Council Meeting

October 1, 2008 1:30 P.M.

DEP Marine Headquarters Old Lyme

Members present: Bill Clayton, Mike Theiler, Art Medeiros, Larry Williams, Paul Formica,

Others: Nancy Balcom, Donald Bell, Courtney Hermann, Linda Piotrowicz, David Carey

Meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Mike Theiler at 1:40 P.M.

Minutes of September 10, 2008 meeting were reviewed and amended by consensus of members present. Art Medeiros moved acceptance as corrected, Larry Williams provided a second. Motion carried. Paul Formica abstained as he was absent from the meeting.

Co-Chairs Report- Larry Williams

Spoke of developing new markets as New York market saturated. Looking to move Top Necks. Has been moving Tops at local farm markets and people have shown interest. Has pictures defining farming operation. Has creativity as an asset, utilizes dry clam shells on side table for children to paint. The 3 .lb bag most popular sale.

Business trip to Canada for boat acquisition highlighted the importance of commercial salmon and lobster fishermen to the local economy, similar to Maine. Culturally different environment.

Co-Chair: Mike Theiler:

Research grants are now available for the Long Island Sound area. Collaborative research projects. Mike may work with Kathy Castrol of URI. Sea-grant held an informational meeting on the funds available from NMFS. Pairs up industry with researcher to solve a problem. Deadline is November 3rd.

Larry Williams mentioned that he was working on such a research project in conjunction with the East Coast Shellfish Growers and the research institute at NMFS, Milford Lab. No scientific data exists on the effects of shellfish cultivation on certain substrates. Hope to develop expert witness data. The study will be on grounds he has farmed for 25 years. Identify impacts long and short term. Comprehensive information gathered.

Old Business:

Board members present have no objections to meeting schedule and time.

Bill Clayton requested the council work to expand the protection of commercial fishing gear by adding all gear types not just lobster pots. He will provide a list on inland fish gear types.

New Business:

Lind P spoke of the Department of Agriculture's AG Viability Grants for individual farms and municipalities with current applications due November 14th.

Conversation on marketing ideas continued. Linda P stated would like to bring a chef to a farm market to do seminar.

Paul Formica would like the council to continue work on development of a market or end use for Top necks. Develop a frozen clam casino package. Work with Culinary Institute or Chef's Institute with a Top Neck challenge utilizing product donated by council. Sponsor a demonstration event with a specialized menu.

Expansion of marketing labeling ensured. Nancy Balcom had an idea of Seafood Council partnering with Sea-grant on cold storage bags for frozen foods that could be sold or provided to seafood vendors at farm market. Request marketing department of the availability of Ct grown grant funds.

Further discussion occurred on the development or expansion of the Farm Link website to link the harvesters, wholesalers, and restaurants of seafood products on a website. Harvesters could post expected harvest of various types of fish which then restaurants would be able to agree to purchase and develop a menu based on seasonal availability. The department has sufficient funds to further develop the farm link programs.

No further business meeting was moved to adjourn at 3:14 P.M. by Co-chair mike Theiler.

Minutes prepared by David Carey