

Bay State Council of Divers

Meeting Minutes for February 8, 2006

Meeting held at the South Shore Neptunes' Clubhouse, Quincy.
(Minutes taken by Mary Howard)

The most recent meeting of the Bay State Council was held on February 8th at the South Shore Neptunes' clubhouse in Quincy.

Members of the Bay State Council have been working with the Quincy Police department to see about borrowing better camera equipment for doing preliminary surveys of the ocean floor in possible locations for an artificial reef.

The next subject for discussion was the status of the dive industry, noting that numbers of recreational divers are down. The question was raised about how to encourage younger divers and how to incorporate them into dive clubs. The suggestion was made to have "youth memberships" in the dive clubs, and noting that clubs had to be careful not to become baby sitters.

Victor Mastone of the MA Board of Underwater Archeological Resources (BUAR) commented that the eelgrass harvesting and replanting around harbor islands is ongoing. Post pipeline, a site has been permitted for an artificial reef off of Hypocrite Reef. There will be a presentation on this project on Sunday afternoon at Sea Rovers.

Ted Maney of Northeastern University mentioned that a group of students from Northeastern will be trained to instruct members of dive clubs in the identification of invasive species. They will ask for reports from divers, therefore providing for better monitoring of the spread and increase of these species.

Vincent Malkoski of the MA Division of Marine Fisheries gave an update on topics that he and his department are monitoring, including the Cape Wind Farm project. He also brought up the issue of "tickle sticks". He said that at times he is asked the definition of a tickle stick and says there really isn't one, but the queriers are relieved to find that it does not allow for a snare. A legal definition of tickle sticks may be written into the MA state laws in the near future.

The next meeting of the Bay State Council will be held on May 3rd at 7:30 at the Neptunes' clubhouse in Quincy,