

Bay State Council of Divers

Meeting Minutes for August 20, 2014

Meeting held at the SSN's Clubhouse, Quincy, MA 7:45-9:00PM

Attendees:

Paul	Adler	East Coast Divers
John	Blackadar	SSN - 781-826-4696
Jim	Brady	OCA
Bill	Burchill	SSN
Angelo	Correnti	SSN / BSC President
Theresa	Czerepica	SSN
Ken	Hayes	SSN
Mary	Howard	NSF / BSC Secretary
Ted	Maney	Salem State U
James	Nannery	MWDC
Lisa J.	Smith	MWDC
Mike	Vaughan	SSN
Douglas	Eaton	SSN
Gary	Greenberg	SSN
Chris	Hugo	CMA

Clubs and organizations represented include:

Central Mass Aquanauts (CMA)
MetroWest Dive Club (MWDC)
North Shore Frogmen (NSF)
Old Colony Amphibians (OCA)
Salem State University
South Shore Neptunes (SSN)

Cashes Ledge

Lisa Smith of MWDC came to talk to the Council about the situation at Cashes Ledge. Cashes Ledge has been protected since 2002 and 2004. Fishermen would like to open the area to trawling. Lisa has been speaking with Priscilla Brooks of the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) about their efforts to keep the area protected. Tonight Lisa is asking that the BSC and dive clubs prepare letters indicating our request that Cashes ledge stay protected, since the length of time that the Ledge has been protected is not enough time for fish species to have rebounded. The Draft Environmental Impact Study is out from New England Fisheries Management Council, and is expected to be out for comment by mid-September. NOAA usually ends up approving what the Fisheries Management Council proposes.

Ted Maney did research diving on Cashes Ledge in '88-'95, and could see the fish numbers decreasing over that time period. The numbers are much less now.

There are four proposals: From "Get rid of every restriction" to "leave it as it is"; one option would redefine the protected area such that less than ¼ of the current area is left protected.

Our letters should request that the restrictions stay the same as they have been for the last 10 years, keeping them at the status quo. Letters should be sent as soon as the comment period opens. Send letters to John Bullard at NOAA NE. Lisa recommends contacting Patricia Fiorelli, public relations at NE fisheries, to sign on to link for notifications of the status of the impact study.

Individuals should go to the CLF website and sign their petition.

BSC members at meeting voted to have Mary take a copy of Lisa's letter and write it up for the BSC to send out. Mary was authorized to send letter without Council review. (But she will consult with Ted Maney and Vin Malkoski.) Mary will also forward her letter to the BSC members so other clubs can send similar letters.

There was a suggestion to have a booth at the BSC Treasure Hunt with copies of the CLF petition for divers to sign at the event. We could invite Priscilla Brooks to attend.

2014 BSC Treasure Hunt: September 28, 2014

We need some people to go to dive shops to see about getting prizes for the event.

All the dive shops have been sent a letter from John Blackadar describing what BSC has been doing, along with copies of the flyer. If you spend money at a shop, be sure they have our flyer displayed!

John is looking for people to ask dive shops for donations. Be sure to tell shop owners that if they gives any prize, they can set up a table at the Treasure Hunt with advertising (trips, stuff, etc), but cannot sell. If you bring a group of divers, you can set up a table.

The North Shore Frogmen and MetroWest provide food for their club members and their families. Others pay \$5. Monies brought in are shared between the two clubs providing the food.

Safety people: Ted Maney & Vin Malkoski. Mary will bring kayak.

Angelo will do the yelling and will get the objects to put in the water.

We should push the food drive for Cape Ann Food Pantry. MW member will be in charge and take care of delivering the food. The purpose of having the food drive is to promote good will between city of Gloucester and SCUBA divers.

Mary will send this food drive info to Michael Prange for website.

Minot's Light Plaque – This is a commemorative plaque to the two men who died at Minots Ledge Lighthouse when the lighthouse was destroyed in a storm in April, 1851. The plaque had been attached to a rock (in 2007?), but was subsequently dislodged and lost. It was found by a firefighter diver who gave it to Victor Mastone of the Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources who has had it ever since. US Coast Guard would like this put back; they will provide the mechanism (boat). John Blackadar said we need to get the plaque and figure out how to mount it. And WE will mark where the plaque is so it doesn't get lost again. This is being done for the BSC, not just the SSN. Blackie thought the plaque would be here tonight to show us, but it was not. Maybe we can get someone to video (TV Station?) the event.

Exempt Shipwreck List – Victor Mastone wants divers to check out and monitor the wrecks on this list. He is not here tonight.

Diver **Anna Krowczynska** passed away diving in Maine about two weeks ago.

Next meetings

Sept 17 – to go over stuff for Treasure Hunt – bring prizes, deal with glitches and correct any problems.

October 15 - to review how the Treasure Hunt went.

Action Items:

Mary to send out emails:

- Mary – send Cape Ann food drive info to Michael Prange for website. – done 8/20/14
- General BSC announcement about upcoming meetings – done 8/20/14
- Letter from Lisa Smith to be reviewed when received for edits/updates, then to be sent to John Bullard of NOAA NE.