

Bay State Council of Divers

Meeting Minutes for February 25, 2015

Meeting held at the SSN's Clubhouse, Quincy, MA 7:44-8:33PM

Attendees:

Paul	Adler	Independent
John	Blackadar	SSN
Jim	Brady	OCA
Steven	Bonarrigo	SSN
Angelo	Correnti	SSN / BSC President
Teresa	Czerepica	SSN
John A.	DeMasi III	Guest
Ken	Hayes	SSN
Teri	Hayes	SSN
Mary	Howard	NSF / BSC Secretary
Matthew	Lawrence	
Vin	Malkoski	DMF / Sea Rovers
Mike	Vaughan	SSN
Jeannine	Willis	SSN

Organizations represented include:

MA Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF)
North Shore Frogmen (NSF)
Sea Rovers
South Shore Neptunes (SSN)
Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary

Info on Commercial trap transfers – comment period

Angelo suggests people check it out, see if you want to make comments.

White's Beach in Manchester – residential parking only all year

Whitey Baun, used to be Aqualung rep, lives in the area. Vinny and Paul Adler will check with him. We don't know if this is a town beach, or has any Federal funds.

Boston Scuba Show

Vinny and Vic said they would sit at a booth.

Boston Sea Rovers

BSC booth is ready and upstairs ready to go. Space available for booth set-up about 7:30AM on Saturday.

Paul would love do something different to get prizes for the Treasure Hunt. He has written up a letter to give to equipment manufacturers at Sea Rovers. The letter describes briefly the work of the BSC and requests donations to support the Treasure Hunt event.

Question from last year's show. Public comments have made it to the New England Fisheries Management Council; there were in the neighborhood of 200,000 comments. They are now looking at the options in the environmental impact study and weighing the comments. Expect that the Conservation Law Foundation will have a booth at Sea Rovers again this year.

Project for during heavy diving season

Angelo Correnti proposed that the BSC might run some kind of competition, such as a photo contest, or most unusual find, for which the winner would win some kind of prize at the Treasure Hunt in September. The purpose would be to generate more interest in the BSC. This is to be on the agenda for the next BSC meeting.

User survey for usage of NE water by National Ocean Planning

Matt Lawrence (Stellwagen Bank NMS) noted that SeaPlan will be running a survey: Coastal and Marine Recreational Study for New England. The survey should be online and available for individuals by some time in April. He recommends that divers complete the survey with as much dive site information as they can.

The online survey portal – will allow you to draw on a map where you like to dive (for divers) – put in all your favorite dive sites. Ultimately want to find out where people dive.

This project will go to the shoreline, whereas other projects have been for offshore sites.

It has been suggested to SeaPlan that they go to Sea Rovers to start getting the info out; not sure they will do that.

The motivation is “Ocean Planning” including wind farms, etc. There will be a map when all data is compiled. This has been underway since the start of 2015, developing website now.

Matt gave the following info for contact: Kate Longley-Wood – klongley-wood@seaplan.org
The link for the site is <http://www.seaplan.org/project/coastal-and-marine-recreational-study-for-new-england/>

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary: Matthew Lawrence

The Sanctuary put another mooring this past summer, on the Heroic, which burned and sank in 1959, and planning to put out another this year. They saw lots of big hake at the wreck.

Use of the moorings is first come first served. They consist of train wheels with 10ft of chain attached to a large mooring ball. You need to know where they are, but they can be seen with a depth finder. Need to drop divers with a line to have them tie in.

The Patriot is a modern wreck, so you can tie into it, no need for a mooring at this time. Divers were diving on this wreck this summer and a humpback whale swam by them at the bottom – 100ft.

The moorings have been funded by grants, applications written by Matt and Heather Knowles. There are three at this time.

Green Crab – invasive species.

DMF website – good article in latest newsletter

Minots Light Plaque –

Coast Guard really want to help.

Brant Rock, Marshfield

John Blackadar plans to speak with the police chief in Marshfield regarding the situation at Brant Rock beach which now has restrictions on diving. He will suggest that there could be some times that diving would be permitted, such as after 4PM. He will wait until the snow is gone. Marshfield has taken a lot of FEMA money, so he will push to make parking available for the public.

Next meeting

April 8, 2015

Agenda item for next meeting: Proposal for a BSC competition