



ANNE ARUNDEL WATERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 574 CHURCHTON, MD. 20733

PRESIDENT: BILL SCERBO

SECRETARY: JULIA HOWES

VICE PRESIDENT: MIKE CASSIDY

TREASURER: EVELYN NEWMAN

THE ANNE ARUNDEL WATERMEN ASSOCIATION IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, CREATED FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPRESENTING INDEPENDENT WATERMEN LIVING AND WORKING IN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY.

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

A LITTLE STORY- CONTRIBUTED BY CATHERINE THAMES AND MICK BLACKISTONE:

THIS IS A STORY ABOUT FOUR PEOPLE NAMED EVERYBODY, SOMEBODY, ANYBODY AND NOBODY. THERE WAS AN IMPORTANT JOB TO BE DONE AND EVERYBODY WAS SURE THAT SOMEBODY WOULD DO IT. ANYBODY COULD HAVE DONE IT BUT NOBODY DID IT. SOMEBODY GOT ANGRY ABOUT THAT BECAUSE IT WAS EVERYBODY'S JOB. EVERYBODY THOUGHT ANYBODY COULD DO IT, BUT NOBODY REALIZED THAT EVERYBODY WOULDN'T DO IT. IT ENDED UP THAT EVERYBODY BLAMED SOMEBODY WHEN NOBODY DID WHAT ANYBODY COULD HAVE DONE!

DATES TO REMEMBER

MEETINGS—THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH-LOCATION AND TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON, FOOD AND DRINK WILL BE SERVED

CHRISTMAS GATHERING—DECEMBER 20, 2017-6:00PM-8:00PM-BAYSIDE INN, 1246 MAYO ROAD, EDGEWATER, MD. 21037—6:00 – 8:00 COCKTAIL PARTY, APPETIZERS, STEAMED SHRIMP & WINGS, ICED TEA AND SODAS WITH OPEN BAR 6:00-7:00 PLEASE RSVP BY DECEMBER 15, 2017—443-871-4846

EAST COAST COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN'S & AQUACULTURE TRADE SHOW, OCEAN CITY, MD. JANUARY 12, 13 & 14 2018—2018 TRUCK RAFFLE: 2017 FORD F-150 XLC 4X2 PICKUP CALL BILL SCERBO, 410-991-5331, TO PURCHASE TICKETS@ \$100 EA

2018 SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT WILL GO OUT TO THE 12 PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTY IN JANUARY. APPLICATIONS DUE END OF MARCH AND WINNERS ANNOUNCED MAY 1, 2018.

CRABBING SEASON ENDS DECEMBER 15, 2017, ALL POTS MUST BE OUT OF THE WATER BY DECEMBER 31, 2017

NOVEMBER NOTES FROM BILLY!!

JUST ABOUT TWO WEEKS BEFORE THANKSGIVING, NEWS WAS PLASTERED ALL OVER THE MEDIA, REPORTING THAT OVER 150 PEOPLE BECAME ILL AFTER ATTENDING A BEER AND OYSTER FESTIVAL IN OCEAN CITY. THE MEDIA MADE SURE TO MENTION 'OYSTERS' AND 'NO DEATHS' IN THE SAME BREATH. IT WAS JUST ABOUT THE WORST POSSIBLE TIME FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS TO BE IN THE NEWS. AS IT TURNED OUT, EVERYONE GOT SICK FROM NOROVIRUS, NOT A BACTERIAL CONTAMINATION IN THE OYSTERS. NORO, A HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS VIRUS IS NORMALLY SPREAD BY PEOPLE IN CLOSE CONFINES (I.E. CRUISE SHIPS) OR AN INFECTED PERSON HANDLING FOOD. BECAUSE THE SIZE OF THE INFECTION AND THE MEDIA ATTENTION, THE FDA GOT INVOLVED, ALONG WITH MDE. MDE QUICKLY DETERMINED THAT IT WAS NORO AND NOT POLLUTED OYSTERS. HOWEVER, FDA STILL WANTED MARYLAND TO CLOSE THE OYSTER BEDS FROM WHICH THE OYSTERS WERE CAUGHT. MARYLAND REFUSED AND THE FDA BACKED DOWN. OYSTER PR NIGHTMARE AVOIDED.

WHAT CAN WE TAKE FROM THIS? A COUPLE THINGS: 1) MDE DID THEIR JOB, AND IN DOING SO, MINIMIZED AN OYSTER PR NIGHTMARE. 2) NOWHERE IN THE MEDIA WAS THERE A FOLLOW-UP STORY ABSOLVING THE OYSTERS AND THE FISHERY. 3) THE MD. SEAFOOD MARKETING COMMISSION WAS NOT HEARD FROM. WE ARE ALL AWARE THAT THE MEDIA LIKES TO REPORT BAD NEWS. THIS IS NOTHING NEW. HOWEVER, IT IS DISAPPOINTING THAT THE MD. SEAFOOD MARKETING ADVISORY COMMISSION DID NOT STEP IN AND PROVIDE A SWIFT AND DECISIVE RESPONSE IN THE FORM OF A PRESS RELEASE TO ABSOLVE OYSTERS AS THE SOURCE OF THE ILLNESS THAT OCCURRED. OTHERWISE, WHAT ARE WE GETTING FOR THE 'OYSTER MARKETING SURCHARGE' WE PAY EVERY YEAR? SO, IT FALLS TO EACH AND EVERY WATERMAN TO ACT AS SEAFOOD MARKETERS. SO WHEN PEOPLE ASK YOU ABOUT MARYLAND SEAFOOD, TAKE A MINUTE AND LET THEM KNOW. SELL IT. TELL THEM ABOUT WHAT THEY DON'T HEAR IN MAINSTREAM MEDIA. IF YOU DON'T DO IT, APPARENTLY NO ONE WILL. I WILL BE BRINGING THIS UP AT THE NEXT TIDAL FISHERIES ADVISORY MEETING.

BILL SCERBO, PRESIDENT AAWA

REMEMBER TO RENEW AAWA MEMBERSHIP DUES-- \$30.00! SEE YOU AT THE CHRISTMAS GATHERING DECEMBER 20, 2017 AT BAYSIDE INN.

HOLIDAY BOAT DECORATING CONTEST—DECEMBER 21, 2017—MORE DETAILS AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE---LOCATION: ANCHORED INN, HAPPY HARBOR, SKIPPERS PIER, HERRINGTON HARBOR

UPDATE YOUR EMAIL TO aawatermen@yahoo.com KEEP IT HEADED INTO THE WIND