



Air Bubbles



The Newsletter of the North Shore Frogmen's Club

Volume 46, Number 6

June 2004

President's Message: June, 2004

Dear Fellow Froggies and Friends,

It seems that Mother Nature has been having great fun at our expense lately; teasing us with sunny 80-degree days during the week, only to be followed by rainy, dreary weekends in the mid-40's!! Don't you just love New England weather? I have no doubt, however, that Summer will be upon us soon, and our excuses for not going diving will begin to evaporate like the perspiration from our brows. I am confident that there will be glorious Summer days ahead, with plenty of opportunities for some great diving. I am sure that several of you have been diving for some time now, and that a few of you have been diving all along straight through the Winter; all I can say is that you are an inspiration for those of us who have yet to take the plunge to start off the new season. Now that sea surface temps are slowly crawling out of the 40's and into the 50's, those of us who still dive wet (am I the only one left?) are raring to get back into the water again.

A few hardy souls braved water temps in the 40's during the annual Easter Egg Dive and Party held on April 25th. Those who dove that morning had a great deal of fun, with several great raffle prizes being awarded to those who exited the water with the most eggs. I am glad that the eggs were of the hard-boiled variety; I heard that the visibility was such that many of the eggs were lost at sea!! I am sure that all that yummy protein did not go to waste!!! The party at Dodie's house was in full swing when I arrived, with Froggies and their families occupying every square inch of the kitchen, and spilling out onto the patio and the yard beyond. The party was fun-filled, with great conversation supplemented by a mountain of tasty foods that kept pulling you back to taste some more, even when your brain tells you that you've already had enough. Frank would have loved it!! Thank you again, Dodie, for opening your home (and your heart) to us; it was very special.

On May 6th, Bob Michelson from Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary and a marine scientist from the MA Audubon Society gave a great lecture on indigenous and introduced species of marine invertebrates that a diver might encounter in New England waters. This introduction to the identification of marine invertebrates

supplements previous years' Fish ID lectures, so that a diver can identify and census those creatures that he/she comes across during the course of a dive. In particular, the upcoming MA Biodiversity Day, held on June 6th in Newburyport, is a perfect opportunity to hone your marine critter ID skills, while at the same time collecting valuable census data which will be useful to marine scientists studying marine ecology and species abundance. Also, don't forget that the Great American Fish Count is scheduled for July 17th. The staging area will be in Stage Fort Park, but the Froggies have been chosen to census Old Garden Beach. We can have fun diving, while providing needed information which can be used to protect the environment that we enjoy so much. It doesn't get much better than that!! One more plug for MA Biodiversity Day: Bob Michelson has been granted the only dive permit EVER issued by the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge (Plum Island) to census within the refuge boundary; if you are interested in diving an area that is usually off limits to divers, here is your opportunity!!--and again, you help the cause of ocean education and protection to boot.

The Bay State Council of Divers met in Quincy on May 12th. Among the topics of discussion were the impending institution of bag limits on lobster caught by sport divers, and the feasibility of the establishment of artificial reefs (specifically the sinking of ships from the Navy's mothballed fleet) within Massachusetts waters. The topic of diver access issues to beach-entry dive sites on the North Shore was also addressed. If you are interested in any of these or other topics pertinent to the well-being of the diving community in MA, I strongly suggest that you consider attending a meeting of the Bay State Council of Divers; the organization was created by

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divers for divers to help protect the rights and voice the concerns of the diving public of the state. If you are interested in attending a meeting of the Council, please contact either myself or Mary Howard for details.

Our annual Club Nite In was held on the evening of May 14th at the Franco-American Club. Once again, Daryl and Dave, with the help of Dave's wife Judy, did an incredible job with the organization, decoration, and execution of the party. Daryl DJ'd the event with his extensive music collection, while Dave MC'd the raffle and the games. Mary and Ray entertained us by "cutting a rug", while the potluck dishes that everyone brought kept us coming back for more. Special thanks go to the bartender supplied to us by the Franco Club, for providing us the liquid refreshment for washing down such wonderful food! Last but not least, heartfelt thanks go out to all who attended the party; its success was a direct result of those who wanted to come and have a good time. Thank you!!!

On May 22nd-23rd, I attended the DUI Demo Days held at Stage Fort Park despite the less-than-perfect weather. Although it was grey, windy, and cold most of the time, I enjoyed walking around, talking to fellow divers, and oogling the fancy new gear. Even though my piggy bank precludes me from seriously considering the purchase of a dry suit, Al convinced me to try one on. Although a bit tight in the midriff, I could certainly see the advantages to diving dry--especially in terms of range of motion. How wonderful it must be to dive in frigid waters without having to feel like you are the second cousin to the Michelin Man!!! When I switched from my 6.5mm 2-piece wetsuit to a 7mm one-piece, I marveled at how much easier it was for me to move around. Someday, I'll be able to save up my pennies and get a dry suit, so I can experience even more freedom to bend and twist underwater without feeling like I was going to pass out from the effort. It was great to see Faith there, who once again invited all Froggies to come to San Diego to go diving on the Extremis. In addition to the equipment displays and the suit fittings, I was able to catch a couple of lectures: one on digital underwater photography (which will be useful when I go on my trip to Belize), and the other on proper weighting and buoyancy control; which is useful whether I dive wet or dry. One of the greatest things about DUI Demo Days, is that because you cannot purchase any equipment at the Demo (they are there just for you to try on, and then you go to an authorized dealer in the area to make your purchase), you don't have any high-powered sales people hounding you to buy their equipment. Everyone is so laid-back, helpful, and friendly; that hanging out at the Demo Days was a truly enjoyable experience. I even stayed to the end on Sunday, to help everyone pack up for the road trip to Ohio. It was

a feat of organizational mastery to see how every component of the display had its proper place on board the truck; when the truck was fully loaded, I doubt that you had an inch of free space between the cargo and the back door!! An impressive operation! I'll get my drysuit someday.....

Looking ahead, don't forget the night dive scheduled for June 2nd at Back Beach in Rockport, MA Biodiversity Day in Newburyport on June 6th., and the Annual Canoe/Kayak Trip down the Ipswich River on June 12th. Make sure that you check the enclosed Activities listing often during the next few months, as we have the schedule jam-packed with various activities for you to enjoy. That's all for now, so enjoy every opportunity you can to go diving!!

Take Care,

Michael J. Donovan
President
NSF '04

P.S.: Don't forget that there are sign-up sheets for several boat dives that are being coordinated by Dave Smith. If you are interested in going on a boat dive this season, make sure to let Dave know, and get him your reservation deposit ASAP. The first boat dive is scheduled through Cape Ann Charters for Saturday, June 19th. Contact Dave for details.

Speaker June 10

Our newest club member, Chris Martinez, has graciously offered to present a video and slides at the meeting on June 10. The video Chris will present is from his recent Aggressor live-aboard trip to Belize with Stan Waterman. His slides are from various warm dive trips, both Caribbean and Pacific.

I have seen some of his pictures and they are good!

For the latest internet posting of the
North Shore Frogmen's Club
Activities List, go to
www.geocities.com/nsfrogmen/activities

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The North Shore Frogmen's Club
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2004 OFFICERS

President: Michael Donovan
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Secretary: Ray Porter
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2004 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership: John Ferrier
Tel: (781) 858-9182
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Activities:
Daryl Findlay - 978-376-6669
Dave Smith - diverdave8@hotmail.com

Newsletter: Mary Howard
Tel: (781) 944-1292
Email: m.m.howard@comcast.net

Meeting Summaries

22-April-2004

Meeting called to order: 8:09 PM
Attendance: 3 officers, 17 members
Guests: 3- Sarah Copelas, John (w/ Linda Piehl) and Pam (w/ Rich K.)

Announcements:

- President announced that there would be two DMF hearings on May 3 at Mass Maritime Academy and May 4 at Gloucester High School, both at 8PM. Lobster bag limits would be among topics of discussion

Committees:

- *Secretary's Report:* Mary Howard - Minutes accepted as read.
- *Treasurer's Report:* Rich Kinkade - Account balances accepted as read.
- *Membership:* John Ferrier - Nothing to report
- *Program:* Dave Smith and Daryl Findlay - See activities list. There will be a Program Committee meeting at 7:30 next week. Club Night In has been scheduled for Friday, May 14, as FAC had schedule conflict on Saturday.
- *Air Bubbles:* Mary Howard - Submissions due May 21 for June issue. May issue is out tonight.

Old Business:

- Dawn wondered why beach meetings scheduled for June and July. Because it is light later in those months.
- Michael has not emailed Rob about website yet.

New Business: Div Marine Fisheries budget info was emailed out to the club membership. Please call your state senator.

Dive Talk:

- Dan Hering dove Mon at Mingo beach with 4' swells. So good, he dove again on Tues at Lane's Cove. Water was calm, but vis was only 4 ft. Old boats and No Divers signs still there. Note: Daryl says that MetroWest Club has chosen Lane's Cove for Beach Clean-Up in Sept. It should be interesting to hear their stories.
- Linda Piehl and John dove in St Vincent and the Grenadines. Awesome diving. They did 26 dives. Water temp was 80°F at the surface and 80°F at 100'.

General Discussion:

- Paul Blanchette will be diving at Lane's Cove Sunday. Meet at Burger King at 9AM
- Paul is planning to go to Bonaire on Sept 19 or 26. Cost should be ~ \$1500 including airfare.
- Mike's moments:
 - Canada had such a heavy herring catch that people were feeding it to dairy cows, and then selling

- special DHA milk, supposed to have special benefits. -
- University of Delaware is putting out a new research ship. 1st ship to meet noise standards per fish hearing!
- Joe Terra brought article about people diving on vacations in the morning, then exercising heavily, causing problems with decompression.
- Charlene mentioned the news story about 2 female mice producing offspring (only females, but what's wrong with that?)

Raffles: Dollars Box: John Sears

Mystery Prize: John Sears

Bug bag: Light to Rick Holloran

29-April-2004

Meeting called to order: 8:10 PM
Attendance: 2 officers, 15 members

Committees:

- *Secretary's Report:* Mary Howard - Meeting minutes accepted as read.
- *Treasurer's Report:* Rich Kinkade - Account balances accepted as read.
- *Membership:* John Ferrier - Nothing to report.
- *Program:* Daryl Findlay & Dave Smith - See activities list.
- *Air Bubbles:* Mary Howard - Submissions due May 21 June issue.

Old Business:

- Easter Egg Dive/Party - 4 Divers, 2 eggs found by Shon Dubois who was the winner of the egg hunt. No other eggs were found. Several golf balls were recovered. (More golf ball than eggs!) Water temp 45°F at surface, 41°F at 20 ft. Vis 6 inches to 15 feet. Some surf clams were found.
- Barry & Dee made the chowder - very good.

New Business:

- Dive time for Sunday morning dive has been changed to: meet at 8:00, leave at 8:30.

Dive Talk:

- Dan Hering dove Back Beach. First dive was at ½ tide. Vis varied from

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6-8 feet to 2-3 feet. It was windy initially, the winds settled down. Second dive at high tide had more marine life. Water temperature was very cold.

- Susan Copolas, John Ferrier and Joe dove Old Garden Beach. Water temp was 40°F. It was windy. Caught 2 lobsters and some crabs.

General Discussion:

- Mike's moments:
 - Florida – A person robbed a bank in a wet suit and was caught "running" in his gear before he could enter the water.
 - Newport Beach, California – Diver was forgotten by the dive boat. The diver was recovered by other boat with Boy Scouts.
 - Herald – Diver was met by a playful Beluga whale about 10 feet long. The diver was too distracted to cut the line tangled in his propeller.

Raffles: Dollars Box: Mike Denneker
Mystery Prize: Dave Smith
Bug Bag: Dive light to Roslyn Smith

6-May-2004

No business meeting. Invertebrate Identification class was held. The Class was lead by Bob Michelson of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary.

13-May-2004

Meeting called to order: 8:05 PM
Attendance: 4 Officers, 17 Members

Committees:

- **Secretary's Report:** Ray Porter – Meeting minutes accepted as read.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Rich Kinkade – Account balances accepted as read.
- **Membership:** John Ferrier – Nothing to report.
- **Program:** Daryl Findlay & Dave Smith – See activities list. Club Night In tomorrow. Sign-up sheet for food. Event to start at 7PM. There will be raffles.
- **Air Bubbles:** Mary Howard – Submissions due May 21.

Old Business:

- No contact has been made with the web master. Website has not been updated since last fall.

New Business:

- Bay State Council meeting attended by Mary Howard, Michael Donovan, John Ferrier and Daryl Findlay.
- Hearing at the new Dept. of Marine Fisheries (DMF) regulations was attended by about 80 people of which 20 to 25 people were interested in the proposed lobster limit. About 6 divers spoke out on the issues. Additional information could be sent in via letter or email. A daily catch limit of 10 lobsters was proposed (may go up).
- Vin Malkoski commented on the support he received on the proposed DMF budget cuts.
- Enforcement of the oversized lobster limit was lacking.
- Fines for the boat caught w/ shore and scrubbed lobsters was \$638,000.
- The NG Pipeline from Canada to the south shore is insufficiently cover for several thousand feet. Jeannine report that a lot of scallops can be found near the pipeline.
- Wally Westfall was very enthusiastic in his interest in raising funding for the artificial reef project.

Dive Talk:

- Chris Martinez back from a trip to Belize with Stan Waterman aboard the Agressor Fleet. Three dives per day, mostly wall dives. After dinner, Stan showed videos. Saw tarpon and sea turtles. Water temp 82°F, Vis 80 feet, max depth 120 feet.
- Dave Metrano is organizing a dive trip to Bonair departing September 25.

General Discussion:

- Mike's moments:
 - Snake-head fish infesting more lakes in Virginia.

- Requirement for ship-board treatment of ballast water to prevent invasive species.
- Salem Fire Dept has dive teams – Possible speakers for speaker night.
- 30% of fishing boats going out of business.
- Guy with 6 nails in his head from a construction accident still living.

Raffles: Dollars Box: Peter Cassidy
Mystery Prize: Chris Martinez
Bug Bag: Ongoing

20-May-2004

Meeting called to order: 8:10 PM
Attendance: 2 Officers, 14 Members
Announcements: Abbreviated meeting for mat – Video Night
Deep Sea Detectives: Catherine the Great

Committees:

- **Secretary's Report:** Ray Porter – Meeting minutes accepted as read.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Rich Kinkade – None
- **Membership:** John Ferrier – Nothing to report
- **Program:** Daryl Findlay & Dave Smith – See activities list.

Dive Talk:

- Hans Hug dove out around Bakers Island. Lots of scallops. Water temp 40°F all depths, Vis 40 ft.

General Discussion:

- Mike's moments:
 - Lobster shells and shells of other crustaceans are made of chitin. Chitin is the 2nd most abundant organic material. If not broken down by bacteria, it would have filled the oceans.
 - Herald reports the Santa Maria, one of Columbus's ships may have been found.

Raffles: Dollars Box: Daryl Findlay
Mystery Prize: Sis Despres
Bug Bag: Ongoing

27-May-2004

Meeting called to order: 8:10 PM
Attendance: 3 Officers, 13 Members

Committees:

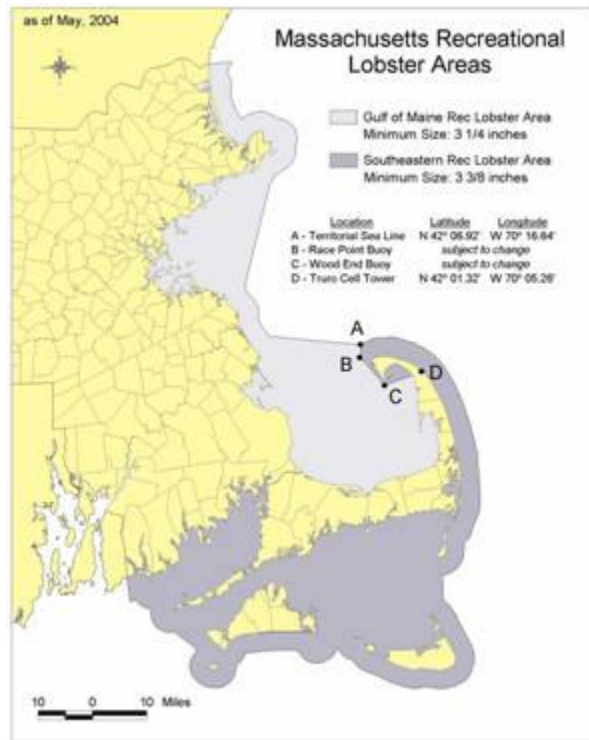
(continued on page 9)

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May 24, 2004
Marine Fisheries Advisory

MASSACHUSETTS MARINE FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMISSION APPROVES NEW REGULATIONS

At a May 20, 2004 business meeting, the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission (MFAC), approved Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) proposals for new rules affecting recreational lobster fishing, commercial striped bass fishing, recreational scup fishing, wholesale dealer reporting, permitting for construction and repair of fishways, setting of lobster gear to protect right whales, and fishing for river herring along the Connecticut River. Most of these issues were discussed at May 3 & 4 public hearings.



Recreational lobster fishing (by pot and SCUBA divers) will be regulated under area-specific rules concerning the release of v-notched female lobster; minimum and maximum sizes; and trap escape vent minimum sizes. Also a state-wide 15 lobster daily bag limit was approved. Two management areas have been created: 1) Gulf of Maine Recreational Lobster Area and 2) Southeastern Recreational Lobster Area that generally coincide with the commercial management area boundaries. Since the May public hearings, DMF has amended the Southeastern Recreational Lobster Area boundaries to include nearshore waters around Provincetown.

Regulations approved by area are listed in the table below. All regulations are effective July 2, 2004, except escape vent minimum size increases in the Southeastern Recreational Lobster Area, which will not go into effect until the 2005 season.

	Gulf of Maine Recreational Lobster Area	Southeastern Recreational Lobster Area
Minimum Size	3 1/4"	3 3/8"
Maximum Size	5"	N/A
V-Notching	Zero tolerance definition: (V-notch of any size, with or without setal hairs)	ASMFC definition: (1/4" to 1/2" straight sided triangular cut without setal hairs)
Escape Vent	1 15/16" x 5 3/4" Or two circular vents of 2 7/16"	2" x 5 3/4" Or two circular vents of 2 1/2"
Bag Limit	15	15

Lobstermen fishing in the Cape Cod Bay Critical Habitat during May to December are required to rig their gear with one of the configurations listed on the approved gear technology list (322 CMR 12.00). This regulation relaxes current requirements, while complementing current federal regulations. Regulation will be effective July 2nd.

No actions were taken on 1) the public petition to lower commercial lobster trap limit to 600 in state waters, 2) proposal to amend recreational cod possession limits, and 3) previous emergency action to restrict cod fishing in a portion of Massachusetts Bay. DMF staff will continue to work with the public and ASMFC, NEFMC, and NOAA Fisheries personnel to develop appropriate regulations for the lobster and cod fisheries.

For more information please contact Marine Fisheries at 617.626.1520, or visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.

[This information is excerpted from an email sent to Jeannine Fabian of the Bay State Council of Divers by Vincent Malkoski, Senior Marine Fisheries Biologist / Diving Safety Officer MA Division of Marine Fisheries. If you are interested in the updates to the fishing (vs. lobstering) regulations, please contact the Air Bubbles editor.]

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Easter Egg Dive



Shon DuBois with the winning 2 eggs!!

Mary with golf balls

Mr. Crab



Wrecks 2004



Jack Munro in Mark V Suit

Paul Blanchette discussing Megalodon rebreather



Buddy Inspiration rebreather with Daryl's scooter with video mount



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Club Night In – May 14



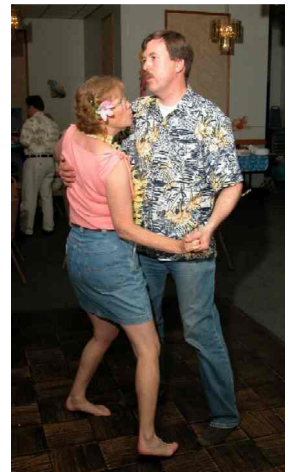
The Boys of Summer

Game winners receive prizes

Dave Metrano looking dapper

Thanks for the dance floor!

Group shot



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Activities Calendar

		1	2 Almost full-moon night dive 8PM	3 8PM Meeting	4	5
6 Mass Biodiversity Days-Plum Is. 11AM	7	8	9	10 8PM Meeting Speaker Night	11	12 Canoe trip, Foote Bros, Ipswich MA 8AM
13 Sunday Dive: Meet at Burger King at 8AM	14	15	16 Dark-side night dive 8PM	17 8PM Meeting	18	19 Boat Dive w/ Cape Ann Charters 8AM
20 Sunday Dive: Meet at Burger King at 8AM	21	22	23	24 6PM Beach Meeting	25	26
27 Sunday Dive: Meet at Burger King at 8AM	28	29	30 Almost full-moon night dive 8PM	<h2 style="font-size: 2em;">June 2004</h2>		
<h2 style="font-size: 2em;">July 2004</h2>				1 8PM Meeting	2	3
4	5 Holiday Dive?	6	7	8 8PM Meeting	9	10
11 Sunday Dive: Meet at Burger King at 8AM	12	13	14 Dark-side night dive	15 8PM Meeting	16	17 Great American Fish Count, OGB 8AM
18 Boat Dive w/ Capt Rob	19	20	21 Bay State Council Meeing	22 6PM Beach Meeting	23	24
25 Sunday Dive: Meet at Burger King at 8AM	26	27	28 Almost full-moon night dive	29 8PM Meeting	30	31 Baseball Game NS Spirit v NJ 7PM

Summer Sunday Dive Times

Arrive at Burger King at 8:00, ready to leave for the dive site at 8:30AM.

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Activities

- **Jun 2**, Wed. "Almost Full Moon" Night Dive. Back Beach, 8PM.
- **Jun 6**, Mass Biodiversity Days. See article in May issue of newsletter. 11PM, Plum Island.
- **Jun 10**, Speaker Night. Chris Martinez, newest club member, will show video and slides from tropical diving.
- **Jun 12**, Canoe Trip, Ipswich. Coordinators: Bill Gannett and Peter Cassidy. Meet at Foote Brothers at 8AM.
- **Jun 13**, Transect Dive with the South Shore Neptunes. Contact Mary Howard.
- **Jun 16**, Wed. "Dive on the Dark Side" Night Dive. Back Beach, 8PM.
- **Jun 19**, Saturday, 8AM, Boat Dive w/ Cape Ann Charters. See Dave Smith to sign up.
- **Jun 24**, Beach Meeting, at White's Beach in Manchester. Starts at 6PM.
- **Jun 30**, Wed. "Almost Full Moon" Night Dive. Back Beach. Time tbd.
- **Jul 5**, Holiday Dive (?)
- **Jul 14**, Wed. "Dive on the Dark Side" Night Dive. Back Beach. Time tbd.
- **Jul 17**, Great American Fish Count. Froggies will dive at OGB 8AM, then go to Stage Fort Park for the festivities. See Dave Smith for more information.
- **Jul 18**, "Seal" Boat Dive with Captain Rob in Rye, NH. Up to 12 spots available. See Dave Smith to sign up.
- **Jul 21**, Bay State Council meeting, Quincy, 7:30PM. Contact Mary Howard.
- **Jul 22**, Beach Meeting.
- **Jul 28**, Wed. "Almost Full Moon" Night Dive. Back Beach. Time tbd.
- **Jul 31**, Baseball Game. North Shore Spirit vs. NJ, 7PM. Contact John Sears/sign up at meeting.
- **Aug 11**, Wed. "Dive on the Dark Side" Night Dive. Back Beach. Time tbd.
- **Aug 14**, Saturday, 8AM, Boat Dive w/ Cape Ann Charters. See Dave Smith to sign up.
- **Aug 25**, Wed. "Almost Full Moon" Night Dive. Back Beach. Time tbd.
- **Sep 3-6**, Wells Beach Camping and Nubble Light diving weekend.
- **Sep 6**, Holiday Dive (?)
- **Sep 11**, Coast Sweep. Contact Dave Smith.
- **Sep 19**, Annual Club Picnic, Stage Fort Park.
- **Oct 9**, Saturday, 8AM, Boat Dive w/ Cape Ann Charters. See Dave Smith to sign up.
- **Nov 4**, Nominations for Club Officers start.
- **Dec 4**, Club Banquet at Franco American Club.

SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER

Tuesday, May 25, 2004 · Last updated 2:34 p.m. PT

Baffling disease makes lobsters look ugly

By JAY LINDSAY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BOSTON -- A baffling disease that makes lobsters ugly, but not inedible, has crept northward from the Buzzards Bay hotspot where it's afflicted lobsters for several years.

The numbers of infected lobsters are far too tiny to cause panic, but the disease's progress is being eyed warily by regional researchers and lobstermen. The disease doesn't affect the meat, but a lobster with a corroded, blackened shell is a tough sell.

"You go and spend \$8 for a lobster, you want a good-looking lobster," said Edward Heaphy, a lobsterman of 50 years from Dover, N.H.

In 1998, diseased lobsters began filling traps in the Buzzards Bay area, off the coast of southeastern Massachusetts. Almost a quarter of all lobsters sampled by the state in the bay that year had the disease, known as shell burn.

In the years since, the diseased lobsters were found in lesser numbers in Cape Cod Bay and Boston Harbor. Last year, according to preliminary numbers, 3 percent of lobsters caught off Salem and Cape Ann had the disease - the first time since sampling began there in 2000 that any infected lobsters were recorded.

"We've seen, year by year, a slow, steady progression northward," said Bob Glenn, a biologist leading the coastal lobster studies at the state Division of Marine Fisheries.

Arthur Sawyer, a second generation Gloucester lobsterman, said he's spotted a couple diseased lobsters in the last year or two, but added, "You're still talking about nothing."

He said the disease is worth watching because of its mobility and unexplained cause.

"To say whether it's going to get worse or not, nobody knows," Sawyer said. "Those guys got creamed down there (in Buzzards Bay)."

The state's lobster catch was worth \$56.7 million in 2002, the most recent year for which statistics were available.

The shell disease hasn't been tied to any mass die-offs, and lobsters seem to survive it reasonably well, though perhaps in a weakened state, Glenn said.

The disease is caused by the chitinolytic bacteria that eats chitin, a cellulose-like substance in the shells. The disease

has been around forever, but the strain that's hit Buzzards Bay lobsters could be new and more virulent, Glenn said.

Other theories tie it to pollution, warmer coastal waters or some weakness in the lobsters. Glenn said that unless researchers find an easily contained cause of the disease - say a leaking chemical pipe - nature will likely have to fix the problem.

"It's not like livestock where you could inoculate them," he said.

The disease has yet to significantly affect Maine - where fishery officials recorded a minuscule 44 cases of shell disease among 130,000 lobsters sampled in 2003 - or New Hampshire, where the disease turned up in 43 of 14,308 lobsters.

"Right now, I don't think it's anything to be concerned about," Heaphy said. "We're keeping our fingers crossed."

Meeting Summaries continued from page 4

Secretary's Report: Ray Porter – Meeting minutes accepted as read.

- *Treasurer's Report:* Mike Donovan – Account balances accepted as read.

- *Membership:* John Ferrier – Nothing to report.

- *Program:* Daryl Findlay & Dave Smith – See activities list.

- *Air Bubbles:* Mary Howard – June issue is late, will be out next week. Submissions for July due on June 21.

Old Business:

- **Web Site.** Need to contact Rob Falk Dave Smith has posted activities on an alternate website:
www.geocities.com/nsfrogmen/activities.html

Dive Talk:

- **John Sears** .Recovers glasses and fishing rod from lake in Maine.

- **Daryl Findlay** DUI demo days vis crappy, scootered around taking macro photography. Left scooter by rock, saw another diver try to take the scooter. Daryl saw him and recovered his scooter.

- **Michael Donovan** tried on several suits and attended lectures by Dick Long. Lots of divers on Saturday.

General Discussion:

- Mike's moments: Lobster shell disease now found in NH. Was present on the south shore. Bacterial infection attacking shell.

- Lobster permit restriction: 15 per day

- **Raffles:** Dollars Box: Charlene Collela

Mystery Prize: John Sears

Bug Bag: Wreck reel – Dave Smith

Mass Biodiversity Days

Although the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will not be coordinating MA Biodiversity Days, Stellwagen Bank NMS will again be partnering with Mass Audubon and the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge to coordinate programs for June 6.

Bob Michelson of SBNMS is looking for 2 groups of divers to conduct fish and invertebrate surveys, one in the salt marshes of Joppa Flats (great for new divers and those with little experience), and another group off Plum Island (suggested for more experienced divers – possible strong currents).

Please contact Bob Michelson (at pbm.inc@verizon.net) if you would like to dive in either group, though the first one may already be filled.

For more information on this subject, please refer to the article in the May issue of Air Bubbles.

Deadline for
submissions for the
July issue of
Air Bubbles
is June 21.



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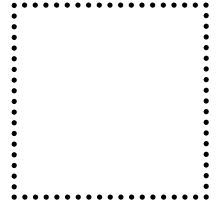
Member of the Month May 2004

Dave Smith

My heartfelt thanks go to Dave Smith for his enthusiastic support of our club, for his dedication towards his duties as NSF Vice President and Co-Activities Committee Coordinator, and--along with Daryl Findlay--for his tremendous work on organizing and decorating the Froggies' Club Nite In, with help also from his lovely wife Judy, held on Friday, May 14th.
Great Job Dave!!!



The North Shore Frogmen's Club Inc
PO Box 3604
Peabody, MA 01961-3604



Upcoming Events!

- June 2, 16 & 30: Night Dives
- June 6: Mass Biodiversity Day
- June 10: Speaker night - see pg 2
- June 12: NSF Canoe Trip
- June 24: Beach Meeting



2004 Dues are Over Due!!

“Summer” Sunday Dives: Meet at Burger King on Rte 128 in Beverly, at 8:00 AM, ready to depart for dive site at 8:30AM.

The North Shore Frogmen's Club Meetings
are held every Thursday night at 8PM (except Thanksgiving) at:

The Franco-American Club
44 Park Street
Beverly, MA

Directions: From Rte 128, take the Rte 62 exit, #22E, towards Beverly. Turn RIGHT onto BRIDGE ST at the new light after Danversport Yacht Club. At the end of Bridge St, turn LEFT onto RIVER ST. Turn RIGHT onto FEDERAL ST, turn RIGHT onto PARK ST. Free parking in lot across from Franco-American Club.