



“DIVE LOG”

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED DIVERS
OF CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS

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Lobstering Gone Good

I heard an interesting tale the other day. I recently spoke with an individual about an encounter he had with the Rockport Harbor Master. Contrary to how you may think this will end I think you will be as pleasantly surprised as I was.

After landing a half dozen lobster at Back Beach this individual was approached by the Harbor Master and asked if he had been lobstering. He responded that he had. The Harbor Master asked to check his catch. He obviously obliged. The Harbor Master checked the catch and in the process put 2 lobsters aside. I know, you're thinking this is not going to end well.

This individual was not ill intentioned and landed the lobster without malice, perhaps a simple error had occurred. Regardless, the Harbor Master approached this much differently than expected. He took the approach of education rather than enforcement and was far from unreasonable.

Lobster number one, it was obvious that the remains of the alleged “V-notch” were not that of human action but more evident of a battle likely won by this lobster. They examined the lobster together, the Harbor Master explained the law and that he viewed this as a V-notch lobster. The Harbor Master then moved to the other lobster he had set aside, lobster number two. Again they examined the lobster together. The Harbor Master showed that his gauge just fit over one side of the lobster. He explained the law again.

The Harbor Master told this individual to walk out as far as he could and release the two lobsters. As he walked towards the water the Harbor Master drove away. I know you're thinking the same thing I did, when he gets back at best there is going to be an expensive fine waiting. Contrary to all normal thinking that was it, that's right, no paperwork, no fine!

The lobsters were walked to chest deep water and released. As he was walking back up over the rocks he saw the Harbor Master drive away from the far end of the beach. I am sure, as you began to read this you were thinking someone is going to be in trouble. This could not be farther from the truth.

This encounter has given me much thought. It has reinforced my belief that we are responsible for our actions. It has illustrated how mistakes happen, it happened to me many years ago. It illustrated the fact that not all law enforcement officials are out to get us. So, please be careful out there. To steal a phrase from my father's favorite show with my own twist “measure twice, take legal”. Rules and laws change, take a moment to insure you know the rules. Last, should you have an encounter with law enforcement officials a little respect and lack of attitude go a long way.

Congratulations
50/50 winner!!

Larry Dufour



President's Message

Believe it or not the season is going strong! People are diving! People are catching lobsters and scallops. The catches of both lobster and scallops are proving to be quite productive. However I recently became aware of one diver getting nabbed with 3 short lobsters. The authorities were not as understanding as the little story I have in this month's newsletter. I am not sure what is going on with gauging lobsters but this is the second story I have heard where the authorities are forcing their gauges over the carapace. I am going to attempt to have a representative from one of the many law enforcement agencies address the club about the taking of lobster. As always be diligent knowing and obeying the laws and rules. On another note the visibility has been fantastic this year! The dive I have done, shallow and deep, the vis has been awesome and the available light more than ample. The waters are warming up too. I think we are finally going to have a great summer/season! We have some of the old and some of the new activities and someone is diving almost every Friday, Saturday and/or Sunday. See you all at the next meeting.

Safe Diving,
Mark

Guest Speaker

Club member Bob Abraham will be doing a presentation on some of his travels. His presentation will feature diving in Canada and Dominica. Our member's presentations have been fantastic and I am sure Bob's presentation will not disappoint!

Guess Where?



Hint: You might recognize this if you were at the last meeting

United Divers of Central Mass Presents: "An Evening with Richie Kohler"



October 8, 2010 beginning at 6:00PM

**Devens Common Center,
Andrews Parkway, Devens MA**

Tickets: \$35.00

Dinner, Music & Presentation

Rumors of Closures

I have recently heard several people talking about a proposed ban on lobstering. After hearing varied information and interpretation I decided to do a little homework before I joined in spreading of the news that the sky is falling. To the best of my knowledge this stems from a story first released by the Boston Globe on June 11, 2010 by Patrick G. Lee.

The following is what I discovered. What people are talking about is the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Draft Amendment #3 to the Lobster Fishery Management Plan.

Believe it or not there is yet another level of bureaucracy to our enjoyment of lobstering. I had previously believed that only the Division of Marine Fisheries regulated the fishing of not only lobster but all of coastal fishing in Massachusetts. As a result of looking into this matter I discovered this is not the case. There is yet another regulating group named the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. The ASMFC is a multistate commission that regulates coastal fishing in the Atlantic.

The Boston Globe reports that a drastic drop in lobster populations has prompted this. Just a decade ago a peak of 35 million lobsters has dwindled to 15 million lobsters.

As reported in the Globe “lobster populations have declined so much that biologists are recommending a 5 year ban on catching lobsters south of Cape Cod to Virginia”. This recommendation is the most drastic of several.

Dan McKiernan deputy director for the Division of Marine Fisheries of Massachusetts “said there are other potential measures, such as shortening the fishing season, limiting maximum catch amounts, or further reducing the number of boats and traps”.

There are several meetings being held by different agencies related to this matter.

The American Lobster Management Board will hold a special meeting in Warwick, RI to consider releasing for public comment Draft Addendum XVII to Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster.

There are also DMF/MFC public hearings scheduled for August 25 in Gloucester, August 26 in Boston and August 27 in Buzzards Bay.

In closing keep your eyes and ears open. Could this possibly be an issue that lobstermen and divers can join together?

Cape Ann Parking Woes Persist

I was speaking with a friend the other day and he shared his most recent experience parking in the Plum Cove area. His vehicle and another diver’s vehicle were parked behind the old church at the corner of Hickory Street and High Streets. I am sure we all have parked there many times.

Fortunately he decided to leave early on this day. As he rounded the corner to his vehicle he was greeted by a police officer writing a \$45.00 dollar ticket for his vehicle, and the other diver’s vehicle being hooked up to a tow truck. The police officer was very informative and shared willingly that had he been a moment later his truck would have been “on the hook” next.

It was discovered that the parking sign we have parked near and abided by had been changed ever so minutely. He said that an average glance at the sign would likely not reveal the change.

Ultimately it is our responsibility to know and obey the laws. It is not always an overzealous police officer either. All it takes is a complaint, one phone call, and then they must take action. We all are aware that we, divers, are tolerated on Cape Ann and at times that is questionable at best at Plum Cove.

Please be careful and pay close attention to signs. Don’t just assume what was permitted last time or last year is still the same. Let’s not garnish the local tax base any more than necessary.



July/August 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
11 Chick's Day	12	13	14	15 General Meeting	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Fish Count
25 Seal Dive	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5 BOD Meeting	6	7
8 Brownstone Quarry	9	10	11	12	13	14 Lobster Fest
15	16	17	18	19 General Meeting	20	21

Birthdays!!!



- July 16 - Kevin Brook
- August 1 - Ernie Whittemore
- August 4- Larry DuFour
- August 10 - Nancy McKnight
- August 21 - Joan Kadaras

DAY	DATE	HIGH				LOW				Sun			
		AM	hgt	PM	hgt	AM	hgt	PM	hgt	rise	set	moon	
July													
Sunday	11	11:24	8.7	11:31	10.6	5:11	-0.6	5:15	0.3	5:14	8:20		
Monday	12	12:14 PM	9.1			6:00	-1	6:07	0	5:15	8:20		
Tuesday	13	12:23	10.8	1:04	9.5	6:49	-1.2	7:00	-0.3	5:16	8:19		
Wednesday	14	1:15	10.8	1:55	9.8	7:39	-1.3	7:54	-0.5	5:16	8:19		
Thursday	15	2:09	10.7	2:46	9.9	8:29	-1.2	8:50	-0.5	5:17	8:18		
Friday	16	3:04	10.3	3:40	10	9:20	-1	9:48	-0.3	5:18	8:17		
Saturday	17	4:01	9.8	4:35	10	10:14	-0.6	10:49	-0.1	5:19	8:17		
Sunday	18	5:02	9.2	5:32	9.8	11:09	-0.1	11:53	0.1	5:20	8:16		
Monday	19	6:05	8.7	6:32	9.7	12:08 PM	0.4			5:21	8:15		
Tuesday	20	7:11	8.3	7:33	9.5	12:59	0.2	1:09	0.8	5:22	8:14		
Wednesday	21	8:17	8.1	8:34	9.4	2:04	0.3	2:11	1	5:23	8:13		
Thursday	22	9:19	8	9:31	9.4	3:05	0.3	3:10	1.1	5:24	8:13		
Friday	23	10:14	8.1	10:23	9.5	4:01	0.2	4:04	1.1	5:25	8:12		
Saturday	24	11:04	8.2	11:09	9.5	4:51	0.1	4:53	1.1	5:26	8:11		
Sunday	25	11:48	8.3	11:52	9.4	5:36	0.1	5:37	1	5:27	8:10		
Monday	26	12:27 PM	8.3			6:16	0.1	6:18	1	5:28	8:09		
Tuesday	27	12:31	9.4	1:03	8.4	6:53	0.2	6:56	0.9	5:29	8:08		
Wednesday	28	1:08	9.2	1:38	8.4	7:27	0.3	7:34	1	5:30	8:07		
Thursday	29	1:44	9.1	2:12	8.5	8:00	0.4	8:11	1	5:31	8:06		
Friday	30	2:21	8.8	2:47	8.5	8:34	0.6	8:50	1.1	5:32	8:05		
Saturday	31	2:59	8.5	3:23	8.5	9:08	0.8	9:31	1.1	5:33	8:03		
August													
Sunday	1	3:40	8.2	4:03	8.6	9:46	1	10:15	1.2	5:34	8:02		
Monday	2	4:23	7.9	4:45	8.6	10:27	1.2	11:04	1.3	5:35	8:01		
Tuesday	3	5:12	7.7	5:33	8.6	11:13	1.4	11:58	1.3	5:36	8:00		
Wednesday	4	6:07	7.5	6:26	8.8	12:05 PM	1.5			5:37	7:59		
Thursday	5	7:06	7.5	7:24	9	12:56	1.1	1:02	1.5	5:38	7:57		
Friday	6	8:08	7.6	8:23	9.3	1:57	0.8	2:02	1.3	5:39	7:56		
Saturday	7	9:09	8	9:22	9.8	2:57	0.3	3:02	0.9	5:40	7:55		
Sunday	8	10:06	8.5	10:19	10.3	3:54	-0.2	4:00	0.3	5:41	7:53		
Monday	9	10:59	9.1	11:13	10.7	4:47	-0.7	4:56	-0.2	5:42	7:52		

“Up-coming Activities”

Fish Count

Seal Dive

Brownstone Quarry

Lobster Fest

Shore dives, including night dives, to be announced at the next the meeting!

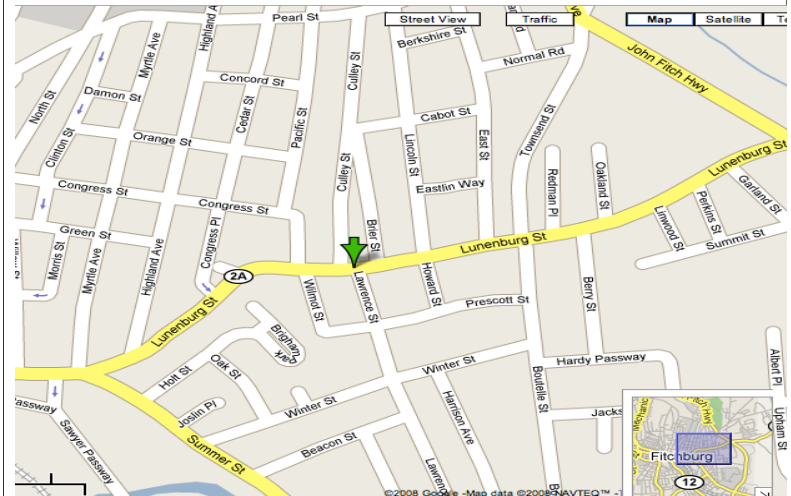
Meeting Time and Location

The United Divers meet once a month on the third Thursday of the month at Slattery’s located at 106 Lunenburg Street, Fitchburg, MA. There is ample parking provided in the rear of the building. The meeting will be taking place in the event room near the back right of the restaurant. The meeting will begin at 7:00p.m. with a social hour beginning at 6:30p.m. If you should have any questions please feel free to contact any of the board members.



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SPORT SHOP, INC.
SKI & SCUBA SPECIALISTS

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Dive Log

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The Purpose of the United Divers of Central Massachusetts

The purpose of the United Divers of Central Massachusetts is to promote the sportsmanship and sport of SCUBA diving by stimulating our members to achieve the highest standards of safety and proficiency in SCUBA diving. To promote friendship and wholesome social activity among its membership. To promote educational programs that will provide fundamental knowledge supported by actual hands-on experience in a variety of areas including: safe diving practices, conservation of marine ecosystems, first aid and handling diving related emergencies, to organize group SCUBA diving trips, educational and social events that will allow our membership to accomplish all of the above.



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