

Dear Anne Arundel County Watermen:

The AACWA has been busy over the past year, working on issues that affect your livelihood. We have a full plate coming up this year and welcome your help and support. Here is a brief update on some key legislative issues:

- Over the past month, AACWA members attended a seafood reception hosted by the MWA for the Watermen's Caucus in the General Assembly along with several caucus meetings, which have been well attended. Anne Arundel County representatives in attendance have included Delegate Seth Howard and Senator Sarah Elfreth (both representing South County). We MUST work to involve the rest of our County delegation in the Watermen's Caucus. Please be sure to contact your representatives.
- One of the issues we are working on with our representatives is legislation that would allow an early start crabbing on code red days. The legislation will propose the use of electronic monitoring to increase the likelihood of acceptance by the opposition. We are supporting a two hour early start.
- We are also working with the Advocates for Herring Bay and Arundel Rivers Association (which is the new organization that merges the West Rhode River Keeper with the South River Keeper associations) on several new oyster projects to explore bringing oysters and oyster harvests back to Herring Bay.
- Finally, we are working towards introducing legislation to allow for haul seining in Anne Arundel County waters.

Also, please be aware of the following outreach and fund-raising events:

- The AACWA website has been updated and improved (visit us at aawatermen.org).
- Once again this year, we will be awarding two \$1,000 scholarships to two high school students in the County who plan to study marine sciences or natural resources.
- We partnered with the Captain Salem Avery Museum's Annual Oyster Festival in Shady Side, as well as sponsoring, with the Deale Captain's Association, the Deale Christmas Parade of Lights. Both events are growing and getting much publicity for us.
- The annual AACWA Seafood Festival was held in Shady Side this year and continues to be a success and well attended by local politicians and the public.

We need your help as we continue to make progress on waterman issues in Anne Arundel County. Your membership support (\$30) and participation is vital to keeping the organization working on your behalf and is a small price to pay to ensure the future of your livelihood. We also welcome volunteer assistance. Above all else, please contact your County and State representatives and urge them to support the commercial fishing industry. Please mail your membership check today to AAWA, P.O. Box 574, Churchton, MD 20733.

Thank you.

Mick Blackistone

Vice President