



Maine Captains Well Under-Way

M.A.C.C.
Maine Association of
Charterboat Captains

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M.A.C.C. OFF TO A GREAT START by Captain Gordon Gillies

Gillies & Fallon Guide Service,

www.mainestripers.com

207-389-2300

Maybe those words were on someone's mind when the idea of a Maine Association of Charter Boat Captains was conceived. This has been a productive inaugural year for MACC. We were already busy, but plenty was accomplished.

Once the basic framework of the Association was up and running; consisting of bylaws, officers, a board of directors, committees, a logo, and so on, the real work began in earnest.

The Association has an efficient and good looking website. Members are able to take advantage of big discounts when they purchase from supporting mer-

chants. It is easy to recover the investment of the modest dues.

The majority of the early energies were spent in contacting the trade and recruiting members. The dues that were paid by this initial subscription allowed the Board to adopt a budget and a Mission Statement followed shortly by; Members, Money, Mission, and plenty of Momentum.

With over a third of the Captains in Maine now aboard, this Association is governed by a Code of Conduct. Standing committees focus upon Legislation, the Internet, Member Benefits, New Member Recruit-

ing and planning for our Annual Meeting.

The major accomplishment of the year involved the Association developing a position in opposition to the Saltwater Fishing License. With nothing short of passionate participation by some Captains, the proposed legislation has been tabled...for now.....

In 2008, look for more action, benefits, and opportunities to safeguard our careers and promote the trade in general. The big push will focus upon recruiting many more members, monitoring Augusta, and devising new ways to benefit members.

"If you want a job done, give it to someone who is busy." Hire a mechanic whose shop is a mess."

Anonymous

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"For Reel" by Capt. Forrest Faulkingham

Maine Saltwater Fishing Charters

www.mainesaltwater.com

207-882-8392

As we pulled away from the dock early a.m. Sept. 23rd, my new clients, brothers Mark and Rick Dennis told me they had fished the Kennebec before but never with bait. They asked if I thought we'd do better than fishing with artificials. I told them no guarantee but felt we'd do ok where I planned to fish.

On the first drift Rick nailed a 28" on a bloodworm and during subsequent drifts the brothers both landed fish up to 28" on live eels and

bloodworms. Finally on one of the last drifts we had a double. Mark's fish fought hard but Rick's was fighting even harder. Both of the guys are excellent anglers and Mark was the first to land his fish, a 32".

Finally after 15 minutes of an arm wrenching fight Rick was able to land his prize- a Shimano reel !

After pictures were taken, Rick allowed that although the Shimano put up a good fight he hopes to land a Penn 130 ST next season.



Notice:

M.A.C.C. General Membership Meeting
Friday, January 11th, at The Kennebec Tavern
Function Room
119 Commercial St.
in Downtown Bath.
See Back Page for Details



How Did MACC Come About?

Obsession Charters www.obsessioncharters.com

By Captain Dave Pecci
207-442-8581

The Maine Assn of Charterboat Captains actually materialized from two separate but parallel concerns. A few charter captains came together to discuss issues that were affecting their businesses.

Through that meeting it became apparent that the existing recreational fishing advocacy groups in Maine and New England didn't expressly speak out for the interests of Maine charter captains and tide-water guides. Additionally,

these other groups did not effectively promote the Maine for-hire industry. While this dialog was taking place, the leadership at ME Dept. of Marine Resources made it known that the Dept. needed to better disseminate information and receive for-hire industry feedback in a timely fashion.

So, what started out as a loosely formed local "Captains Club" has evolved into what you see today.

MACC has developed open door relationships with the ME Dept. of Marine Resources and the ME Legislative Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources. MACC has several members who sit on advisory panels and fishery related committees at state and regional levels.

Through these relationships we can effectively speak out for the collective interests of Maine Charterboat captains.

Catch-and-Release Tournament Raises over \$7,000 For Kennebec River Striped Bass Research

By MACC Advisory Team Member Duncan Barnes

"The money raised by this event will be used to purchase radio tags that scientists from the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) will implant in striped bass in the Kennebec River," "The striper tagging program will allow the scientists to study the movements of fish in the river system and help us learn more about the Kennebec's native stock of striped bass."

The second annual Kennebec Benefit Pro-Am Striped Bass Tournament, held on Saturday September 15, raised more than \$7,000 to be used exclusively for striped bass research in the Kennebec River.

A total of 41 fly fishermen from Maine to Florida, grouped into 14 teams guided by local captains, caught and released 193 striped bass during the seven-hour tournament.

Team Obsession, captained by Dave Pecci of Bath who was also the tournament chairman, won the competition for the largest striper with a 28-inch fish, while Team Orestis, with Jay McGowan of Orr's Island at the helm, took the prize for most stripers with 25 fish.

The smallest fish taken measured just 6.5 inches but

was judged to be the most important catch because a striped bass of that size is considered a native fish spawned in the Kennebec River. The juvenile fish was caught and released by Oliver Dominick of Phippsburg, who was a member of Team Gillies & Fallon II.

The proceeds from this year's event and last year's inaugural total nearly \$12,000. "That's a real commitment by everyone involved to a healthy striped bass population in the Kennebec River," said Pat Keliher, the director of the DMR's Bureau of Sea-Run

Fisheries and Habitat, who fished in the event. "DMR hears you loud and clear and is most grateful for your support."

In addition to the fishing, the tournament featured a casting competition as well as raffles and drawings. Prizes and goods sold were donated by local and national businesses and by individual sponsors.

The tournament concluded with a riverside cookout and fund raiser. The 3rd annual Kennebec Benefit Pro-Am will be held on September 12th&13th 2008.





Eco-Tourism in Midcoast Maine

River Run Tours, Inc.

www.riverruntours.com

by **Capt. Ed Rice**
207-504-2628

Midcoast Maine offers the most diverse scenery by water of any other area that I can think of. After 7 years of exploring, and 2 full seasons of chartering, I have not seen a tenth of the available beauty. Many times as Charter Captain I find myself trying to show my clients too much in a short time. Most are very happy to take a slow pace and really smell the roses. The things I see each and every day, they may only see once in a life-

time...I am truly blessed!

One July morning, with a large family aboard, making way up the Back River for Sunday Brunch at Bintliff's a magical thing happened. We had slowed to a drift for photographs just South of the Westport Island Bridge.

In a stand of partially dead evergreens on the West side of the river was a Rookery of Great Blue Heron. Approximately 40 birds, extremely vocal in

After brunch, I showed them Ovens Mouth, Trevett, Southport's Hendricks's Head Lighthouse, Five Islands and Upper and Lower Hells Gates, but the conversation always came back to the birds in the trees.

I hope the coming years show as much natural beauty as the past has. I have discovered that I am in charge of the vessel, but I am not in charge of the tour.

The finest attractions simply cannot be planned for in advance, I wouldn't want it any other way! Ed



The Dole Family of Bath

MACC speaks out for your interests

A Message From our President Dave Pecci

Our first year of advocacy work for the Maine For-Hire fleet was exciting and active. We testified at numerous regulatory public hearings as well as legislative hearings. We attended and spoke out at numerous advisory committee meetings with some impressive results:

- Successfully stopped the ME Legislative Taxation Committee from including saltwater and tidewater guiding services in a proposed comprehensive expansion of the state sales tax. The bill was eventually defeated.
- Conducted a fleet survey on a proposed saltwater fishing license and then presented a position requesting the bill be tabled. The bill was eventually defeated.
- Initiated and testified on behalf of new special bait gill net tending regulations on the New Meadows River resulting in the reduction on striped bass bycatch mortality in neglected gill nets.

Worked with the ME DMR Marine Warden Service to establish a pilot

program called "Eyes and Ears on the Water" where licensed captains have direct contact with the Warden Service and can easily share information and concerns about regulation violations and safety issues.

- Worked through the CHIOR and with other New England based groups to get Atlantic Herring placed on the New England Fisheries Management Council's 2008 priority management list.
- Sent in written testimony to the Director of the NMFS successfully opposing a movement to open federal water to the harvest of striped bass.
- Sent in written testimony to the ASMFC successfully supporting the establishment of a coast wide striped bass bycatch data collection program.
- Initiated preliminary talks with ME DMR and the Legislative Marine Resources Committee about establishing a Maine Recreational Fishing Promotions Fund.

- Participated in The Kennebec River Coalition and the 2007 DOC Boating and Fishing Strategic plan advisory committee meetings.

MACC is speaking out for your business interests but we need your help to continue doing it effectively. You need to be involved by sharing your views and ideas with us.

Please take time to respond to e-mails and letters that you get from us.

We can only speak for you if we know your views.

Also please join one of our committees; there are seats available on all of them.

Remember, we are an all volunteer Assn. Your views are welcomed and your assistance is needed. For more info on the actions listed above or on our committees you can go to the assn. website:

www.mainechartercaptains.org

Click on the speaking out page and visit the member services sections.

Thank You Maine Hosting Solutions for continued support of M.A.C.C



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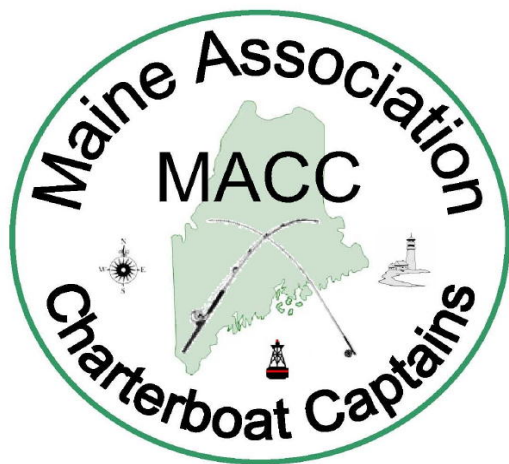
Phone: 207-442-8581

E-mail:

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On the web at:

www.mainechartercaptains.org



MACC's Website Benefits You

Fish Tale Charters

www.maineflyfishing.net

The information available on www.mainechartercaptains.org is immense. From our mission statement and code of conduct, to a long list of resources that can help each of us make better choices and decisions affecting the safety and prosperity of our businesses. Visit our (your) website to get the latest info on such issues as :

Industry News: Find the latest on key issues of legislation, licensing, resource protection, and studies driving our management agencies with the regulatory trends that follow.

Speaking Out: Find MACC's positions on front issues such as the salt-water fishing license, trip reports, and recreational access to closed areas, as well as our statements regarding proposed sales taxes and commercial fishing bycatch.

Useful Links: Check out the local tides, weather, and sea conditions. Visit the local state, regional, and federal fisheries management agency sites for the latest fishing reports and regulations.

Member Services: You have your own listing with

logo, pictures, a link to your website (if applicable) and all your pertinent info.

MACC will also provide you with cost saving info for purchasing tackle, equipment, and apparel and we are working on a group policy for business insurance and marine services.

These are just a few of the ways our organization benefits you. Please take advantage of this valuable resource.



Our Mission

The Maine Association of Charterboat Captains is an All-Volunteer Non-Profit organization committed to the promotion of guided recreational fishing and eco-tourism, and is dedicated to the principles of conservation, professionalism and stewardship.

Our Purpose

To maintain the skills and knowledge of Maine Charter Captains so that they may provide safe, educational, and meaningful outdoor experiences for their clients in accordance with the Corporations Code of Ethics. To Present a unified voice for members on policy, management, and environmental issues that affect Maine Charter Captains. To Conduct such other activities consistent with a Maine non-profit and business league as allowed by law.

M.A.C.C. Meeting

Please Join us **Friday January 11th, 6pm** at **The Kennebec Tavern** in **Bath** for our MACC general membership meeting. Fellow guide/Capt Don Kleiner, president of the Maine Tourism Association will be the guest speaker.

Pat Keliher, George Lapointe and Bruce Joule from DMR will be attending to speak on Marine issues. There Will Also be a Raffle.

MAINE HADDOCK \$ 24.34

PRIME RIB AU JUS \$ 23.05

CHICKEN PICATTA \$ 19.20

FETTUCCINE PRIMAVERA \$ 19.20

INCLUDES TIP AND TAX

Choice Of SOUP OR SALAD And BAKED POTATO, CHEF'S POTATO, RICE OR FRENCH FRIES; A FRESH VEGETABLE AND FRESH BAKED BREAD AND BUTTER

Please Mail Check To:

Dan Wolotsky, 52 Curtis Road, Freeport Maine 04032
by Jan 4.

by Captain Dave Gittins

207-363-3874