



BALTIMORE CONFERENCE
OF
CENTRAL ATLANTIC STATES ASSOCIATION
OF
FOOD and DRUG OFFICIALS

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SKIPJACK

NEWSLETTER OF THE BALTIMORE CONFERENCE OF CASA

WINTER EDITION

VOL 2010-1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello and welcome to the winter edition of the Skipjack! The September quarterly meeting was a huge success. My apologies to those who could not attend because the room was filled to capacity. We are thrilled that so many people want to attend the meetings, and will be looking for a larger venue for next year's meeting. Many of us are already gearing up for the holidays and busy at our jobs, but be sure to set aside time to attend the December CASA meeting! We have a new location in Baltimore County that has plenty of room for all of us.

Don't forget to make plans to attend the CASA 95th Annual Education and Training Seminar Hosted by the Baltimore Conference this year, it is our region's time to shine! Come mingle with your friends and colleagues across the region and show your support for our organization.

The FDA Central Region Retail Food Protection Program and Central Atlantic States Association have joined forces to hold the next FDA Central Region Food Protection and CASA Education and Training Seminar. The meeting will be conducted at the Sheraton Baltimore North hotel in Towson, MD from May 16 - 19, 2011. The joint meeting **DRAFT theme** is "Public Health Alliances - Staying Connected in the 21st Century". This meeting will include a start up session especially for Regulators and Retail Food

Program Managers on Monday, May 16 which will be mandatory to attend for FDA Standardized state and local personnel. This meeting with both organizations should prove to be one of the outstanding meetings in 2011. The CASA seminar is hosted by the Baltimore Conference this year, it is our region's time to shine! Come mingle with your friends and colleagues across the region and show your support for our organization.

The quarterly meeting planning committee is always looking for suggestions for speakers. Please email myself or Al if you have any ideas. Remember to renew your memberships for 2011 and I'll see you in December!

Robin Henderson, President

Summary of Health Department New Regulation Changes

At the last quarterly meeting, new changes to COMAR 10.15.03 and 10.15.04 were discussed. Among the changes were the addition of regulations for a Farmer's Market Sampling license and a Producer Mobile Farmer's Market Unit. These additions were the result of changes in statute this year. For further questions or copies of the slide presentations, please email Robin Henderson, robinh@dhmh.state.md.us or Gwen John, gjohn@dhmh.state.md.us.

REMINDER:

-- The 312th Quarterly meeting of the Baltimore Conference will be held on Thursday, December 9, 2010 at a new venue, The Randallstown Community Center located at 3505 Resource Drive, Randallstown, MD, 21133. This facility is approximately 1 year old, is spacious and offers plenty of free parking. It is located 2.7 miles from the Beltway (rt.695) at Exit 18, West off Liberty Road. 5 Hours of approved Training are being requested from the Board of Environmental Sanitarians.

-- Since we use e-mail to notify members of upcoming events, It is the responsibility of the member to make sure that we have your current e-mail address. When you change your e-mail address, please notify us, ASAP.

Overview of Testing Protocol of Harvest Waters that were Closed in Response to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

Protocol for sampling, testing, and re-opening closed harvest

1. **Re-opening fishing waters that were closed, but which were never actually exposed to oil.** Harvest area closures include buffer zones around the contaminated areas as a precaution to account for any uncertainty about the exact location of the oil from day to day. There are also areas which federal and state officials closed in anticipation that oil would enter, but it never did enter. If it can be confirmed (e.g., through water quality sampling, aerial surveillance, and/or satellite imagery) that a harvest area was never exposed to the oil, that area may be re-opened without first testing seafood samples.
2. **Re-opening harvest waters that were exposed to oil.** The first criterion to be met before harvest waters exposed to oil are re-opened is that the water be free of oil from the spill. Once the oil has dissipated, re-opening of harvest waters may be performed on a species by species basis; that is, areas may be open to the harvesting of certain types of seafood, like finfish, but not others. For a closed area to re-open for harvesting of a given species, samples of the species taken from the waters must successfully pass both a sensory examination and chemical analysis in an approved laboratory. Testing will be performed on finfish, shrimp, crabs, and mollusks (e.g. oysters/mussels).

Criteria for sensory testing: A sample consists of the edible portion of the species of seafood being tested. A panel consisting of a minimum of 10 expert sensory assessors will evaluate each sample in both a raw and cooked state. In order for an area to be considered acceptable for re-opening from a sensory standpoint a minimum of seventy percent (70%) of the expert assessors must find NO detectable petroleum or dispersant odor or flavor from each sample. If any sample fails, the site from which it was collected remains closed.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

All CASA 2010 memberships expire on **December 31, 2010**. Renewal can be made either by completing the **Renewal** form, attached for your convenience and mailing it, along with a payment, to the **CASA Treasurer**, or by mailing it to Alexander A. Ondis, 4625 Wards Chapel Rd. Owings Mills, MD 21117, or by paying for membership at our next quarterly meeting on 12/9/2010. The Renewal form is found on CASA Web-Site, www.casafdo.org , click on “Renew/Join”

“CASA Membership Dues Information
and Application”

Please complete today and return to:

Megan Lauff, CASA Treasurer at FDA, US Custom House, 200 Chestnut St
Room900
Philadelphia PA 19106

- Regulatory \$15 Annual Dues
- Associate \$35 Annual Dues
- Academic \$10 Annual Dues
- Student \$10 Annual Dues
- Retired \$10 Annual Dues

(Make checks payable to CASA – FID#56-6136694)

Local Conference Membership is included with payment of dues in all categories: check appropriate conference below:

- Baltimore Philadelphia
- New York Pittsburgh
- Niagara Frontier Susquehanna
- Northeastern N.Y. Virginia

Name _____

Agency _____

Address _____ Telephone _____

_____ Fax _____ E-MAIL _____

Form may be also be sent to Alexander Ondis, Baltimore Conference Sect/ Treasurer
4625 Wards Chapel; Rd. Owings Mills, MD 21117

REMINDER

This is an exiting time in the history of the Baltimore Conference of the Central Atlantic States Association of Food & Drug Officials. (CASA) All of CASA –land will descend on Towson, Maryland for the 95th Annual CASA Education and Training Seminar. It happens once every 8 years. It is our member’s opportunity to attend a CASA Regional Conference. As referenced in the *President’s Message*, this seminar is being held in conjunction with The FDA’s Central Region Retail Food Protection Seminar. This Seminar will draw Federal and State officials from New Jersey to the Dakotas.

Start making arrangements ASAP

Keep checking on the CASA web site (www.casafdo.org) for important update information concerning the Seminar