

'Governance' and 'science' top lobster fishers priorities

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group of dedicated lobster fishermen in response to problems in the lobster fishery. With the support of some local fishing organizations and funding from the provincial Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture and ECBC, the Board has hired a project manager, Veronika Brzeski.

Ms. Brzeski said she recognizes that the lobster fishery has experienced a serious economic downturn. "We need to put our heads together and find some solutions. How can we make the fishery more sustainable? How can we maintain a good living from our licenses?"

A draft plan was submitted to DFO before Ms. Brzeski was hired. She is now in the process of adding data she has acquire from DFO and some more accurate historical data from Area 27 fishers to the sustainability plan.

Lobster fishermen in Victoria and Cape Breton Counties have been ahead of the curve in trying to understand the impacts on their fishery. In the past, LFA 27 fishermen voted twice for increasing the minimum legal size (MLS) and, as a result, now fish a market-sized lobster. Maturity estimates in this LFA suggest that at least 80% of females are mature at this size. Fishermen have also been active participants in many studies on lobster movement, growth, size at maturity, escape vent size and in the development of methods to survey larval settlement. Therefore, though not all 524 fishermen are represented by an organization, there is a certain level of awareness of the needs and the issues in the fishery.

Over the course of the winter seven meetings were held in Area 27 from Neil's Harbour to Main a Dieu where fishermen discussed issues of governance, science,

environment, license retirement, marketing, a lobster hatchery, trap reductions, interactions with the rock crab and scallop fisheries, seals, use of perch by-catch as bait, V-notching, artificial reefs, eco-certification and maximum size. As all issues were debated, two were deemed important to all the fishermen in attendance: Governance and Science. Fishermen who attended the meetings would like to be represented by an organization that

represents their interests and take a stronger role in managing their fishery. They would also like to collect their own science information – providing them with the tools to negotiate management options with DFO.

"The dialogue will continue through port visits over the course of the lobster season, and more updates and information will be posted on the website," Ms. Brzeski said. "And we will have one or two formal meet-

ings after the season. It appears that in LFA27 lobster fishermen see ALSM as an opportunity to take on a stronger role in managing the lobster fishery."

Area 27 Management Board has created a website not only as a way to inform everyone about the project and updates but also a way to link fishermen to information about the lobster industry and management issues. It can be viewed at www.lfa27.com.

Making music for water in Malawi



"The Village Kidz" a Baddeck and area youth choir under the direction of Michele Stephens entertained a large audience at St. Mark's Hall on June 10th. They were part of an evening of music which was a fund raising effort to support Knox Church's 'Water for Africa' project through Presbyterian World Service and Development.

Thank You

You Made A Difference!

Last October, our District embarked on our biggest immunization campaign to limit the spread of H1N1 flu in our communities.

The hard work paid off as 60% of the people in our communities have been immunized against H1N1.

It took the extraordinary efforts of many people to make H1N1 immunization a success. All of our staff went above and beyond the call of duty to meet the challenges of H1N1. Thank you to :

- Our nurses and doctors who immunized both our staff and the public
- Our staff who treated patients who had H1N1 or flu-like illnesses
- Our staff and volunteers who supported H1N1 efforts through planning, assessment and providing support services

You can't put a price on prevention. If you got the H1N1 shot, you protected yourself and someone else from getting the flu. For that we thank you.



A Message from the District's Board of Directors & Senior Management Team



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