



January 22, 2009

Greetings Members:

"09" is upon us already! Hope 08' was a productive and prosperous year for all of you. Here at MOA we consider our first full year to have been a successful one. As you know, the focus of our efforts in 08' was the revival of the seed shell relocation program. Towards revival of that program we have had dozens of meetings with members of the House of Delegates as well as the Senate members. Along with attending all monthly Oyster Advisory Committee (OAC) meetings, we also had several sit downs with individual members of that committee, including its chairman, Mr. Bill Eichbaum.

The MOA offered a power point presentation at the OAC meeting on June 18, 2008. This presentation focused on the merits of the seed program. MOA members have also been appointed to a subcommittee workgroup of the OAC. We are being heard! Slowly, but surely. In spite of this uphill battle that all face, we encourage all members to speak out and let your voices be heard.

Individually seek out DNR officials and your local representatives, inform them and the general public of the merits of the seed program. We will keep banging on doors and speaking out! The more members we have, the louder our voice. We are currently over 300 members strong, but we must keep growing to be heard, so renew your membership and sign up a friend too!

Check out our current events update on our website at mdoystermen.org. There you will find a comprehensive, detailed list of our accomplishments in 08' and our aims and objectives for 09'. We thank you for your efforts during this past year and look forward to your support in the coming year.

There will be a general membership meeting at Hog Neck Community Center on Ocean Highway, Easton MD on the evening of Wednesday February 18th at 7:00 p.m. in Wye Oak Room.

There has been a bill filed in opposition to the proposed shell dredging of Man O War shoal. This bill is labeled S.B. 125. Please try to attend the public hearing in Annapolis on this bill to express your opposition as this will further delay any chances of future seed program. See website for hearing time and date.

Respectfully,

MOA board members

2009 MOA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Mail check payable to Maryland Oystermen Association for \$20 individual or corporate \$200 to:

P.O. Box 290, Rock Hall, MD 21661