

## APRIL NEWSLETTER

ATTENTION!!! THIS IS A SPECIAL MIAA NEWS REPORT.

If passed into law, Sportsman's Alliance of Maine proposed bill LD-285 will close many of your favorite fishing waters to live bait.

Sportsman Alliance of Maine has a legislative bill proposal that if passed into law will close 60-plus waters to the use of live bait forever. The bill, LD 285 will be presented to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's Joint Standing Committee at 1 p.m., Thursday, April 12, 2007 at Room 206 in the Cross Building behind the Capital. The bill is sponsored by Rep. Ted Kauffman of Bar Harbor for SAM and endorsed by Trout Unlimited and the Dude Dean Angling Society.

MIAA is fighting this outrageous bill tooth and nail, but it won't be easy. **The MIAA has taken a firm stance stating no new additional waters should be closed to fishing with live bait, especially lakes and ponds currently open to live bait use now.** The support from all MIAA members is needed. It's now or never. If you've never been active in helping to preserve your angling rights, it's time to become pro-active. If you're currently a SAM member think seriously what this organization is preparing to accomplish in their latest attempt to take away angling opportunities. LD 285 affects all anglers, whether or not you're an MIAA member. Voicing your opinion is simple. Show up at the April 12 hearing and be counted; contact DIF&W legislative liaison/ regulations officer Andrea Erskine at [www.andrea.erskine@maine.gov](mailto:www.andrea.erskine@maine.gov) and DIF&W Joint Standing Committee Chairperson Senator Bruce Bryant at [SenBruce.Bryant@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:SenBruce.Bryant@legislature.maine.gov) or call the Senator at 562-8872. Sending George Smith at [www.george@samcef.org](mailto:www.george@samcef.org) an e-mail telling him you oppose this bill would also be useful. You can also find information about this bill and an automated e-mail program set up at [www.neoutdoorvoice.com](http://www.neoutdoorvoice.com) or [www.maineiceanglers.org](http://www.maineiceanglers.org) At the least, please send an automated e-mail located at these sites and help defeat LD 285

### **MIAA election of officers on April 21.**

It is election time for the Maine Ice Anglers Association's governing offices and all positions are open for re-election or installation of new officers. This is an extremely important MIAA function. The officers you elect will be responsible for setting MIAA policy and representing the association on all matters. Please plan to attend this important meeting to voice opinions and cast your vote. The election-day get-together will be held at 1 pm, Saturday, April 21, at MIAA member, Jack Trap headquarters in Monmouth. To get there---take I-95 north or south and get off at the Augusta/Winthrop exit, take Rt. 202/100 West to Rt. 132. Take a left onto Rt.132 and travel through the town of Monmouth (5 miles) until you meet the Ridge Road on the left. Travel ½ mile on the Ridge Road to Jack Traps. Parking will be behind the building. For further information, contact Tim Jackson at 933-9499.

Special thanks goes to MIAA members Mike and Ann Coburn, of Kineo Flies in Greenville Jct. for their outstanding contribution by signing-up 100 new MIAA members. Other new honorable MIAA members include DIF&W deputy commissioner Paul Jacques of Waterville and State representative Ken Fletcher of Winslow.