

All:

We invite you to join us at The Maine Boatbuilders Show at 4PM March 23 to discuss ways to encourage Mainers of all ages, but especially youth, to consider careers in Maine's maritime and coastal economy: ranging from boatbuilders and aquaculture workers to kayak guides and marina workers.

We believe that the community does not appreciate how many good jobs are available as Maine's commercial and recreational marine economy grows and baby boomers retire.

This is an exploratory meeting that grew out of a January meeting in Portland. We hope to draw a cross section of folks from the entire Maine Coast representing the whole range of outreach and training programs as well as potential employers to brainstorm solutions to this emerging problem.

We will have brief presentations from the following speakers to kick start the discussion and follow with a discussion seeking ideas and initiatives for followup.

Adam Shepard, Executive Director **Rippleeffect**, Portland

Adam has over 20 years of experience in outdoor experiential education and youth development, His career has included time as a public school teacher, director of a children's summer camp, founding a Nonprofit Consulting firm.

Monique Coombs, Director of Marine Programs, **Maine Coast Fishermans Association**, Brunswick

Monique lives on Orrs Island with her lobsterman husband and children She has published a lobster cookbook, consulted for the Penobscot East Resource Center, worked with researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology studying fisheries and Hancock Gourmet Lobster Company before starting at MCFA.

Jason Curtis, VP operations, Portland Yacht Services, Portland

Jason has been with PYS for 20 years, and the marine industry for 30, he has worked as a service department manager and motor technician. He is an Air Force veteran and works to develop workforce development programs for PYS.

Stacey Keefer, Executive director, **Maine Marine Trades Association**, Rockland

Stacey has spent over twenty years in the marine industry in Maine. After working 13 years in a Midcoast boatyard she served as an education liaison for the Maine Marine Trades Association working on career awareness, training, and workforce development projects.

Ken Sparta Pine Tree Council Boy Scouts of America

Ken has worked for many year in outdoor education, including with LL Bean Outdoor Discovery Schools, currently he is developing a sea scout program in collaboration with Tall Ships Portland.

The Boatshow has agreed to admit meeting attendees for free after 3PM Friday. HOWEVER if you must RSVP to this invitation so that you will be on the entry list.

For Show information and directions go to: <http://www.portlandcompany.com/boatshow/>

Other items:

- Please forward this invitation to anyone you think would be interested.
- If you cannot attend but want to follow this initiative, let us know and we will include you on the email list.
- If you have handouts that would be of interest, bring them to put on a table at the meeting. If you cannot attend send your handouts to Erno and we will put them out.

Any Questions, please contact Erno

We hope to see you at the Show

Adam, Erno, Ken, Jason and Monique

CONTACT:

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