

**For Immediate Release:
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Contact:

Jennifer Plummer, NAMA, 207-284-5374

Beth Richardson, Fair Organizer, 207-767-1929

Farmers and Fishermen Come Together for 2009 CSA Fair

CSFs to be included for the first time

Portland, ME – After two wildly successful years of promoting Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), the 2009 Maine CSA Fair will include Maine fishing families and Community Supported Fisheries (CSFs). The event is scheduled for February 8, from 1-4pm, at several locations around the state. Organized by the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA), Maine Council of Churches and Slow Food Portland and supported by the Eat Local Foods Coalition, the fairs have drawn hundreds of people from throughout the state, sold CSA shares at a fast rate and generated advertising and familiarity for CSAs.

This year the organizers have teamed up with Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance (NAMA) to give fair goers a chance to learn about fishermen who are replicating the CSA model in order to bring fresh, seasonal seafood to their local communities. Attendees can become acquainted with local seasonal foods including seafood, buy a share in a farm's or fisherman's weekly harvest or catch, and discover how they can grow a relationship with Maine food producers.

Confirmed locations for 2009 include Portland, Hallowell, Bath/Brunswick, Bangor/Orono, Canaan and Belfast. Additional locations being considered are: Bethel area/Oxford County, Kennebunk/York County, Somerset County/Canaan, and Franklin County/Farmington. We will only go ahead with the proposed locations if we have interest from CSA farms and CSF fishermen. Keep in mind that you are welcome to participate in multiple locations, so if a proposed locale works for you, please contact Beth Richardson.

Admission to the event is free. Light refreshments featuring local seasonal foods will be available for purchase.

Once the final locations are determined, based on your interest, the organizers will contact you with additional information, determine your space needs, and work with you to insure a successful experience. It is important that we get a commitment from interested farmers and fishermen as soon as possible so their information can be included in pre-event publicity.

Fishermen should contact: Jennifer Plummer at Jennifer@namanet.org or 207-284-5374.

Farmers should contact: Beth Richardson at bethrich@maine.rr.com or 207-767-1929.

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