

Island Ad-Vantages

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

August 22, 2019 – Last week a local grocery store was selling steamer clams (*mya arenaria*) for almost \$9/lb. If I have my math right and a bushel of clams can weigh nearly 100 lbs., that's a \$900 bushel! Clam diggers however, only make a fraction of the price that retailers get (\$3.50/lb. this week), but the variation in prices both to the digger and at the grocery can be extreme. There are reasons for these fluctuations. Supply, demand, and time of year are factors. Shellfish beds are occasionally closed due to either marine biotoxins (like red-tide) or pollution events related to rainfall. Other states also import clams and affect the supply. Maine's clam landings in 2018 were valued at nearly \$13 million, and it is the fourth most valuable fishery. Check out the Maine DMR website for more information about clam flat closures at www.maine.gov/dmr.

FISHERIES LOG

Lobsters: \$5.25/lb.

Clams: \$3.50/lb.

Bait (herring): \$82/bu.

Fuel (diesel): \$2.70/gal.

Oceanographic Buoy I-01*

Sea surface temperature: 53° F

SST - Long term average: 55° F

Bottom temperature: 50° F

BT - Long term average: 49° F

DISCLAIMER: figures were collected Monday, August 19 | *SOURCE: www.neracoos.org