

# Island Ad-Vantages

## THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

### September 12, 2019 – What are those large schools of small fish I see everywhere?

Those are probably “pogies”, the name fishermen use for Menhaden (*Brevoortia Tyrannus*). These pelagic fish are related to herring and they migrate in schools along the coast. They are usually here earlier in the summer and gone by now, but this year their numbers are high, and they are still around and readily visible in the Penobscot Bay region as large schools of thousands “boiling” at the surface. Pogies are planktivorous, meaning they feed by filtering zooplankton and phytoplankton through their gill rakers. Although not as popular as Atlantic Herring for lobster bait, given the cut back in allowed catch of herring, many fishermen are catching them now to supplement the bait supply. They are usually caught with small purse seines. The fishery was closed earlier this summer when the quota for Maine was reached, but the State was able to secure additional quota, and at present the fishery is open. It’s an impressive sight to watch a school of pogies being chased by seals or other large fish.

Do you have a question about our fisheries? Send it to [info@coastalfisheries.org](mailto:info@coastalfisheries.org) or call 367-2708.

### FISHERIES LOG

Lobsters: \$5.50/lb.

Clams: \$3.00/lb.

Bait (herring): \$82/bu.

Fuel (diesel): \$2.70/gal.

### Oceanographic Buoy I-01\*

44°6’10”N 68°6’44”W - Frenchboro

Sea surface temperature: 54°F

SST - Long term average: 55°F

Bottom temperature: 52°F

BT - Long term average: 51° F