

Island Ad-Vantages

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

September 26, 2019 – What are the ocean temperature trends this year? Most readers have heard that the Gulf of Maine is warming faster than most of the world's oceans. This year, the ocean temperatures across the Gulf of Maine have mostly been average. There was a spike in surface temperatures in late July as recorded at the buoys in the University of Maine's system. Buoy E off Monhegan had the warmest surface temperature on record on August 1 this year at 68°F. This warm water was seen only at the surface. What's very interesting to us at MCCF, is that Buoy I (off Frenchboro), supports our assumption that the Eastern Maine Coastal Current is distinct from the waters to the west of Penobscot Bay. Here the surface temperature is normal at 55°F while to the west the surface temperature is 59°F off Monhegan and 62°F off Saco. That's an 8-degree difference in just over 100 miles of ocean. A major factor in these fluctuations is the oceanographic circulation outside the Gulf of Maine where forces from Arctic melting, and changes in the Gulf Stream affect what water enters the Gulf.

Do you have a question about our fisheries? Send it to info@coastalfisheries.org or call 367-2708.

FISHERIES LOG

Prices to Harvesters in Stonington

Lobsters: \$5.50/lb.

Clams: \$2.75/lb.

Bait (herring): \$82/bu.

Fuel (diesel): \$2.55/gal.

Oceanographic Buoy I-01*

44°6'10"N 68°6'44"W - Frenchboro

Sea surface temperature: 55°F

SST - Long term average: 54°F

Bottom temperature: 52°F

BT - Long term average: 51° F