

Island Ad-Vantages

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

September 5, 2019 – Maine’s lobstermen are busy and apparently the landings are solid, but that doesn’t mean things are all good. Federal regulators still expect that Maine’s lobstermen will alter gear configurations to achieve a 60% reduction in the risk that a Right Whale will become entangled in their gear. As part of the process for developing a plan, the Maine DMR will meet with fishermen prior to proposing steps to achieve that goal. DMR intends on making the rounds, meeting with the 7 lobster management zones, but last week, they delayed those meetings indicating they were “temporarily on hold”. Also, last week the Maine Lobstermen’s Association retracted its support of the Whale Take Reduction Task Force findings from last spring that concluded that the Maine-based fishery represented a major risk to Right Whales. MLA Director Patrice McCarron wrote to NMFS indicating that there are “serious flaws in the data”. Further to our east the Canadian government enacted a dynamic fishing closure in the Bay of Fundy because several Right Whales were seen in that area. The situation remains in flux, changing almost every day.

FISHERIES LOG

Lobsters: \$5.50/lb.

Clams: N/A

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: 56°F

SST - Long term average: 55°F

Bottom temperature: 52°F

BT - Long term average: 51° F