

Island Ad-Vantages

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

October 10, 2019 – There have been guys knocking on doors on Deer Isle asking about harvesting seaweed in front of my house, what are they up to? These are likely rockweed harvesters that work for Acadian Seaplants (www.acadianseaplants.com), a company based in maritime Canada. Rockweed (*Ascophyllum nodosum*) is a common type of intertidal seaweed that is harvested at high to mid-tide either by hand with a cutting tool or with a mechanical device mounted to a boat. The company produces agricultural fertilizers and food additives for people and animals at their New Brunswick, Canada plant. Earlier this year the courts determined that coastal property owners own the seaweed in the intertidal zone. So companies like this must get permission from landowners to harvest. This company rotates their harvest areas throughout Washington and Hancock counties in order to not take too much. There are concerns about overharvest and the importance of rockweed in the local ecology. A new group called CRASSH (Conserving Rockweed Animal Systems for a Sustainable Harvest) is studying this issue, and are working with companies and landowners to monitor and evaluate the harvesting of rockweed. Here is their website if you want to know more, www.klemmeramanda.wixsite.com/crash.

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

FISHERIES LOG

Prices to Harvesters in Stonington

Lobsters (shedder select): \$4.75/lb.

Clams: \$2.50/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: 53°F

SST - Long term average: 53°F

Bottom temperature: 53°F

BT - Long term average: 52° F

DISCLAIMER: figures were collected Monday, October 7 | *SOURCE: www.neracoos.org