

Island Ad-Vantages

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

October 24, 2019 – What’s up with all the Sea Squirts showing up on the rocks, piers and in fishing gear? These marine animals get their name from the way they feed, taking in water through one siphon to filter out food particles and then “squirting” it out another siphon. There are a lot of varieties that are all part of the Tunicate family. Although there are species that are normal in the Gulf of Maine, there has been an expansion of a couple of species that are non-native and were probably introduced here through shipping and ballast water. *Didemnum lahillei* is an invasive tunicate that is covering a lot of the ocean bottom in the Gulf of Maine, and looks like pancake batter in large patches. Another invader is *Ciona intestinalis* and grows in heavy clumps of individuals that look like little vases. Getting rid of these invaders is probably impossible. If you break them, they can reproduce by fragmentation and as juveniles, they move around in water column and settle on a lot of different substrates. It’s likely that they are impacting marine habitat and therefore the commercial species that we are harvesting and managing. The best way to clear gear and ropes of them is to get them out of the water and let them dry up.

Do you have a question about our fisheries? Send it to info@coastalfisheries.org or call 367-2708. Learn more about MCCF by visiting 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: 52°F

Bottom temperature: 53°F

BT - Long term average: 51° F