

## Island Ad-Vantages

### THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

**October 3, 2019 – What determines lobster prices and why is there a difference in prices along Maine’s coastline?** Each week in this column, I report the price paid to fishermen at one of the buying stations on the Island for “select” lobsters. These are generally lobsters between 1 ½ - 3 pound lobsters and are the most popular in the market place. Chickens, or “chix” are smaller, around a pound each and are just the size of a legal lobster. They cost a bit less to you consumers. Throughout the year lobsters shed their shell and develop a new shell to grow into. So the term “shedder” and “new shell” are common. Some people prefer these “shedders” as they might be juicier or sweeter. Other consumers may feel they got gipped since the shell is not yet full of meat because the animal still has room to grow. You may also see “culls” which will be cheaper because they’ve lost one or both claws. In our regions, fishermen sort their catch on the boat as they fish and the buyers usually will sort them again to when they’re landed. This sorting is based on how well they will ship long distance or if they are better off being processed locally for other value-added products. New shell lobsters don’t survive shipping very well because they crush one another in the shipping crates. Some companies are experimenting with wet storage conditions to see if they can speed up the shell hardening process by manipulating temperature, water chemistry and food. Prices fluctuate throughout the year primarily based on supply and demand. Prices to harvesters will also vary by port location and the particular arrangement a fisherman may have with the buying station. Do you have a question about our fisheries? Send it to [info@coastalfisheries.org](mailto:info@coastalfisheries.org) or call 367-2708.

#### **FISHERIES LOG**

##### Prices to Harvesters in Stonington

Lobsters: N/A

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: 52° F

DISCLAIMER: figures were collected Monday, September 30 | \*SOURCE: [www.neracoos.org](http://www.neracoos.org)