

Island Ad-Vantages

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

November 7, 2019 – Can local towns manage the commercial harvest of Alewives?

The Alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*) also known as River Herring, are an anadromous species of fish that return to rivers, ponds and lakes in late spring where they reproduce. Juveniles then head for the ocean in late summer and early fall where they will continue to grow, eventually returning once again to the same place. Alewife is a species that is collaboratively managed and Maine towns can participate in monitoring, regulating and benefitting from the fishery. Last week the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) approved a change to the rules that was inspired by the many community-based alewife restoration projects in Maine. The rules had required a 10-year data set of alewife counts before towns could implement a fishery, but the new language will allow three specific towns to implement fisheries based fewer years of data backed up with a monitoring and management plan. If this works, these changes can be implemented elsewhere. Mike Thalhauser, a fishery biologist with MCCF, who has studied this issue extensively on the Blue Hill peninsula, worked with volunteers, communities, other organizations and DMR to help collect the data that substantiated this new process.

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: N/A

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: 51°F

Bottom temperature: 53°F

BT - Long term average: 51° F