

## Island Ad-Vantages

### THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

**December 19, 2019 – What are the lobster fishermen up to with the coming winter?** Many of the lobstermen that fish inshore (within 3 miles) have pulled their traps and have put them in storage for the season. Offshore fishermen are still fishing and some buying stations will remain open. Some of the fishermen are involved in other fisheries this time of year including scallops and green sea urchins. In both of these fisheries fishermen can either use a dredge or dive for them. Access to both of these state winter fisheries, in terms of available licenses is limited. Both fisheries' licenses were restricted to owner-operators in 2017, but only scalloping opportunities for entry were awarded by the legislature in 2018 via a statewide lottery. For every three scallop drag licenses retired, two new ones are drawn, whereas every dive license retired another dive license is awarded. Last season, of the 441 drag licenses held, 308 landed at least one day's catch of scallops. There are only 62 dive licenses in the state of Maine. In the 2019 scallop lottery, six new drag and four dive licenses were awarded. Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries is working to improve the prospects for a return to more diverse opportunities for fishermen so that the future is not so dependent on lobster. These efforts must include local knowledge and good sense, coupled with scientific information that can help create a management structure that is more nimble and generates improved understanding of the target resource, the ecosystem more broadly, and how things are changing.

Do you have a question about our fisheries? Send it to [info@coastalfisheries.org](mailto:info@coastalfisheries.org) or call 367-2708. Learn more about MCCF by visiting us online at [www.coastalfisheries.org](http://www.coastalfisheries.org).

#### FISHERIES LOG

##### Prices to Harvesters in Stonington

Lobsters (shedder select): \$4.90/lb.

Scallops: \$10.00/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: 46°F

SST - Long term average: 46°F

Bottom temperature: 46°F

BT - Long term average: 46° F