

# Island Ad-Vantages

## THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

**February 20, 2020** – Several weeks ago, the Department of Marine Resources submitted a proposed plan to the National Marine Fisheries Service for how Maine’s lobster fishery could make changes that would result in a reduction of the risk of entanglement of North Atlantic Right Whales. Last week, in a letter from NMFS regional Administrator Mike Pentony, the federal agency rejected the plan indicating that the proposed changes would not meet the expectation of reducing the risk to Right Whales by 60%. By NMFS analysis, the DMR’s plan achieves only a 52% reduction in risk. The plan includes changes in the number of traps per trawl at various distances from shore and the incorporation of weak points in the ropes that would break in the event of an entanglement. At the Marine Resource Committee of the Maine Legislature last week, DMR Commissioner Patrick Keliher indicated, “we have more work to do on this”. Maine’s lobstermen are already concerned that the industry is being held to a higher expectation for reducing risk than is warranted. There are other risks to these endangered whales that are seemingly being ignored, and the risk assessment models may not be using the most current understanding of the behavior and migratory patterns of the whales.

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): \$5.50/lb.

Scallops: N/A

Bait (frozen Pogies): \$28/box

Fuel (diesel): \$2.75/gal.

#### Oceanographic Buoy I-01\*

The NERACOOS portal is not currently providing data.