

Island Ad-Vantages

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

April 2, 2020 – The COVID-19 pandemic is having a devastating effect on seafood markets everywhere. In the global economy that has grown over the past decade, the bulk markets for Maine’s lobster at this time of year have grown to rely on consumers far and wide. Here, we are accustomed to finding locally harvested or cultivated food, but modern systems including better processing, shipping and storage techniques have shuttled a lot of our local products to other places. Now that those domestic and foreign markets are shutting down, the price to harvesters has decreased so much that it’s generally not worth it for them to haul traps or dig clams. We urge you to seek out local seafood and talk to the fishermen in your neighborhood to see if there are products available to buy at a fair price. We at MCCF are working on a small, alternative outlet that could provide “Lobsters for Lunch” for area schoolchildren while reducing the flow of lobster into the currently weak market. Several fishermen have said they are interested in donating lobster that they are catching as they are bringing in their traps and local schools are enthused about adding donated lobster to the meals they are delivering to students that are now homebound. MCCF staff are exploring this idea and if you are fishing and having difficulty moving your product, give us a call if you’re interested and in a position to help out.

If you are interested in learning more about these programs, give us a call.

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: \$3.25/lb.

Bait (frozen Pogies): \$28/box

Fuel (diesel): \$2.75/gal.

Oceanographic Buoy I-01*

Surface Water Temperature: 40°F