

# Island Ad-Vantages

## THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

**April 30, 2020** – Right now, the annual return of alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*), or river herring is taking place in the brooks and streams all along Maine’s coast. These are anadromous fish that grow to adulthood in the open ocean and then return to lakes and ponds to spawn. The return of alewives in the spring marks an important phase in the rhythm of living flora and fauna, and demonstrates the important connections between upland and the ocean as food webs and nutrient cycles keep the system healthy. In recent years, there has been a great deal of effort to remove barriers that have prevented these connections. Dams have been removed, culverts have been replaced, and other natural barriers breached. In this region, the towns of Penobscot, Brooksville and Sedgwick are working together, along with Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries, and Blue Hill Heritage Trust to restore fish passage in all Bagaduce waters that one supported river herring runs. Along with a lot of state and Federal policy work to incentivize this restoration, Mike Thalhauser, from MCCF, is working with these partners to coordinate volunteers to monitor the return of the alewife. MCCF has used this local capacity and these cultural connections to inform policy changes that incentivize stewardship and collaborative management between the towns and the state. Although the fieldwork needs to take into account social distancing, these volunteers are proceeding with this important work. It’s a great reason to be outside with nature and provides important information that is being used to understand the health of these populations so that towns that have harvest authority can monitor the stock and ensure sustainable harvest levels. If you’re interested in learning more about where you can go to see these amazing runs of fish, check out our Facebook page or drop us a line.

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: \$3.75/lb.

Bait (frozen Pogies): \$28/box

Fuel (diesel): \$2.30/gal.

#### Oceanographic Buoy I-01\*

Surface Water Temperature: 41°F