

Island Ad-Vantages

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

May 21, 2020 – This summer Pat Shepard, Collaborative Research Specialist for MCCF, will once again lead the Eastern Maine Sentinel Survey for groundfish. This is our 10th year for this survey that is building a long-term data set to determine the relative stock abundance of cod and other groundfish in eastern Maine. Other assessment surveys, that the state and federal fisheries scientists use to track cod and other species of groundfish, are based on towing a trawl through the water, whereas our Sentinel Survey uses a hook-based approach with baited long lines and jigs. The government surveys have not produced much data in our region in recent years and so the information we are collecting is novel and important as we evaluate the potential recovery of these fish in our region. The survey relies a great deal on fishermen to help design the survey methods and to tap into their knowledge of the fishing grounds. MCCF is partnering with the University of Maine, the Nature Conservancy, the state and federal fisheries agencies, and other supporters to implement this study in a way that ensures credible science-based methods while also incorporating local knowledge and engaging fishermen in the study. This year we are expanding the timing of the survey by starting as soon as possible this spring and extending into the winter months. A broad array of samples that we collect from the fish that are caught can help us to understand stock structure, dietary composition, and genetic families within the population. This year we anticipate up to 10 fishermen will volunteer to participate including 4 from the Stonington/Deer Isle area and others from ports to the east.

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: \$3.75/lb.

Bait (herring): \$82/bushel

Fuel (diesel): \$2.10/gal.

Oceanographic Buoy I-01*

Surface Water Temperature: 44°F