

Island Ad-Vantages

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

June 11, 2020 – I hope readers have taken the opportunity over these past few weeks to witness the spring run of alewives up our coastal streams and brooks as they arrive in our ponds where they will spawn. The run has been impressive this year and we'll report on the numbers in the coming weeks as we finalize counting with the help of community members. These are one of several diadromous species that come and go between fresh and salt water environments. It's amazing to think that their physiology can switch between salt and fresh water readily. Like salmon, the alewife is anadromous, meaning they migrate to fresh water systems to spawn and then the juveniles make their way back to the ocean where they will become adults. There's another important species that comes and goes from our rivers this time of year. The juvenile eel, or elver (*Anguilla rostrata*), is a catadromous species that spawns in the ocean and returns to the fresh water lakes to grow into adults. The eel fishery just closed on June 7. There are 425 licensed harvesters that deploy fyke nets along the edges of rivers beginning in late March. The elvers are sold and transported live to Asia where they are grown in ponds to adult stage that is used in sushi. Preliminary harvest totals for this season indicate that dealers reported buying a total of 9,650.399 pounds out of 9,688.000 available pounds with a reported value of \$5,067,522.00 for average price per pound of \$525. The price per pound is dramatically low this year due to changes in market related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In previous years, these tiny "glass" eels fetched more than \$2000 per pound.

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 (herring): \$82/bushel

Fuel (diesel): \$1.90/gal.

Oceanographic Buoy I-01*

Surface Water Temperature: 47°F