

# Island Ad-Vantages

## THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

**July 23, 2020** – Communities like Stonington and Deer Isle rely on the seafood sector a great deal for jobs and economic activity. We urge everyone to eat more local food and support the harvesters, businesses and restaurants that are part of our local seafood value chain. Seafood is also a healthy food option, and not just for its nutrition. You can also take part in foraging for some of your own seafood as a great way to get outside and get closer to nature. For example, you can dig your own clams with a modest investment in a clam hoe, or rake and a harvesting license. Clam licenses are available from the town offices and the towns of Stonington and Deer Isle have a reciprocal agreement so a license from either town works for flats throughout the island. Commercial licenses can be pricey costing residents \$500 and non-residents \$750 through a lottery system. But a recreational license only costs \$15 for residents and \$25 for non-residents. The funds from these licenses goes to helping to manage the clam fishery and is an important revenue stream for the towns.

These licenses are good for an entire year from June 1 thru May 31. Recreational harvesters are limited to 1 peck per day (about 1/4 of a bushel) of clams and they need to be at least 2 inches long. It's important to know where you're digging and to make certain that the area is open to harvest. Clam flats will occasionally be closed due to the presence of harmful bacteria or marine biotoxins. The Maine Department of Marine Resources maintains an on-line interactive map system that provides up-to-date information on closures throughout the state, so be sure to check out their website ([maine.gov/dmr](http://maine.gov/dmr)) before you head out. Clamming is hard work, but quite rewarding if you're persistent. Raelene Pert is the shellfish warden on the island and can also answer any questions you might have about digging (207.367.5891). Have fun and be safe and if it's not your thing, you can always buy some great clams from a digger near you or from the market.

Do you have a question about our fisheries? Send it to [info@coastalfisheries.org](mailto:info@coastalfisheries.org) or call 207.367.2708. Learn more about MCCF by visiting us online at [www.coastalfisheries.org](http://www.coastalfisheries.org).

### FISHERIES LOG

#### Prices to Harvesters in Stonington

Lobsters (shedders): \$2.50/lb.

Bait (fresh pogies): \$80/bu.

Fuel (diesel): \$1.90/gal.