

Island Ad-Vantages

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

July 9, 2020 – We’re starting to see large schools of Menhaden along Maine’s coast. They are also known as “pogies”, the name fishermen use for Menhaden (*Brevoortia Tyrannus*). These pelagic fish are related to herring and they migrate in schools along the coast. They are usually here throughout the summer and have been very abundant in recent years. Pogies are planktivorous, meaning they feed by filtering zooplankton and phytoplankton through their gill rakers. Although not as popular as Atlantic Herring for lobster bait, given the continued cut backs in allowed catch of herring, many fishermen are catching them now to supplement the bait supply. They are usually caught with small purse seines. The fishery was closed earlier back in June when the quota for Maine was reached, but the state was able to secure an additional 4.7 million pounds of quota known as “Episodic Event Set Aside (EESA)”, and the fishery reopened on June 29. However, on July 2 Department of Marine Resources Commissioner Pat Keliher had to cut back the daily allowed catch to 6000 pounds on open fishing days between Monday and Thursday because of high harvest rates. The Commissioner determined that “it is necessary to take emergency action to reduce the daily landing limit to prevent unusual damage to the menhaden resource by exceeding available quota.” The details of the regulation can be found at the DMR website.

Do you have a question about our fisheries? Send it to info@coastalfisheries.org or call 207.367.2708. Learn more about MCCF by visiting us online at www.coastalfisheries.org.

FISHERIES LOG

Prices to Harvesters in Stonington

Lobsters (shedders): \$2.50/lb.

Bait (herring): \$82/bu.

Fuel (diesel): \$1.90/gal.