

Island Ad-Vantages

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

August 27, 2020 – I think the coast of Maine collectively sighed in relief last Wednesday as Federal District Court Judge James Boasberg announced his decision to allow NOAA Fisheries to continue their current progress in scientific evaluation (an updated Biological Opinion) and rulemaking for reducing risk to the north Atlantic right whale. It was a decision weighing heavily on the lobster industry, state and federal fishery managers, and coastal communities already testing their mettle and fortitude amid reduced international and domestic markets resulting from the global pandemic.

It has been unclear since April 2020, when Judge Boasberg found NOAA Fisheries in violation of the Endangered Species Act for its incomplete 2014 Biological Opinion what he would determine as the court imposed “remedy”. Options included the granting of an injunction on the fishery immediately, establishing closed areas in Federal waters this fall, or recognizing the hard work by many stakeholders and NOAA Fisheries over the past 18 months and defer to their process, which is well underway. He chose the latter, and established a deadline of May 30, 2021. Make no mistake, the lobster fishery will have new rules, but they will be better informed by an improved risk assessment and closer consideration of feasibility which truly stands to better the chances for the right whale.

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): \$2.65/lb.

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

Fuel (diesel): \$2.10/gal.