

Island Ad-Vantages

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

November 5, 2020 – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) announced last week that the 2020 Lobster Benchmark Stock Assessment for the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank has record high abundance and recruitment. The news was not so good for the Southern New England where stocks are significantly depleted with poor prospects of recovery. This stock assessment is updated every five years. In 2015 and now in 2020, the assessment uses a model that was developed by Dr. Yong Chen at the University of Maine to evaluate the status of the fishery. A new development in this year's analysis is the incorporation of ecological variables in the stock assessment to account for the changes in the ecosystem.

This statistical model tracks the population of lobster by sex, size and season over time. In this assessment, three reference points are determined based on the available data to include the abundance threshold, the abundance limit, and the fishery/industry target. Based on these reference points, the model indicates that the Gulf of Maine stock and the Georges Bank stock are not depleted and overfishing is not occurring. The peer-reviewed report has been accepted by the ASMFC and they have been moving forward in developing management strategy evaluation framework for lobster to further evaluate potential risks of climate-induced changes and identify management strategies to mitigate such changes and develop long-term plans.

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): \$4.05/lb.

Bait (herring): \$82/bu.

Fuel (diesel): \$2.09/gal.