

# Island Ad-Vantages

## THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

**December 3, 2020** – Back in the fall, the US Department of Agriculture announced the Seafood Trade Relief Program. The deadline to apply is coming up on December 14 and I wanted to remind fishermen to take advantage of this opportunity for some financial relief. This is a nationwide program, with many eligible species. Payments are based on an individual's 2019 landings of eligible species, multiplied by the value that has been assigned to each eligible species. The value for each eligible species landed in Maine is as follows: Flounder (\$0.15/lb), Goosefish (\$0.10/lb), Herring (\$0.4/lb), Lobster (\$0.50/lb), Pollock (\$0.1/lb), Sole (\$0.15/lb), Squid (\$0.20/lb), Tuna (\$0.13/lb), and Salmon (\$0.16/lb). Payments will not need to be repaid and there is no cost to apply, however the payment will be considered taxable income. There is a payment limitation of \$250,000 per person or entity for all seafood combined.

To be eligible, fishermen must have a valid federal or state license or permit to catch one or more of these species, and that catch must be sold through a legally permitted or licensed seafood dealer. To apply, fishermen need to self-certify their 2019 landings information on the application. The quickest way for fishermen to get this information is to contact their dealer(s). I'm told there are several pages to the application form, but some of the required information is entered several times. Although this does not help the post-harvest parts of the seafood value chain, this should be welcome financial support for qualifying fishermen.

Additional information on the program as well as the application form is available at [www.farmers.gov/seafood](http://www.farmers.gov/seafood). For assistance, contact your local USDA FSA Service Center. MCCF staff is here to help too, whether it's printing the application forms or talking you through the forms on the phone. You can either call me on my cell at 207.949.4156 or call the office. Note that, due to local COVID-19 activity, our office will be closed to the public for the next couple of weeks. Please be safe and careful.

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 (run): \$4.05/lb.

Bait (herring): \$82/bu.

Fuel (diesel): \$2.09/gal.