

Island Ad-Vantages

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

November 18, 2021 – Last week DMR Commissioner Patrick Keliher announced that the lobster trap tag fee will increase in 2020 from \$0.50 to \$0.75 per tag. In his announcement he indicated that the fee for trap tags has not increased in 10 years and that the funds generated from this fee are important to the Department's Lobster Management Fund which invests in the science, management and enforcement in the lobster fishery. Maine lobstermen must put one of these tags on all of their traps each year as a way for enforcement to be able to identify who is fishing each trap. The cost of producing these plastic tags has crept up over the years and so DMR needs to adjust the fee in order to cover the cost of producing the tags and to maintain the related management activities. For a lobsterman fishing a full complement of 800 trap, this represents an increase of \$200.

In his announcement, Commissioner Keliher added that the Department intends on reimbursing fishermen for all of their 2022 license fees, surcharges and tag fees. Funding for the reimbursement is available as part of the Department's share of a second round of pandemic relief funds coming from NOAA. Provided that NOAA approves this use of the relief funds, the process for fishermen to apply for reimbursement will be announced later in 2022. Depending on the class of license and the number of traps they fish, some lobstermen pay well over \$1000 each year for these costs.

NOTE: for those readers that track the ocean temperatures that I provide every week, you may have noticed that both surface and bottom temperatures remain high for this time of year, nearly 5 degrees more than the average, and they are also at the highest ever measured for this time of year.

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): \$5.05/lb.

Bait (pogies): \$65/bu.

Fuel (diesel): \$3.29/gal.

Oceanographic Buoy I-01

44°6'10"N 68°6'44"W – Frenchboro

Sea Surface Temperature: 54.5°F (avg. for this date: 49.7°F)

Bottom Temperature: 54.4°F (avg. for this date: 49.8°F)

Source: www.neracoos.org