

Island Ad-Vantages

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

December 2, 2021: NOTE - It appears the surface sensor on the oceanographic buoy has malfunctioned as we have not had a new reading for a couple of weeks.

It's that time of year again when we can get locally harvested fresh sea scallops from dayboat harvesters. Local scallop divers have been working for a couple of weeks, but the opening for scallop draggers in Zone 2 was this week. Areas that are currently open in the rotational management plan opened up for dragging on December 1, 2021. The Atlantic sea scallop (*Placopecten magellanicus*) is the common species of scallop (which we pronounce ska-luhp in these parts) in Maine's coastal waters and much of the Gulf of Maine. There are large scallop beds out on George's Bank that are managed federally and those are mostly landed in New Bedford, MA. Those deep-water scallops are common in the marketplace year-round, are harvested on multi-day fishing trips, and may have been frozen before you purchased them. The local catch in Maine waters is much fresher by the time you buy them, the harvest is monitored by the state, and the season is often shortened in some harvest areas as the harvest proceeds. Maps indicating the allowed harvest areas for the season are available either on the DMR website or at the MCCF office. If you are a harvester and want printed copies of these maps, give us a call and we can send them to you by mail. When you do get the opportunity to buy some locally caught scallops, ask for them "dry" to make sure they have not been soaked in a salt solution that is occasionally used to add weight. Never expose them to fresh water. Even to rinse them, fresh water will alter the flesh enough so they won't brown up the way you want them to in your skillet. Be prepared for this worthwhile investment though, as the boat price this year is around \$20 per pound.

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): \$5.30/lb.

Bait (frzn. redfish heads): \$37.50/50lbs.

Fuel (diesel): \$3.29/gal.

Oceanographic Buoy I-01

44°6'10"N 68°6'44"W – Frenchboro

Sea Surface Temperature: NA (avg. for this date: 49.1°F)

Bottom Temperature: 52.1°F (avg. for this date: 48.6°F)

Source: www.neracoos.org