

Island Ad-Vantages

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

January 13, 2022: You may have seen the three-part series titled, “The Lobster Trap” that appeared in the Portland Press Herald and the Boston Globe back in December about Maine’s lobster fishery and its many challenges. The series was a joint venture between writers at the two newspapers and can be found at www.pressherald.com. It’s impressive to know that the writing team spent several months researching this article while spending time on Vinalhaven. This kind of investigative journalism is rare these days and the writers did a fairly good job of describing the many issues that the fishery is facing. While it’s great to get this level of exposure in the media about these important issues that face Maine’s lobster fishery, there is a troubling tone to the article and I fear that its message about fishermen is one sided and not entirely accurate.

Patrice McCarron, Executive Director for the Maine Lobsterman’s association recently published a follow-up article in the Portland Press Herald that counters some of the original articles’ erroneous assumptions. Patrice reminds us that, “It’s unfortunate that the articles’ tone suggests you are either enlightened and committed to save the planet from climate change, or you are sadly naïve and bury your head in the sand while your livelihood slowly fades away.” Nothing could be further from the truth.

We at MCCF work with a lot of fishermen. They are, by nature, inquisitive and observant of what is going on around them as they go about their business on the water. We find them to be excellent partners in science because they ask important questions and always offer important perspectives. The success of the lobster fishery over recent decades can be attributed to conservation measures, many of which have evolved in partnership between fishermen, scientists and regulators. Yes, fishermen can be skeptical of new regulations, and their willingness to challenge science and its conclusions is an important part of the process for creating better questions that can lead to better science.

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

Scallops: \$28/lb.

Lobsters (run): \$6.30/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

NOTE: The NERACOOS system has not yet updated for 2022, but will be operational again in the near future. *Source:* www.neracoos.org