

Island Ad-Vantages

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

February 10, 2022: *“To retain respect for laws and sausages, one must not watch them in the making.”*

The true origin of that quote is debatable. I, for one, do enjoy good sausage. And I generally obey laws. I am not a lawmaker, or a sausage maker, but in these days of “Zoom,” and other such practices, you CAN watch the making of laws.

Here in Maine, the laws that govern marine resource management are created by the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources in our Legislature. Currently, that committee is co-chaired by Senator Dave Miramant (D-Knox), and Representative Jay McCreight (D-Harpswell). Stonington’s own Representative Genevieve McDonald is also a member of this important 13-member committee. Maine’s 130th legislature is currently in the second year of its two-year term and will be in session until adjournment in late spring. The legislative agenda is usually pretty light in the second session, but a quick scan of bills being heard suggests these statesmen (and women) are very busy.

If you want to track the progress of bills, provide testimony, or watch the process via your computer, you only need to get on the Internet and type “legislature.maine.gov” into your browser. There you can search for specific bills, or, I find it easier to go to the Committee Page (pull down menu) and find the Marine Resource Committee. If you did that this week, you’d have seen public hearings and/or work sessions on a range of topics include: (HP1321) “An Act To Create a Commercial Halibut Fishing License,” (HP1414) “An Act To Limit Eligibility for Commercial Menhaden Fishing Licenses,” (HP1422) “An Act To Create a Legal Defense Fund for the Maine Lobster Industry,” or (HP1365) that proposes changes to aquaculture lease fees. And there are others in cue that will make the docket over the coming weeks.

I don’t imagine you’ll find sausage making on Zoom, but you can certainly watch how our elected officials go about doing their work at www.legislature.maine.gov.

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: \$18/lb. (one year ago - \$12.50/lb.)

Lobsters (run): \$7.55/lb. (one year ago - \$4.50/lb.)

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

Fuel (diesel): \$3.29/gal. (one year ago - \$2.47/gal.)