

Island Ad-Vantages

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

February 24, 2022: “It's deja vu all over again.” - Yogi Berra

Gulf of Maine lobster is once again being targeted by an organization that labels seafood as sustainable (or not). In this case, the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch is proposing to “red list” Gulf of Maine lobster and advising consumers not to purchase Maine lobster. Their draft report concludes that the fishery poses an unacceptable risk to the endangered North American Right Whale. This is not the first time Maine lobster has been targeted in this way. In 2020, the Marine Stewardship Council made a similar declaration, but that was rescinded after a reasonable case was made that our industry has made significant efforts to minimize the risk to whales. Now, with even more stringent regulations being implemented, the proposal to red list the fishery is even less credible. Our fishery has been reducing the risk to whales for many years and there remains no evidence that Maine's lobster fishery is killing whales.

You have the opportunity to comment on this draft proposal by going to www.seafoodwatch.org and clicking on the “recommendation” tab where you can find a form to provide feedback. As a microbiologist with experience managing seafood safety programs, I know it is important to monitor food safety and sustainability to help consumers make wise choices and to protect their safety. But if an organization like Monterey Bay perpetuates misinformation and uses market forces for other purposes, then their credibility suffers and their intentions become questionable.

On a related note, we will be hosting our first monthly “*Lunch and Learn*” webinar this week on Friday, February 25 from 12:30-1:30pm. Join MCCF Chief Scientist, Dr. Carla Guenther and her colleagues who will present an update on their research program “*Developing Social Indicators of Resilience in Maine's Lobster Fishery.*” Go to our website to register for this free online event www.coastalfisheries.org.

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.

Lobsters (run): \$10.05/lb.

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

Fuel (diesel): \$3.85/gal.