

Island Ad-Vantages

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

February 3, 2022: The Department of Marine Resources began accepting lottery applications last week for elver licenses. The lottery will be available through 5:00pm February 25, 2022. Lottery winners will then have the chance to apply for a license prior to the upcoming season, which starts March 22 and runs through June 7.

Elvers (*Anguilla rostrata*) are catadromous eels, which means they spawn at sea and the baby “glass” eels (elvers) make their way up brooks and streams in the spring to settle into freshwater ponds where they grow to adult age and return to the ocean three years later. In 2021, there were only 425 commercial elver licenses in Maine. Most of the fishermen deploy fyke nets along the shores of rivers and streams to capture these tiny “glass” eels. In a good year, they can fetch nearly \$2500/lb. in typically Asian markets that buy them live and then grow them in ponds for the sushi markets where smoked eel is considered a delicacy.

The lottery is available to Maine residents who are at least 15 years of age by the start of the 2022 season, and who are eligible to purchase an elver license in 2022 because they have not had their right to obtain an elver license suspended. There will be a minimum of 11 licenses available. Each new license holder will receive a minimum of four pounds of quota, which is made available from individual quota associated with licenses that were not renewed. Each individual will be allowed to submit up to five applications at a cost of \$35 per application. Individuals can enter the lottery online at www.maine.gov/elverlottery. Anyone with questions about the lottery can contact the Maine Department of Marine Resources at 207.624.6550 (option 2).

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): \$7.05/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.)