

Island 
Ad-Vantages

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

March 24, 2022: Last week, when President Biden signed the \$1.5 Trillion omnibus budget for the remainder of 2022, it included language encouraging the National Sea Grant Program (part of NOAA) to provide funds for implementation of the “Young Fishermen’s Development Act.” That legislation, enacted in 2021, authorized up to \$2 million annually for five years to support new programs aimed at training and skill building for young fishermen and aquaculturists. The act was inspired by the recognition across the nation that the fishing feet is aging, and the complexities of being a successful fisherman and seafood grower demand a wide range of skills.

In anticipation of the implementation of this national program, we have been working with Maine Sea Grant at the University of Maine and the Maine Coast Fisherman’s Association based in Brunswick to conduct a statewide needs assessment for training in Maine’s fisheries and aquaculture sectors. This effort has included many interviews with fishermen and growers of all ages and has also been compiling an inventory of current training programs. Our findings here in Maine will be combined with similar work in other parts of the USA as the National Sea Grant Program prepares a process for allocating the new funding. We hope that some portion of these funds will be applied in eastern Maine, perhaps through programs like our Eastern Maine Skippers Program (EMSP). The EMSP has been working with area high school teachers and students for over 10 years to support project-based learning opportunities for high school students that have an interest in topics related to the seafood sector. It’s critically important that, as we improve management and sustainability of our living ocean resources, we are preparing the future workforce to be good stewards that are ready and willing to collaborate on fisheries science and management.

Don’t miss our monthly “*Lunch and Learn*” webinar this week about the Offshore Wind Energy Roadmap process, Friday, March 25 from 12:30 to 1:30pm. You can find details at 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

Lobsters (run): \$12.80/lb.

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

Fuel (diesel): \$3.85/gal.

Oceanographic Buoy I-01

44°6’10”N 68°6’44”W - Frenchboro

Sea Surface Temperature: Not Available

Bottom Temperature: 39.7°F (avg. for this date: 38.2°F)

Source: www.neracoos.org