

## Island Ad-Vantages

### THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

**March 3, 2022:** The 130<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature is busily hearing bills that successfully ran the gauntlet to be on the agenda for the second session of the two-year biennium. The Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources recently took up several bills including L.D. 1908, An Act To Limit Eligibility for Commercial Menhaden Fishing Licenses. The bill is sponsored by Representative Genevieve McDonald and was brought up by the Maine Department of Marine Resources.

The Bill summary reads, “This bill, beginning in 2023, limits eligibility for commercial menhaden fishing licenses to those individuals who held a license to fish commercially for menhaden in any year from 2016 to 2021 and landed 25,000 pounds or more of menhaden in at least one of those years. It provides that the Commissioner of Marine Resources may not issue a resident commercial menhaden fishing license or a nonresident commercial menhaden fishing license to any individual in any year subsequent to 2023 unless that individual possessed that license in the previous calendar year.”

No doubt, the process for allocating menhaden quota to the state of Maine needs to be improved, but this step could keep small-scale harvesters from participating in this fishery in the future and possibly affecting lobster bait supply.

It is unfortunate that this type of legislation is needed for the management of marine resources. It essentially closes a fishery to new entrants thereby limiting the opportunity for participation rather than managing the menhaden population. If a management process were developed that allowed for opportunity and success with appropriate monitoring and effort/catch controls, this exclusionary approach may not be necessary.

Do you have a question about our fisheries? Send it to [info@coastalfisheries.org](mailto:info@coastalfisheries.org) or call 207.367.2708. Learn more about MCCF by visiting us online at [www.coastalfisheries.org](http://www.coastalfisheries.org).

#### FISHERIES LOG

##### Prices to Harvesters in Stonington

Scallops: \$18/lb.

Lobsters (run): \$11.05/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: 41.1°F (avg. for this date: 38.9°F)

Source: [www.neracoos.org](http://www.neracoos.org)