

## Island Ad-Vantages

### THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

**March 31, 2022:** The elver fishery just began its 10-week season that stretches from March 22 to June 7. Earlier this winter the Maine DMR held a lottery for 13 licenses that were not renewed from last year. The total number of commercial elver licenses is capped at 425. 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. 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. At present, DMR is reporting an average price of \$1825/lb. There are approximately 2500 elvers in a pound. The elver catch is monitored closely in order to manage the population and prevent over harvest. This year the total allowable catch for the Maine fishery is 9,334.30 lbs. Harvesters must report their catch and DMR posts the harvest weekly that is reported directly to the agency, and the harvest reported to the Native American tribes that are participating in the fishery. Those tribes include: Maliseet, Micmac, Passamaquoddy and Penobscot and each of them have a dedicated portion of the total quota. Once that quota is met, the harvesters must pull their gear. The total catch at press time was 1388 lbs. and the Passamaquoddy tribe had already met their quota.

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

Lobsters (run): \$10.80/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: 40.2°F (avg. for this date: 38.2°F)

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