

Island 
Ad-Vantages

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

By Tom Duym, Fisheries Education Specialist

April 28, 2022: The Eastern Maine Skippers Program (EMSP) has been busy organizing safety trainings for participating schools, including the USCG Drill Conductor courses in partnership with McMillan Offshore Survival Training. These trainings are supported by a grant MCCF received in 2019 funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and the United States Coast Guard. One of the goals of the grant were to provide all EMSP participants with training during the grant period, which expires at the end of August.

We recently held trainings for five students from Deer Isle-Stonington High School, twelve from George Stevens Academy, as well as in Vinalhaven, where five students and two local fishermen participated. We also organized a training in Cutler with 15 participants –including 12 students from Washington Academy and Jonesport-Beals High School! The USCG approved fishing vessel drill conductor training, is required of any person qualifying for a fulltime Maine lobster license having come through the Maine student license process, or at least one person onboard for any vessel participating in a federally permitted fishery. The course covers four major components of safety and survival, including crew overboard, flooding, fire and abandoning ship. Participants are exposed to and train in equipment use such as fire extinguishers, signal flares, survival suits, VHF radio use, Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRB) and life raft deployment. Trainings in Ellsworth, Mount Desert Island, Corea, Jonesport and Eastport are in the works.

Furthermore, EMSP teachers are discussing plans for the 2022-2024 collaborative project. Topics include a survey of Northern Maine Shrimp to include trapping and life cycle study with Down East Institute and the Department of Marine Resources. Other topics are grappling safety and design, benthic gear markers and bottom detection using sounders, and alternative rope design while incorporating natural fibers and dissolvable synthetics. There is certainly no lack of issues to look at in today's fisheries, but with the inquisitive and clear minds of our coastal community students engaged, we feel very confident there will be some creative and thought provoking ideas to be forthcoming. Stand by!

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): \$6.80/lb.

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

Fuel (diesel): \$4.75/gal.

Oceanographic Buoy 1-01

44°6'10"N 68°6'44"W - Frenchboro

Sea Surface Temperature: Not Available

Bottom Temperature: 42.9°F (avg. for this date: 40.3°F)

Source: www.neracoos.org