

Island Ad-Vantages

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

May 12, 2022: Last week I wrote about the return of River Herring (Alewife) to our coastal rivers. Atlantic herring, a close relative of alewife, are also in the news this week. In recent years, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) have periodically reduced the allowable catch quota for the fishery based on assessments of the stock's biomass in the northeast and Gulf of Maine. This instability in the Atlantic herring industry has prompted the federal government to give \$11 million to commercial fishermen and shore-side infrastructure in Maine, along with three other northeast states.

The 2020 stock assessment found that herring are overfished and quotas for the fish were reduced dramatically. The federal government declared a "fishery disaster" back in November, clearing the way for this federal assistance. Atlantic herring are an important component of the bait used by commercial lobstermen and also used as food.

Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo said last week that the herring industry in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island would receive assistance. More than \$7 million is slated for Maine. The Maine Department of Marine Resources will work on a distribution plan for these funds to fishermen and/or related shore-side businesses.

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: N/A

Bottom Temperature: 43.4°F (avg. for this date: 40.6°F)

Source: www.neracoos.org