

Island Ad-Vantages

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

BY CARLA GUENTHER, CHIEF SCIENTIST

May 19, 2022: Last week on May 12th, the Department of Marine Resources held a virtual scallop meeting to present findings from their review of the ten-year rotational management plan that has been in effect in eastern Maine (Zone 2-Penobscot Bay to Lubec) since December 2012. Melissa Smith, Resource Management Coordinator, presented data measuring how the fishery in this area scored on each of the top four goals for scallop fishery management as listed by fishermen who participated in MCCF's Community Fisheries Action Roundtables meetings that began in late 2010. These goals were 1. To rebuild the scallop resource in state waters; 2. To have access near homeports within Zone 2- reducing the need to travel; 3. For the fishery to provide a good day's pay for scallopers throughout the winter and early spring- bringing economic benefit to coastal communities; and 4. Reduce fishing pressure and congestion in Cobscook Bay.

Using a green, yellow, and red scheme for rating management performance in achieving these goals, Smith reported that analysis of landings and effort data indicates rotational management either achieved (green for Goals 1 and 3) or made significant progress toward (yellow for Goals 2 and 4) industry-stated goals. There is some debate around how much of the resource improvements could be attributed to the scheduled rotation of opening only one third of eastern Maine's scallop grounds every two years versus natural variation in larval supply and environmental conditions supporting scallop growth. There will be a series of Scallop Advisory Council meetings scheduled in June to discuss these results further and any possible changes that might be made to rotational management to improve upon its successes. It's great to see what good we can do when we put our collective heads together!

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): \$6.05/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: 43.7°F (avg. for this date: 41.3°F)

Source: www.neracoos.org