

Island Ad-Vantages

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

BY PAT SHEPARD, COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH SPECIALIST

May 26, 2022: If you're a lover of Maine seafood like me, you're excited about the state halibut season. Atlantic halibut (*Hippoglossus hippoglossus*), is the largest of all flat fishes and can grow up to 600-700 pounds. These days in Maine waters, they are rarely more than 100 pounds. There are tight restrictions on fishing for halibut. This year's season is pretty short. It just opened last week on May 18 and closes on June 13. Fishermen have to tag them, and they are limited to 25 tags per year in state of Maine waters. The size limit is 41 inches or greater. They are typically caught on baited longlines or "tub trawls," although catching one on a rod and reel produces a far more exciting story, sure to gain the angler some street cred. Choice of bait is the topic of many springtime arguments and runs the gamut from fresh alewives to hen clams and even pig hide. Once the season opens, you should start seeing it available in your fish store. Even better if you know a fisherman that catches one and is looking to peddle it locally. It's not cheap, but it's darn good.

Halibut is a very healthy seafood choice and easy to prepare. If you have the choice, I like steaks over filets - the bones and skin keep the flakes from drying out when cooking. By the way, if you're interested in learning more about the groundfish fishery and our Sentinel Survey that I manage, tune into our May 27 "*Lunch and Learn*" webinar at 1230pm. You can get more information about this online event at our website www.coastalfisheries.org.

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): \$5.99/gal.

Oceanographic Buoy 1-01

44°6'10"N 68°6'44"W - Frenchboro

Sea Surface Temperature: N/A

Bottom Temperature: 44.2°F (avg. for this date: 41.9°F)

Source: www.neracoos.org