

Island Ad-Vantages

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

June 16, 2022: The Maine menhaden season opened this past Monday, June 13 with new restrictions enacted by the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR). Menhaden (*Brevoortia Tyrannus*) are also known as “pogies”, the name most fishermen use. These pelagic fish are related to herring and they migrate in schools along the coast. They are usually here throughout the summer and have been very abundant in recent years. Pogies are planktivorous, meaning they feed by filtering zooplankton and phytoplankton through their gill rakers. Although not as popular as Atlantic herring for lobster bait, given the continued cut backs in allowed catch of herring, many fishermen are catching them now to supplement the bait supply. They are usually caught with small purse seines.

This year Maine’s directed fishery quota is set at 2,194,080 pounds. In order to prevent the fishery from exceeding this quota, the state has implemented regulations this year to limit harvesters to only land menhaden on Mondays and Thursdays. Harvest days have been reduced to ensure that DMR can adequately monitor landings to mitigate the risk of the fishery exceeding the quota. The weekly vessel limit remains the same at 23,800 pounds (or 68 barrels). This amount may be harvested in a single day or spread over the two harvest days. All harvesting and landing of menhaden are restricted to Maine territorial waters and any vessel is restricted to one landing only per calendar day. The details of the regulation can be found on DMR’s website.

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 (shedder): \$4.30/lb.

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

Fuel (diesel): \$4.99/gal.

Oceanographic Buoy 1-01

44°6’10”N 68°6’44”W - Frenchboro

Sea Surface Temperature: N/A

Bottom Temperature: 45.7°F (avg. for this date: 43.7°F)

Source: www.neracoos.org