

Island Ad-Vantages

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

June 2, 2022: The Maine DMR recently held a series of workshops in different parts of the state to meet with community members about the shellfish management program. Here in Maine, towns have the opportunity to participate in co-management of shellfish in their intertidal zone. To do so, a municipality needs to have an approved shellfish management ordinance and meet certain criteria such as organizing a shellfish committee and enforcing their local rules. This collaborative management approach allows towns to set conservation measures including the allocation of resident and non-resident licenses and the authority to close certain shellfish areas for conservation. The program has been in place for several decades and harvesters and DMR staff are meeting to determine ways to improve the effectiveness of the management and to discuss other related issues.

Mike Thalhauser (Collaborative Management Specialist at MCCF) and I attended the workshop in Ellsworth. There was good representation from the area including Raelene Pert, shellfish warden from Deer Isle, and Joe Parada who represented the muti-town shellfish management group that includes towns between Ellsworth and Hancock. It's clear from the discussion that this process works and that DMR needs more staff to help the towns in conducting surveys and other related science to manage the flats and deal with issues like the invasive European Green Crab. The group also talked at length about the growth of aquaculture and the challenge of accessing shellfish areas. Aquaculture is a good opportunity for eastern Maine if done well, and at a scale, that honors other uses of our coastal waters. Arguably, towns that are actively co-managing their shellfish areas should have a voice in how and where aquaculture takes place. It's also getting more difficult for harvesters to get to the clam flats as the coast gets more crowded. Many coastal property owners allow harvesters to cross their property, but some do not, and that can be a problem for clambers. If you enjoy a mess of clams once in a while, thank a clammer!

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): \$4.30/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: 44.4°F (avg. for this date: 42.3°F)

Source: www.neracoos.org