August 25, 2022: Fishermen always have the best stories to tell. With each day as unpredictable as the day before, the library of stories fishermen have is endless. But of course, stories are universal. In fact, we’ve been telling stories for tens of thousands of years. The mediums have evolved, but the storytelling principles remain the same: to connect to each other, influence, teach and share knowledge, and inspire us to imagine beyond what we already know. Whether filming twenty miles off-shore, or sitting dock-side conducting an interview, I’ve been lucky to hear many stories from Maine fishermen and get a small glimpse into the world of commercial fishing along the coastal waters of Maine.

We at MCCF and our partners at Maine Coast Heritage Trust joined forces this past year to tell an important story about the collaboration between towns, fishermen, nonprofits, and state and federal agencies to restore and locally manage river herring in the Bagaduce River watershed. The end result, a forty-minute film titled “A Watershed Moment,” premiered at the Penobscot Community School in May among an audience of community members and folks involved with the making of film. Since this premiere, we’ve screened the film at local schools, event venues and theaters, and have released it online to watch for free.

Throughout this storytelling process, it’s become clear to me from the feedback we’ve received that capturing and sharing these types of stories of Maine fishermen, coastal communities, and the fisheries they rely on is incredibly important - to the continued goal that we have at MCCF to sustain Maine’s coastal fisheries, and to the broader vision of being a more connected, collaborative, and informed community. The connections between and conditions of our fisheries, communities, state and federal management agencies, academia, and nonprofits is complex and continuously evolving. But with that, the opportunity to share those connections and stories remains. So the question becomes: which story should we tell next?

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 (shredder): $3.30/lb.
Bait (fresh pogies): $125/crt.
Fuel (diesel): $4.65/gal.

Oceanographic Buoy 1-01
44°6’10”N 68°6’44”W - Frenchboro
Sea Surface Temperature: N/A
Bottom Temperature (50 meters): 52.8°F (avg. for this date: 49.9°F)
Source: www.neracoos.org