August 4, 2022: It’s low tide right now as I write this and makes me want to write about clams. There is no way to cover the entire fishery in a short column, so I will point out some interesting facts and muse on them for a bit. If you have ever wondered what it is like to harvest, process, and cook your own seafood, then let me introduce you to the wonderful world of Maine’s intertidal shellfish.

1. If digging clams sounds interesting, you will need a license. Head to your town office and they will be able to sell you a recreational license or point you in the direction of where to attain one while filling you in on any local regulations.

2. Maine shellfish are “co-managed” through cooperation between towns and the state. These local fisheries require local knowledge and capacity and co-management is the way of the future! More on that in another column.

3. Be safe about it. Check out the Maine Department of Marine Resources interactive water quality and closure map to find out if clams around you are safe (or not) to eat. Since shellfish filter water, and water quality fluctuates, sometimes closures occur that you want to know about.

4. Learn more about it! If you are down on a clam flat and see someone harvesting, talk to them. Make a connection! Trust me… clams, and especially clam diggers are worth learning about.

One more thing... If you don’t like eating sand, look online for how to safely purge your critters before trying your favorite recipe. And now, after trimming almost everything I wrote to make this column fit, I am realizing I have way more to write about clams! Email me at mthalhauser@coastalfisheries.org with any questions you might have and I’ll answer them in a future column. Happy digging!

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): $3.30/lb.
Bait (fresh pogies): $125/crt.
Fuel (diesel): $4.70/gal.

Oceanographic Buoy 1-01
44°6’10”N 68°6’44”W - Frenchboro
Sea Surface Temperature: N/A
Bottom Temperature (50 meters): 51.2°F (avg. for this date: 48.3°F)
Source: www.neracoos.org