Launching collaborative scallop research

**October 17, 2022**: Ever wonder where scallops come from? If so, you are not alone! Even those people that catch, grow, and study them ask this question. In Maine’s inshore waters, scallops broadcast their spawn in fall and the fertilization process occurs in the ocean from September through November. Larvae then float around and grow for about thirty days before settling to the ocean bottom at roughly the size of your pinky nail. For those thirty days the larval scallops could have started their journey in one place and quickly be transported by currents to another location perhaps 100 miles away, or be entrained in an eddy to settle next to their mom and dad. It is important to understand where scallops come from for managing the commercial fishery, and as scallop aquaculture increases in popularity, it becomes imperative to understand how wild harvest and culture fisheries can coexist, perhaps even benefitting from one another.

Last week, MCCF, in collaboration with commercial scallop draggers, growers, Hurricane Island Foundation, Bates College, and Maine Department of Marine Resources set 40 scallop larval collectors in Maine state waters to try to answer this question. With funding from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, we seek to resolve questions the fishing industry has about competition from the aquaculture sector in collecting wild larvae for growing out in scallop lease areas, and questions the aquaculture sector has about where they can set collectors for reliable, perhaps non-competitive, larval supply. We will head out to retrieve collectors with the Eastern Maine Skippers Program and other schools west of Penobscot Bay in February. Stay tuned for what we learn!

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/lb.
Bait (pogies): $78/bu.
Fuel (diesel): $5.30/gal.

*Disclaimer: figures collected on October 17, 2022*

**Oceanographic Buoy I-01**

44°6’10”N 68°6’44”W - Frenchboro
Bottom Temperature (50 meters): 54.1°F (avg. for this date: 51.5°F)

*Source: www.neracoos.org*