Downeast fisheries partnership looks at the big picture for Maine

Did you know there are fish that journey from ocean to rivers and back? It’s amazing, and part of this big cycle. We have species that begin life in the springs of Maine’s fresh water rivers, head out to sea for their entire adult lives, returning 10 years later to lay eggs and spawn in the very place where they began. Atlantic Salmon, and river herring are great examples of what we call anadromous species.

Did you know there are also marine species like eels that run the opposite route? These catadromous species start out in the salt water, in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. From there, they find their way back to the Gulf of Maine and all the way up many of Maine’s rivers, where they spend their entire 10+ year-long lives before they suddenly pack up one day and decide to go out to sea to spawn and start the cycle again.

You might wonder how these fish have chosen the path that they have. Is this a fishy time share or an important symbiotic relationship that underlies our healthy Maine fisheries and communities? These are the kinds of questions we are asking as a group through the Downeast Fisheries Partnership, a vital consortium of partners that came together to look at Gulf of Maine and Maine watershed community needs in a very special way. By linking the great work that is going on in upland river watersheds, the intertidal clam flats and salt marsh, and then out to the marine environment and coastal currents - we are getting a clear big-picture look at how our communities are connected to our fisheries. With this big-picture understanding we can plot a path forward securing opportunities for Mainers, including some really great fishing and seafood. Keeping these keystone species running our rivers will bring the rest of the fish with them.

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 at www.coastalfisheries.org.

FISHERIES LOG

Prices to Harvesters in Stonington
Lobsters (shedder): $4/lb.
Bait (pogies): $78/bu.
Fuel (diesel): $5.30/gal.

Oceanographic Buoy I-01
44°6’10”N 68°6’44”W - Frenchboro
Bottom Temperature (50 meters): 53.9°F (avg. for this date: 51.2°F)
Source: www.neracoos.org