Scallops: Working Closely Together

The weather spoiled us straight through the end of November but I suppose it’s time to face the music. With the first few spits of snow, and a list of names and weights on the boards at game inspection stations, seems winter is upon us. This time of year is a time of preparation, transition, and reflection. Hopefully, your shed is full of firewood, the bedreaded elf is on the shelf, and if you’re luckier than me, the deer is in the freezer. Watching my seven-year-old get excited about Christmas coming is always fun, but my favorite sight of all this time of year is the piers and docks around town full of boats tied up “putting the iron to her.”

Last week, as the scallopers were tightening the last shackles and spooling the winches, it made me think about how lucky we are to have this resource back. There was quite a spell when the rigging had to sit out back, waiting for better times. The scallop fishery in Maine is a healthy example of fishermen working closely with managers and scientists to ensure that we don’t repeat history and squander a good opportunity to diversify our businesses and our communities. Is it perfect? Of course it isn’t. Are there improvements to be made? Always. Is the price high enough? Never. But it’s a lot better than what we had just a decade ago.

As we enter this 2022 scallop season, I’m thankful to see our harbor skyline peppered with masts and booms and orange Home Depot buckets rolling around in the back of the truck in front of me. I hope it’s a reminder to participate in management, however frustrating it can be at times. As you’re rigging over, MCCF has local maps available and we’re learning the reporting platforms right along with you, so stop in if you need help with VESL or LEEDS. And don’t forget to move your elf tonight.

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 (sheder): $4/lb.
Bait (pogies): $78/bu.
Fuel (diesel): $5.30/gal.

Oceanographic Buoy I-01
44°10’N 68°44’W - Frenchboro
Water Temperature (50 meters): 50°F
Source: www.neracoos.org