January 12, 2023

The Joy of Scallops
I’m thrilled to have enjoyed my fill of holiday scallops this year. Thank you to the fishermen and women who provide us with this amazing feast from the ocean. I personally like them raw or with a touch of lemon and wasabi, or scallops wrapped in bacon grilled on the BBQ are pretty terrific as well. No matter how you like them, the anticipation for the scallop season has been great. As we watched the scallopers tighten the last shackles and spool the winches leading up to the holidays, 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 diversify our businesses and our communities; through shared stewardship and accountability we have ensured a wonderfully sustainable harvest.

With the 2022-2023 scallop season in full gear, 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. As the fleet has rigged over to scalloping, we’re glad to still have some of our MCCF four-color large type-face printed local area scallop regulatory maps available. As one of our fishermen said “You’re keeping me out of jail with these maps, I can see the lines and where I’m allowed to fish, thank you!” As well, there are new reporting requirements in place for scallopers this year, which is helping keep tabs on our bright scalloping future. If you are a harvester in need of help learning the reporting platforms, we’re right along with you, so stop in for a chat about the VESL or LEEDS systems anytime.

Happy New Year and thank you all! We are grateful to all of our MCCF supporters, donors and Board members for making our work serving the fishing and coastal communities of Maine possible. Do you have a question about our fisheries? Send it to info@coastalfisheries.org or call 207.367.2708.

Prices to Harvesters
Lobsters (shedder): $4/lb.
Bait (pogies): $78/bu.
Fuel (diesel): $5.49/gal.
As of 1/10/2023 in Stonington

Oceanographic Buoy I-01
44°6’10”N 68°6’44”W - Frenchboro
Water Temperature (50 meters): 47.59°F
Source: www.neracoos.org