THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE
By: Tate Yoder - Media Specialist, Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries

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So Much More Than We “Asked” For
When we first started filming *Ask Leroy!*, quite frankly it was all a bit of an experiment. We knew Leroy can tell stories and captivate practically anybody within earshot of him, but how would he do on camera? Would the distraction of a lens interrupt his storytelling? The simple answer: No. In fact, the camera and microphone almost made the experience better, knowing that thousands of other folks would be able to watch later. With a simple voicemail set-up, we gave our audience from all around the world the ability to ask Leroy any question regarding commercial fishing in Maine at a time when social distancing caused many folks to be without much conversation or interaction. With 27 episodes of *Ask Leroy!* completed, we’ve covered a wide range of topics. From how to cook lobster, to his wildest finds in a trap, how to dig for clams, splice rope, or his thoughts on fishing adaptations over the decades he’s fished - there’s so much oral history and education in these episodes and yet we’ve barely even scratched the surface!

What began as an experiment, *Ask Leroy!* (in my mind) proved just how critical it is to both preserve the oral history of the fishermen in our communities and to continuously remain open and willing to ask questions and engage with all who are connected to our coastal fisheries. This philosophy is core to our mission at MCCF and is deeply embedded in our programming and initiatives. Leroy always says “there’s no dumb question” and that - to me - is what this is all about.

If it sounds like the video series is over, well, not quite... but it might look different moving into the future. My time as Media Specialist at MCCF is coming to an end as I move on to pursue new adventures of my own. But the good news is that we will continue *Ask Leroy!* in the spring when the timing is right. In the meantime, we’d like to encourage you to stay engaged and keep asking questions by calling 224-58-LEROY. Leroy will also be back this summer in Discovery Wharf, our public on-site interpretive center here at MCCF on the Stonington waterfront. You can also watch all of the *Ask Leroy!* episodes by visiting us at coastalfisheries.org.

Thank you for your support for the series, and for your questions and continued curiosity about Maine’s coastal fisheries.

### Prices to Harvesters

- Lobsters: $6.60-$7.60/lb
- Scallops: $13.00/lb
- Diesel: $4.85/gal

(Prices in Stonington on 2/13/23)

### Oceanographic Buoy I-01

- Location: 44°6’10”N 68°6’44”W - Frenchboro
- Water Temperature (50 meters): 41.79°F (Avg: 39.15°F)

Source: [www.neracoos.org](http://www.neracoos.org)