3/30/2023

Eastern Maine Skippers Program Students Showcase Industry Innovations at Maine Fishermen’s Forum

It sure was a nice experience to put another Fishermen’s Forum in the rear view mirror. It was great to see old friends and talk with new contacts about the place and time we find ourselves in with Maine fisheries. For me, certainly the excitement and turnout for the Eastern Maine Skippers Program (EMSP) students and teachers was the highlight. Since 2012, EMSP has had fantastic support from the Fishermen’s Forum Board and many, many participants. It was as if Covid hadn’t happened and we picked up from where we’d left off 3 years ago.

A loud shout out to all the schools that braved some questionable weather and made, in some cases, the 3 hour trip each way to participate, talk and learn about their projects with the industry at large, and all with engaging and timely approaches. From scallop spat research to Crew Overboard retrieval to various forms of technology application, the students showed how facilitated learning by tackling real time problems or opportunities is a shining light in a time of some worry about what the future holds. It is fortifying to hear the feedback of forum goers that this approach to training the next generation of fishing community citizens is not only impressive but encouraging.

The schools’ administrators and teacher leaders are what facilitates and champions this approach and it has always been a grade of “Exceeds the Standard” for the level of engagement, creativity and curiosity that the students bring to the forum experience. Thank you one and all! Stay tuned for year-end updates from students in May! I am sure it will bring you a good feeling that the next generation is engaged and working on positive solutions for the continued legacy of our coastal communities in Downeast Maine.

Thinking life would be better working on the water? We have an incredible free opportunity for anyone 16 years or older called our Deckhand 101 course. These are four combined, 2-day intensive sessions on topics that include; Boat handling & maintenance, navigation and rules, product handling, and safety-at-sea. Call Bobbi to register (207) 367-2708. Classes start April 7th.

Prices to Harvesters
Lobsters: $7.15/lb – $8.15/lb
Scallops: $13.30/lb
Diesel: $4.85/gal
(Prices in Stonington on 3/27/23)

Oceanographic Buoy 1-01
44°6’10”N 68°6’40”W - Frenchboro
Water Temperature (50 meters): 38.41°F
Source: www.neracoos.org