

Island  Ad-Vantages THE WEEKLY PACKET

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

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Connecting With the Fish. They're Coming Home!

Spring is here and for me that means one thing, adult alewives are making their annual return up and down the Atlantic coast, to the ponds where they were born! And it's not just about the ponds and waters they are returning to, but the coastal fishing communities where these waters flow. Every spring (almost to the day) thousands, and in some case millions of fish come swimming back into your town. These are the same exact fish that you watched leave several years ago. When you have a community of people that are socially, economically, and culturally tied to fish and the pursuit of fishing, this rebirth is something that is just magical. Fish are so important to local communities.

These fish are food. They are bait to catch other fish. Their protein and fats feed birds, mammals, other fish and even the trees we live under. They mark the time of year, when fresh meat was scarce in times of old and before refrigeration. They are abundant and represent our human connection with the sea. And we watch that silvery connection go back and forth between our communities and the ocean and can't help but be grateful and in awe. Every time I am out on a stream helping count fish or when we're working on restoration projects with towns and partners, I hear another story about individual connections to these fish. Usually they are stories from a childhood. Stories of catching fish barehanded without even looking, because there are so many. Stories of dipping fish with a net and helping them over obstacles. Stories of eating them in the spring with dandelion greens. So why are alewife important to me as a fisheries biologist? I'm just a nerd for local fisheries monitoring and management.

I urge you to check out our website www.coastalfisheries.org, find information about these amazing fish and above all, go see alewives today. They are running! (Check out the video: <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/uMfmY44Ulzc>).

Do you have a question about our fisheries? Send it to info@coastalfisheries.org or call 207.367.2708.

Prices to Harvesters

Lobsters (select): \$8/lb. (Drop of \$2.50/lb!)

Lobster (run): \$7/lb. (Drop of 2.50/lb!)

Bait (herring): \$99/bu.

Fuel (diesel): \$4.30/gal.

Disclaimer: these figures were collected on 5/1 in Stonington

Oceanographic Buoy I-01

44°6'10"N 68°6'44"W - Frenchboro

Bottom Temperature (50 meters): 4.06°C

(40.28°F)

Source: www.neracoos.org