

Island  **Ad-Vantages** **THE WEEKLY**
PACKET

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

By: Leroy Weed, Marine Education Specialist

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Leroy Weed, Sr. works in the Discovery Wharf at the Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries. He has been there for 6 years and enjoys educating folks about native seafood. One of the most common questions he gets in Discovery Wharf is about native sea scallops.

Sea Scallops

Wild sea scallops grow and are caught on different types of bottom: sand, rocky, and sometimes mud, although I think they prefer hard bottom. Narrow channels with moving water are also a good habitat. The scuba divers find them in very rocky bottoms where the draggers cannot catch them. They feed on small fish like silver hake and small pollock; fish you might consider to be small bait fish.

As fishermen we are not allowed to bring the shells ashore. We have to open them as we catch them and the only part we keep is the abductor muscle, the part that you eat. The shells (called the mantle) are discarded to provide food for bottom dwellers and seagulls.

The scallop is a bi-valve shellfish which breathes by opening and closing. They don't have legs or feet so they move by opening and closing their shells which pushes water out to propel them forwards. The scallop has somewhere around 100 blue eyes all around the top and bottom shell. I have never seen one with brown eyes however I won't say they don't exist. If you see one with 48 to 50 pairs of glasses, he will probably be much harder to sneak up on and catch!

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

As of 6/25/2023

Lobsters (shedder): \$4.50/lb.

Lobster (hard shell) \$5.50

Lobster (select) \$6.50

Fuel (diesel): \$3.15/gal.

Oceanographic Buoy I-01

44°6'10"N 68°6'44"W - Frenchboro

Water Temperature (50 meters): 46.58°F 8.1°C

Source: www.neracoos.org