

Island  **THE WEEKLY
PACKET**

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

By: Tom Duym, Fisheries Education Specialist

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Knowing a Vessel Inside and Out is Part of Running a Boat

It is interesting how inspiration can come to you at the most unexpected times. Recently as I was crammed into the below deck space on my latest boat rehab project trying to install a new gear oil cooler, first thinking to myself, at my age why am I doing this, second am I going to be able to extract myself from this tight spot, and third, how grateful I am that I have had life experiences that supported and enabled me to accomplish this task. This realization also made me smile as I related these life experiences to the aspirations of the high school students in our Eastern Maine Skippers Program (EMSP), despite the fact that some errant screw or bolt was stabbing into my left shoulder.

As we plan the new school year and talk over content and project potential, as well as new and emerging issues, I am reminded that at the core of MCCF's Skipper's Program is the intent and commitment to transfer knowledge and skills to the next generation so that they too can grow into self-sufficient mariners and community members. Teachers and staff that have been involved over the last eleven years have all been fully behind this approach that enables just-in-time transfer of knowledge and skills regardless of the individual participating teacher's background. Equally, it is such a privilege to experience how students get energized with ideas, approaches and new skills that can let them pursue their passion or even prepare them for surviving the threats that come with a career on the water.

So after nearly 55 years of working in, on or around boats, all of which I cherish, it is inspiring to be a part of making that lifelong learning tradition offered in a more focused and condensed approach for the next generation of our coastal communities. Now, to come full circle. Why am I squeezed into the bilge of this boat? Because, I want to know every detail of a vessel I'm going to sea in. It's a large part of the allure of fishing. As good friend and offshore lobsterman of 45 years, John Peabody said, "There's no fun in owning a boat, the fun is in running that boat." Knowing a vessel inside and out is part of running a boat.

I am looking forward to the coming school year, where I, along with fishermen, community members and teachers from ten high schools, have the opportunity to pass along our knowledge to the next generation of maritime stewards. Thank you for supporting the Eastern Maine Skippers Program. Please plan to join us on 8/22 at 6pm at the REACH Performing Arts Center for **Coastal Fisheries Fanfare** – an epic evening of sea shanties, storytelling and song performed by area fishermen and friends.

Do you have a question about fisheries? Send it to info@coastalfisheries.org or call 207.367.2708. Learn more about MCCF, our EMSP and event on 8/22 by visiting us at www.coastalfisheries.org

Prices to Harvesters

Lobsters (select): \$7/lb.

Lobster (hard): \$6/lb.

Lobster (shedder) \$4.15/lb.

Bait (pogies): \$110/bu.

Fuel (diesel): \$3.55/gal.

Disclaimer: figures collected on 8/7/23 in Stonington

Oceanographic Buoy I-01

44°6'10"N 68°6'44"W – Frenchboro

Bottom Temperature (50 meters): 9.81°C

(49.66°F)

Source: www.neracoos.org

