

Island  **Ad-Vantages** 

**THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE**

**By: Carla Guenther, Chief Scientist**

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**Thinking about coastal community resilience**

As I return to our craggy granitic island Eden after a week away with family on the sandy dunes of North Carolina's Outer Banks I am reminded of how coastal resilience and community resilience can sometimes be at odds. In physical oceanography 101 students learn about coastal processes that shape and support our varied coastal ecosystems. Barrier islands like those that form the Outer Banks and New Jersey's Long Beach Island, are mutable first lines of defense to hurricane and winter storm surges that threaten the saltmarshes and other low lying nursery habitats behind them. It is incredible how well they serve this purpose with their fascinating towering dunes, topped with the native sea oat that provides structure with a taproot system reaching 10s of feet to the water table below. Why wouldn't humans want to settle and make a permanent life on these beautiful shores with great access to multitudes of rich fishing grounds?

Within a single human generation significant movement of these barrier islands can be observed. The Cape Hatteras lighthouse is a prime example: the second tallest lighthouse structure in the world was erected in 1870 150 ft from the shore. Just 50 years later the shoreline had moved 120 ft, leaving the lighthouse base a mere 30 ft from crashing waves. Despite rip rap attempts to dissuade the encroaching sea throughout the 20th century, by 1999 the lighthouse stood only 15 ft from the water's edge! The "Move of the Millenium" relocated the lighthouse in September 1999 to its current location, now 1,500 ft from the shore. We might have bought ourselves another few centuries.

What perplexes me is that over this same century, year round human populations and built infrastructure have boomed. Several towns on Hatteras Island became incorporated as recently as the 1950s. What are their community conversations about resilience centering around? What are their strategies for the future? Here on Deer Isle we are in the midst of several conversations centering on our threatened transportation infrastructure (the causeway) and socioeconomic challenges (shared use of marine space, fishery management, workforce housing- to name a few). To learn more, please tune in to upcoming public meetings about the Deer Isle causeway and/or the Deer Isle Comprehensive Plan already underway. For more information, check either Stonington's or Deer Isle's Town websites for meeting announcements.

Do you have a question about Maine fisheries or our work at MCCF? Send it to [info@coastalfisheries.org](mailto:info@coastalfisheries.org) or call 207.367.2708. Learn more about MCCF by visiting us at [www.coastalfisheries.org](http://www.coastalfisheries.org).

**Prices to Harvesters**

Lobsters (select): \$7/lb.

Lobster (hard): \$6/lb.

Lobster (shedder) \$4.25/lb.

Bait (pogies): \$90/box

Fuel (diesel): \$4.10/gal.

*Disclaimer: figures collected on 8/21/23 in Stonington*

**Oceanographic Buoy I-01**

44°6'10"N 68°6'44"W - Frenchboro

Sea Surface Temperature: 12.51°C (54.52°F)

Bottom Temperature (50 meters): 9.93°F

(avg. for this date: 49.87°F)

Source: [www.neracoos.org](http://www.neracoos.org) (August 21, 2023)

