

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE  
**By: Mike Thalhauser, Collaborative Management Specialist**

September 4, 2023

**It Takes a Village to Raise a Fishery**

If you are a regular reader of our columns, you will see the words “co-management” a lot. It’s a simple concept, but a hard outcome to achieve. It’s shared responsibility for all of the ins and outs of managing a fishery. Researchers, managers, fishermen and other stakeholders all have to buy in and it’s a long slog that requires good relationships and TRUST... Easier said than done... And when it’s done right, it deserves credit!

And so I wanted to use today’s column to recap a “thank you” get together that I attended and helped organize, with a group of clammers, municipal shellfish committee members and partners that MCCF has worked with in the past. On what I can only describe as one of those days where you say “this is why I do this work,” we spent a gorgeous day in August in Milbridge; thanking Denis Marc-Nault, Hannah Annis and Heidi Leighton of the Maine Department of Marine Resources, for holding up their end of shellfish co-management and for just being who they are. Denis used to head up the municipal shellfish program and Hannah and Heidi work as regional biologists in mid-coast and Downeast Maine. Their job is to work with a ragtag group of individuals in small communities as they take on their role in local monitoring and management of their clam fisheries.

I don’t have enough space here to properly recognize them, but will say that the relationships they have built over the years with this many people, and communities; and the trust that they have built, goes above and beyond expectations. In fisheries management, where complex statistics and modeling are often the go-to focus, not enough time is spent on creating and taking care of human relationships. They don’t teach this enough in fisheries management courses. And yet, it is what is needed for co-management to work.

If you know any clammers, you know that they are not social butterflies. Just the fact they wanted to throw a party, FOR ANYONE, says volumes. And the fact that fishermen were recognizing fishery regulators really shows how great these three humans are. So thank you to Denis and Hannah and Heidi. For all of the help. For all of the late night town meetings. And for caring and knowing that it takes all of us together, to get this shellfish co-management right. It takes a village!

Do you have a question about our fisheries? Send it to [info@coastalfisheries.org](mailto:info@coastalfisheries.org) or visit our website [www.coastalfisheries.org](http://www.coastalfisheries.org) or call 207.367.2708.



Left to Right: Bailey Bowden (Penobscot), George Powell (Stonington), Bill Zoellick (Gouldsboro), Heidi Leighton (DMR), Mike Thalhauser (MCCF, Brooklin), Raylene Pert (Stonington), Hannah Annis (DMR), Denis Marc-Nault (Retired DMR), Chris Petersen (COA, Bar Harbor), Kathleen Billings (Stonington), Lewis Pinkham (Milbridge), and Amanda Lyons (Lubec). Photo Credit: Shara Dee

### **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 9/1/23 in Stonington*

### **Oceanographic Buoy I-01**

44°6'10"N 68°6'44"W – Frenchboro

Surface Temperature (1 meters): 12.84°C (55.11°F)

Bottom Temperature (50 meters): 10.28°C (50.5°F)

Source: [www.neracoos.org](http://www.neracoos.org)

