

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

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE
By: Tom Duym, Fisheries Education Specialist

Thank Your Local Schools and Their Staffs Top to Bottom

The 2023-24 Eastern Maine Skippers Program is starting its 12th year with great enthusiasm, committed individuals, and community support. As I have been visiting participating schools, I am so encouraged by the renewed passion and support to assist the next generation of students. Despite the structural ravages of the Covid-19 years, the students who, faced with many challenges and more uncertainty than their predecessors, are still hopeful and willing to put in the effort and thinking outside the box toward potential solutions that will preserve and grow the seafood industry into the future.

What makes this year's start so exciting is that in the schools that have doggedly hung on to the Skippers mission and approach, they have weathered through staff and administration changes, gloomy forecasts around industry survivability and mounting pressure to abandon the passion for what has been a significant cultural and economic backbone for these coastal communities. Despite sagging enrollments, consolidation efforts, standardization and ever increasingly tighter budgets for non-traditional programs, these schools have held fast to preserving and recognizing that supporting commercial fishing and the seafood industry, in spite of the resource downturns and social warts, is essential for their communities to grip its culture and include it in the vision for the future.

I experience this first hand when talking with the teachers who really "get it" and believe that supporting their students to become productive and engaged in the seafood industry is a good and proper thing to pursue. These teachers and, more often than not, the administrators who engage in this program are not always the individuals "born and bred" into the fishing industry as you might think but often just intuitive educators that truly live lifelong learning as a methodology and not just a passing buzz phrase. Our coastal communities and the Skippers Program are blessed to have them in our schools. In my 45 year experience as a marine and vocational educator and one who holds the highest respect for the men and women who make our fishing culture a reality, I am asking you to thank your local school staff for doing their best to help the fishing community survive and thrive for future generations. It does, and will, make a difference.

Do you have a question about Maine fisheries or our work at MCCF? Send it to info@coastalfisheries.org or call 207.367.2708. Learn more about MCCF by visiting us at www.coastalfisheries.org.

FISHERIES LOG

Prices to Harvesters

Lobsters (select): \$7/lb.

Lobster (hard): \$6/lb.

Lobster (shedder) \$4.75/lb.

Bait (pogies): \$90/box

Fuel (diesel): \$3.89/gal

*Disclaimer: figures collected on 10/1/2023
in Stonington*

Oceanographic Buoy I-01

44°6'10"N 68°6'44"W – Frenchboro

Surface Temperature (1 meters): 11.95°C (53.51°F)

Bottom Temperature (50 meters): 11.38°C (52.48°F)

Source: www.neracoos.org