

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE
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Fishermen and Their Crew Have Lots of ‘Spirit’

In the ‘spirit’ of the trick or treat holiday, we decided to do a little digging and see if we could get some local fishermen to “fess up” to the shenanigans they have played on one another throughout the years.



Captain Gary Eaton, *F/V MyGraine II* was lobstering one day and was looking for his trap end line, usually marked with a large poly ball. On this day, it was marked with a full size refrigerator. Seems his son Drew thought his Dad needed a head shaking moment & laugh. According to Gary, “The crew got the fridge aboard fairly easily, cut out stern and all. It was tied up pretty good. Once we got it untied we discovered the poly ball inside with 2 Bud Lights for the crew. Drew added the beer since he knew the crew were going to have to do the work to free the poly ball. Only 2 beer, not 3 since there’s no drinking and driving when you’re the captain.” They brought the fridge in, heisted it out and disposed of it properly, “since we didn’t want anyone to run into it in the dark.”

The Barbie movie was all the rage this summer but apparently action figure Barbie has been known to like lobster boats, as well as the big screen. Her friend SpongeBob SquarePants has come along for a few of the parties too. There’s been the obvious tomfooleries of condoms on the gear throttle, personal massagers left in lobster traps, panties on the high flyer, and some offshore fishermen frequently consider themselves a Picasso and draw “interesting” pictures on inflatable toggles. One fisherman reports that there was an outhouse that was “borrowed” from Isle au Haut and put on the highest point of Brandie Ledge. This was a surprising new landmark for lobstermen fishing the area. Our own Captain Leroy, tells a very animated, perhaps embellished story of one fisherman pulling his gear and finding a full-size bicycle. When it came through the pot hauler, it hit the block and actually exploded. Fortunately, no one was hurt. And, in case you’re wondering, apparently pranks aren’t limited just to lobster boats.



Photo credits: Gary Eaton

A few fishermen reported several mischievous shenanigans happening to their pickup trucks, including a flounder under a truck seat, a cab filled with zucchini after returning from a long day at haul, and a potato shoved in one truck’s tailpipe to ensure the vehicle’s inability to start. Some even had superglued sexy posters on their windshields, some were toilet-papered and some had doors completely tied shut with rope. We hope you’ve enjoyed this column and have chuckled at the terrific sense of humor and comradery that our fishermen share. We know we have.

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 at www.coastalfisheries.org.

FISHERIES LOG

Prices to Harvesters:

Lobsters (select): \$6.75/lb.

Lobster (hard): \$5.75/lb.

Lobster (shedder) \$4.50/lb.

Bait (pogies): \$90/box

Fuel (diesel): \$3.89/gal.

Disclaimer: figures collected on 10/29/23 in Stonington

Oceanographic Buoy I-01

44°6'10"N 68°6'44"W – Frenchboro

Surface Temperature (1 meters): 12°C (53.6°F)

Bottom Temperature (50 meters): 11.23°C (52.21°F)

Source: www.neracoos.org