

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

By: Mike Thalhauser, Collaborative Management Specialist

Alewife All Year Long

Here in coastal Maine, we only see our alewife and other diadromous fish for those short windows of the year during their spring runs up streams spawn, or leaving as juveniles in huge spectacles of silvery clouds in the water. But for some of us, we are thinking about them all year long. What can we do to make our runs healthier? What dams and culverts can we repair or remove to allow them ease to swim back to other historic runs of the past? And how do we teach the next generation of coastal Mainers about this resource and how to protect it, while also protecting our fishing heritage?

Well, we at MCCF got some really exciting news last week that means we will be spending this winter working with local communities on the peninsula and other partners to kick our alewife and education program into the next gear. This work is all thanks to a grant from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund (a state run program that uses sales from MOHF lottery tickets to support our state's natural resources and our communities).

Our plan is to work with our partners in Penobscot, Brooksville and Sedgwick to create a place based K-12 curriculum to pass on to the next generation all of the knowledge and skills that current alewife stewards and fishermen have built over the years. We will cover everything from ecology and biology and fisheries monitoring, to geography lessons about where our fish runs are, and history and economic lessons about why these runs are important, and why we need to keep them alive. This grant will also support local events like Bagaduce Alewife Day, when we welcome residents to come out and see spring runs of fish and celebrate this great migration, that is as old as time and is at the heart of our communities and our cultures.

And while it can be hard to focus on these spring swimmers, as we enter the cold winter, it's a great way to think forward to the future and warmth of next spring and the years to come when all of our work as a state and as coastal communities united, could bring this keystone species back to historic numbers. To allow them to fill their namesake, given to them by the Passamaquoddy people... The Fish that Feeds All. So thank you Maine Outdoor Heritage Trust, and now we will carry in the Maine tradition of starting to get ready for the spring, as soon as we feel like we are ready to take on the winter. Happy start to your winter, everyone!

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 online at www.coastalfisheries.org.

FISHERIES LOG

Prices to Harvesters in Stonington, as of 11/6/2023

Lobsters (select): \$6.75/lb.
Lobster (hard): \$5.75/lb.
Lobster (shedder) \$4.50/lb.
Bait (pogies): \$90/box
Fuel (diesel): \$3.89/gal

Oceanographic Buoy I-01

44°6'10"N 68°6'44"W – Frenchboro
Surface Temperature (1 meters): 10.2°C (50.36°F)
Bottom Temperature (50 meters): 10.22°C (50.4°F)
[Source: www.neracoos.org](http://www.neracoos.org)