

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

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

By: Alexa Dayton, Executive Director

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What exactly is fisheries co-management, like really?

I think we can all appreciate that there's one thing that's harder than managing something on your own, it's co-managing with another person or entity. And so, you may find yourself asking "if it's so hard – why do we even try to co-manage fisheries resources?", and "who is doing the co-managing exactly?". This past weekend, I joined over 350+ of my colleagues, collaborators, and friends at the Annual Maine Fishermen's Forum in Rockland. As I reflect on this community gathering that we have come to rely upon to bring us together in person over a marathon 3-days, I thought it would be good to explain and celebrate how we do this co-management thing right here in our neck of the woods.

Co-management means sharing responsibility and accountability to manage the marine resources and to do so for the long term so there's a future in it for everyone, based on a vibrant marine ecosystem. Well, that takes a lot of discussion and thick listening to strike this delicate balance and it takes time to bring forward the many different ideas and perspectives and get the industry, regulators, scientists, everyone to agree. We're lucky that we the Fishermen's Forum, with a terrific series of panel discussions on timely topics each year, a variety of dinners and seafood events, and a chance to celebrate the heroes in our community with awards and laughs, including the coveted Golden V-Notch Award.

Have you ever spoken in public? There's nothing scarier than asking for the microphone in a room full of people at the forum, but we get over that. Co-management is about speaking up, asking good questions, and bringing forward solutions: show up, be present, and engage with in the topics of how to encourage thriving and sustainable fisheries and fishing communities. We heard from our leadership too, and they heard from us in return. It takes a village – including all ages! Our youth were heard too as the Eastern Maine Skippers shared their innovative projects at the Forum, and showed up ready to engage in fisheries co-management of the future.

And so, while it may not always look like we are getting along, and it can be downright awkward conversation at times, that's the point. We talk about issues; we dig into the details and we work through it as co-managers. As the world looks to us as a role model of co-management and working together in this way, I'm thinking we really wouldn't want to have it any other way. Thank you to the Fishermen's Forum and Board for once again for providing the venue to engage in co-management, the Maine way.

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 (in Stonington)

Lobsters (select): \$11.50/lb.

Lobster (hard): \$10.50/lb.

Bait (herring): \$90/box

Fuel (diesel): \$3.82/gal

Oceanographic Buoy I-01

44°6'10"N 68°6'44"W – Frenchboro

Top Temperature (1 meter): 38.71°F 3.73°C

Bottom Temperature (50 meters): 39.97 °F 4.43°C

Source: www.neracoos.org as of 3/2/2024