



Island  **THE WEEKLY  
Ad-Vantages PACKET**

**THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE**

By: Pam Aubuchon-Fields

March 21, 2024

**Maritime Sayings and Their Origins**

As warm weather begins to reach Stonington, we've seen some foggy conditions—it was “thick as pea soup” the other day. This was one of my father's favorite sayings. He encountered many a foggy day as he traveled along the coast from Maine to Connecticut to sell marine hardware to boat builders. “Thick as Pea Soup” had to originate along the coast—and it did, in London in the 1800s when the air pollution gave the fog a green-brown haze. On a brighter note, this made me wonder what are some of the other common sayings that originated on the sea?



I'm sure that folks on both sides feel like they're going to “Keel Over” if their candidate doesn't win the presidential election. The keel is the stability beam running along the bottom of the ship that prevents the vessel from tipping over.

For my cousin--when you start the new job, you'll be getting “On Board” with your new team and you may wonder how long it will take to “Know the Ropes”—to gain an understanding of everything. For sailors, it literally means understanding the various purposes of all the ropes such as hoisting and controlling sails and anchoring. Hopefully your new team won't think that they “Scrapped the Barrel” to find you (never) and a month into the new job, hopefully you're not saying that your coworkers are showing “Their True Colors.” A saying that originated with ships flying their country flags before a battle—including those who flew false flags—which gave us the term “Bambozzle.”

If we're faced with another big storm like the big ones in January, many of us will be saying “Batten Down the Hatches!” This idiom, meaning prepare for trouble, is related to the sailing practice of covering the hatchways—the openings that allowed fresh air to circulate in the lower decks. Lastly, I'll leave you with the idiom that may have you singing a 1970's song, “Rock the Boat.” Meaning cause trouble or upset the balance. Many thanks to the sources for today's information: [www.oceanindependence.com](http://www.oceanindependence.com) and [www.modelerscentral.com/maritime-history](http://www.modelerscentral.com/maritime-history).

Do you have a question about our fisheries? Send it to [info@coastalfisheries.org](mailto:info@coastalfisheries.org) or call 207.367.2708. Learn more about MCCF by visiting us at [www.coastalfisheries.org](http://www.coastalfisheries.org).

**FISHERIES LOG**

**Prices to Harvesters** (in Stonington)

Lobsters (select): \$12.50/lb.  
Lobster (hard): \$11.50/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): 38.05°F 3.36°C  
Bottom Temperature (50 meters): 38.25 °F 3.47°C  
Source: [www.neracoos.org](http://www.neracoos.org)