

Island  **THE WEEKLY  
Ad-Vantages PACKET**

**THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE**

By: Mike Thalhauser

May 2, 2024

**We're all a little overwhelmed**

Here we are, in May, and in Maine. What a place and time to be! Ice cream shops are opening, even though it's still a little too cold for it when the sun goes behind the clouds. Peepers are peeping. Lobstermen are getting gear ready to go back in the water and maybe switching to halibut for a month or so. Leaves are budding and pollen is in the air and my allergies are back, worse than ever. And our beautiful streams and ponds that were frozen just a month or two ago are filling up with fish like salmon, elvers, alewives and smelts, and the list goes on.

In my work life, grant proposals are due, meetings are being held, fish are being counted and sampled, and research projects are being planned. At home, my kids and I have gotten out the bikes, started eating outside, and we are going to bed later and later as we plan all the canoe trips and hikes and mini golf that we hope will happen over the next few months.

It's spring, and it's beautiful and it's great! And it is damned overwhelming if you ask me... Every year it's the same. We get lulled into winter and are tricked come March with a few warm spells just to have our hopes dashed with one last frost and then another last frost, and then it happens. All at once everything happens. And every year I am overwhelmed by all of it and it almost makes it impossible to sit back and enjoy.

But then you look around and realize you aren't alone. It's everything that is overwhelming. People and plants and critters and every natural and social system seem completely overwhelmed by all of the change going on around us. Spring is overwhelming because it has to be. This is the time of year that our brains (that evolved right alongside our environment) are telling us to spawn new life, or to catch fish and plant seeds, or to explore new places. After all, there's only so much time right? I guess a good kick in the pants kind of reminder isn't necessarily a bad thing. I don't know if there is a moral here. Maybe something about change is always hard but it's usually pretty good? Who knows? But you have to love these seasonal markers, like the coming of spring, where we are all a little overwhelmed, but we're in it together. Now get outside and embrace the overwhelming spring! To learn more about MCCF's work, visit [www.coastalfisheries.org](http://www.coastalfisheries.org).

**FISHERIES LOG**

**Prices to Harvesters**

(in Stonington on 4/29/2024)

Lobsters (select): \$7.50/lb.

Lobster (hard): \$6.50/lb.

Bait (herring): \$90/box

Fuel (diesel) : \$3.82/gal

**Oceanographic Buoy I-01**

44°6'10"N 68°6'44"W – Frenchboro

Sea Surface Temperature (1 meter): 6.19°C 43.14°F

Bottom Temperature (50 meters): 4.65°C 40.37°F

Source: [www.neracoos.org](http://www.neracoos.org) (April 28, 2024)