

The View from Atlantic Avenue
By Carla Guenther

May 13, 2024

Aurora borealis

Have you seen the exciting and other-worldly photos of the northern lights from locales as far south as Florida? We had not heard anything about it, but after getting the kids to bed Friday night, I saw Facebook and Instagram updates filled with photos and directives to “go outside!” and view the most powerful solar storm in more than two decades. I could not motivate myself at that moment, torn between disturbing my sleeping children and getting some of my own much needed rest. I had read that this storm would last at least a few days. I quickly dozed off, promising myself to prepare the kids throughout the next day to stay up late and do some star gazing.

We gathered a posse of two families and at 8:30pm departed the Stonington Co-op dock on my husband’s lobster boat. We headed into Merchant’s Row, and idled for the sunset with snacks, music, and high spirits. After sunset, the kids’ attention waned, and in the dark, we put the boat in gear and stirred up the black ocean to see ctenophores sparkling in their phosphorescence. What magic it is to be out at night and experiencing life nocturnal! We then had an inspiring round of hokey pokey followed by snacks. At this point we were all anxiously anticipating the main show. At 10 pm my three year old snuggled onto my lap, pulled her hat down over her eyes and promptly fell asleep. The older kids filed into the warm wheelhouse, and each powered down into snooze mode.

NOAA officials said that even if you cannot see the northern lights with your unaided eyes, the night sky settings of many cell phones may be able to pick them up. "Cell phones are much better than our eyes at capturing light," Brent Gordon, Chief of Space Weather Services Branch for SWPC, told reporters Friday. This was indeed true in our experience, as we each took out our phones and started taking pictures of the sky to the north. Almost like x-ray specs, the phones revealed spectacular colors that our eyes could only vaguely see. What a glorious night for a few hours on the water. What a reward for some impromptu adventure! We all slept so hard for the rest of the night.

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 on 5/12/2024)

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): 6.87°C 44.37°F

Bottom Temperature (50 meters): 5.33°C 41.59°F

Source: www.neracoos.org

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