

Island  **THE WEEKLY
Ad-Vantages PACKET**

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

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What Are You Listening To?

Sitting at the computer with headphones on, David Bowie's "Space Oddity" plays, while I examine the shell of a lobster. "Ground control to Major Tom." Ten - Distance to the objective is one inch. Nine - Scope magnification 500. Eight - Major Tom to ground control. Seven - I can see the surface. Six - Can you hear me? Five - Is the surface listening to me? Four - Commencing crater count now. Three. Two. One. Liftoff.

The space oddity in question sits on a granite counter slab, alongside an inexpensive microscope of two curious and retired science enthusiasts. The lobster shell and specifically the carapace is covered in tiny holes that look like the pores of human skin. Zeroing in on the pores, these citizen scientists set out to see something growing out of the pores called hairfans. Hairfans are tiny structures that number in the thousands that allow a lobster to hear the particle motion component of sound. This is amazing stuff Major Tom.

You see (pun intended), sound is vibration and through a medium such as water or air there is a pressure wave component and a particle motion component. Human ears initially sense the pressure wave on the eardrum and eventually into the cochlea where tiny hairs called stereocilia reside, a human version of hairfans. Can you hear me Major Tom?

To be a poetic citizen scientist, the world needs you to listen to it. Telescopes and microscopes are essentially the same design -- the difference is the distance to the objective you are attempting to examine. So, step through your door and have a look and listen. Find your connections to everything, while being a space cadet right here on our humble and beautiful island.

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 5/20/2024)

Lobsters (select): \$6.50/lb.

Lobster (hard): \$5.50/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): 7.37°C 45.27°F

Bottom Temperature (50 meters): 5.41°C 41.74°F

Source: www.neracoos.org