

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

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE
By: Pam Aubuchon-Fields

Change is a Constant; Youth's Reaction is Not

July 11, 2024

Things in the fisheries industries are changing--again. When I first visited Stonington and saw the old sardine cannery building, I wondered what it was like when the cannery closed—did the fishermen pivot to another fishery -- the answer is “yes” and over the decades, fishermen have had to adjust and persevere through many changes. Fishermen find a way to carry-on, to make their living, to keep the community strong, this is our continued cultural heritage. Recently, however, I heard that some of our local youth from long-time fishing families do not plan to go into fishing. This is not the reaction that was expected. Yes, lobstering is expensive--the boat, the high-tech devices, the fuel, the bait—and the regulations add to the challenges, but we expect our youth to want to carry on the tradition.

To be prepared for the future, please encourage the students considering any future on the water—lobstering, scalloping, aquaculture, marine biology—to sign up for the MCCF Eastern Maine Skippers Program in their high school. This project-based program, in eight schools, prepares students to become the next fisheries' stewards through a curriculum built on four pillars: “On the Water” (general seamanship/safety), “In the Office” (visitors, did you know that each lobster boat is a separate small business?), “At the Table” (marine resources regulatory processes at the local, state, and federal levels), and “Under the Sea” (core concepts of ecological and environmental conditions that support local commercial stocks). We hope that supporting our students will lead to their confidence to take on the future changes.

Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries Announcements: #1 Discovery Wharf, open Tuesday-Saturday, 10am –4pm. #2 Save the Date – Tuesday, August 20th 6:30-8p.m., Coastal Fisheries Fanfare, a night of song & stories, will be held at the REACH Performing Arts Center.

Prices to Harvesters in Stonington, as of 7/8/2024

Lobsters (select): \$5.50/lb.
Lobster (hard): \$4.90/lb.
Lobster (shedder) \$4.15/lb.
Bait (pogies): \$90/box
Fuel (diesel): \$3.11/gal

Oceanographic Buoy I-01
44°6'10"N 68°6'44"W - Frenchboro
Top Temperature (1 meter): 51.06°F 10.59°C
Bottom Temperature (50 meters): 46.04°F 7.8°C
Source: www.neracoos.org