

Island  **THE WEEKLY
Ad-Vantages PACKET**

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

By: Carla Guenther

Stonington Lobster Boat Races

July 18, 2024

A mainstay of fishing families on the island the first Sunday following Fourth of July weekend, the Stonington Lobster Boat Races are an all-day affair of sun and fun. Located roughly as a midpoint on Maine's coast, Stonington attracts lobster boats from Casco Bay and Moosabec Reach to raft up, observe, and when your competition is called, race through the channel. Plan on lots of sunscreen, hydration, and food to maintain your stamina as the 30+ races proceed. Starting with the smaller skiffs, gasoline engines, and move up to the larger 1000+ horsepower diesel engine category. We tie up to the Billings Shipyard Barge at the finish line. All ages mingle from boat to boat, skiffs come and go shuttling folks between other rafts and Town- providing a unique experience of lobster, island, and nautical culture.

My husband and I always joke that we host the weirdest mixture of people on our boat year after year- with state marine scientists and fishery managers and extended families from away. This year was no different. We hosted a writer doing a story for the New York Times. He marveled at watching the kids climb up to the top of the wheelhouse, later splashing in a kiddie pool on deck, and everyone snacking on the mountains of shared food and beverage. "What a wonderful way to raise children," he remarked. What a precious thing we all share as lobstering, coastal communities and to have these races as opportunities to celebrate throughout the summer is our time to shine.

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.

Prices to Harvesters

in Stonington, as of 7/15/2024

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): 51.93°F 11.07°C

Bottom Temperature (50 meters): 46.69°F 8.16°C

Source: www.neracoos.org