

Island  **THE WEEKLY  
Ad-Vantages PACKET**

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE  
By: Mike Thalhauser

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**Back to School**

I'm a big fan of things that happen every year, that I like and can count on. Bonus, if it benefits me or something I care about. Even if it's in some kind of intangible way, like seeing your first robin or mackerel of the year. There are a whole lot of these kinds of temporal mile markers in the fish world... and in the people world. Most of the big fish ones involve some kind of migration. Usually for food or sex. And we have one happening right now. You MIGHT remember an earlier column about all the work coastal communities in Maine do to steward local alewife spawning runs in the Spring. Well now it's time for all those babies (we're talking about 300,000 eggs in each female that spawned in the thousands or millions themselves). All leaving in huge bursts of little fish and fins.

Juvenile fish leave after big rains and again, local alewife committees and harvesters are out breaking dams and clearing the path for these little fish to get their chance to be big fish someday. Or just tons of food for other fish. For people, we've got another juvenile migration happening. Back-to-school Smiles and tears from all of us, and maybe even at the same time when that bus shows its ugly face for the first ride of the year! These little guys need help from their communities too. And that's us. It doesn't matter if you work in a school, you're on a school board, a member of a PTA, have a kid in school or simply live here. Just like the fish in the water, we need to do what's in our best interests by doing what's in our next generation's best interest.

Everyone reading this knows that our schools are having a hard lead-up to that mile marker back-to-school day. We are facing rural education issues that are being felt across our nation, and we face political and personal divides at home, like every family does. The other thing that families do is come together when someone needs help, especially the kids. So do what you can. Go to school board meetings (and not because there is gossip and drama about it.) Join, or write a check to your PTA or to any educational effort you love (seriously... if you have some amount of money you can part with, do it even if it's not where you live all year). If you're not sure how to chip in, ask. It won't take long to find out. To the teachers, staff and the students, bless you and have a great year!

Learn more about MCCF by visiting us at [www.coastalfisheries.org](http://www.coastalfisheries.org).

**Prices to Harvesters in Stonington, as of 8/19/2024**

Lobster (hard): \$6.15/lb.  
Lobster (shedder) \$4.75/lb.  
Bait (pogies): \$90/box  
Fuel (diesel): \$3.30/gal

**Oceanographic Buoy I-01**

44°6'10"N 68°6'44"W – Frenchboro  
Top Temperature (1 meter): 55.08°F 12.82°C  
Bottom Temperature (50 meters): 49.96°F 9.98°C  
Source: [www.neracoos.org](http://www.neracoos.org)