

Island  **THE WEEKLY
Ad-Vantages PACKET**

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

By: Tate Yoder

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It Takes a Village

Last week I joined 20 volunteers and folks from Maine Island Trail Association, Rozalia Project, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for a remote island beach cleanup on Hart Island, a mile off Port Clyde. It was identified as an area of focus for cleanup due to a large amount of derelict fishing gear that had washed ashore over the years. Of course, it wasn't just derelict fishing gear. From Gatorade bottles and Home Depot buckets, to car steering wheels and metal roofing - human impact was on display on this uninhabited island.

I was there to document the day and the efforts of these organizations and countless others along the coast of Maine (and frankly all around the world) are contributing to, to keep our oceans and coastal shoreline clean. The diversity of folks and interests who were present was striking - from Barcelona, Spain to Belfast, Maine; environmental studies majors, wildlife biologists, artists, and year-round Maine residents. People clearly care about this place.

I also couldn't help but think about all the floating trash that gets picked up everyday by fishermen. Jacob Knowles, Maine lobsterman who amassed a large following on TikTok and YouTube, has dozens of videos of him and his crew picking up plastic bags, balloons, and other trash while hauling traps. And it's not just for the cameras - Dominic Zanke, local commercial fisherman, noted that he and many other fishermen will go out of their way to pick up trash every day and will help each other out if their or other fishermen's gear gets snarled up - regardless of why it happened. It's better for the environment, and better for their fishing.

The list of reasons for why marine debris ends up along our shores and littering our oceans bottoms is endless. What's important to remember is that we all can play our part in helping clean up our waters and shorelines and most importantly preventing them in the first place. The shared goal of a cleaner, more resilient and productive ecosystem is what can get us all at the table. Incentives and proper systems will make it sustainable. But it is possible - it just might take a village to make it happen. Learn more about MCCF by visiting us at www.coastalfisheries.org.

Prices to Harvesters in Stonington, as of 8/30/2024

Lobster (hard): \$6.15/lb.
Lobster (shedder) \$5.25/lb.
Bait (pogies): \$90/box
Fuel (diesel): \$3.45/gal

Oceanographic Buoy I-01

44°6'10"N 68°6'44"W – Frenchboro
Top Temperature (1 meter): 54.5°F 12.5°C
Bottom Temperature (50 meters): 50.43°F 10.24°C
Source: www.neracoos.org