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Island Ad-Vantages

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE By: Carla Guenther

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The Certitude of Uncertainty

Like Ben Franklin's death and taxes, there is a certitude of uncertainty. Like shifting sands in the desert and the barrier islands of North Carolina's Outer Banks- there is certainty in their ephemeral structure. United States' political sands are shifting like the temperatures of our beloved Gulf of Maine. Both are foundational to our economies and our futures and both are shifting in predictably unpredictable ways. We knew to expect warming and cooling cycles in coastal Maine waters as global climate warms. The President-elect foretold his plans to launch his transition team and begin appointing his cabinet before our holiday turkeys were dressed. What we don't yet know is how to predict the magnitude of change, or what effect these changes will bring about.

As for the Gulf of Maine, it has been warming rather steadily over the past decade and a half. This year, however, a colder, less saline slug of sub-arctic slope water crept around southeast Nova Scotia and followed its formerly traditional path into the eastern Gulf of Maine. The cooler water this year is thought to have slowed the lobster landings for 2024 which are expected to be 10% lower than last year (tracking with 2009 landings), and as much as 50% lower than the peak landings of 2016. There are fewer fishermen renewing lobster licenses, and those that are still fishing are making changes to their business models.

With this fresher, colder water abundances of the preferred prey of the north Atlantic right whale rebounded in the Grand Manaan Channel and Bay of Fundy. 15 or more whales have been feeding in the area for over a month. Uncertainty in right whale behavior translates to uncertainty in the lobster fishery. How does this translate to our fishing communities and local economies? I know my head is in a tailspin with all that is changing. What is certain is that we need to become more comfortable with uncertainty. But for this holiday week, I am thankful for the time to rest in the certainty of traditions like turkey, cranberry, and mashed potatoes.

Do you have a question about our fisheries? Send it to <u>info@coastalfisheries.org</u> or call 207.367.2708. Learn more about MCCF by visiting us at <u>www.coastalfisheries.org</u>.

FISHERIES LOG

Prices to Harvesters in Stonington, as of 11/25/2024

Lobster (hard): \$6.90/lb. Lobster (shedder) \$6.50/lb. Bait (pogies): \$90/box Fuel (diesel): \$3.10/gal

Oceanographic Buoy I-01

44°6'10"N 68°6'44"W – Frenchboro Top Temperature (1 meter): 48.7°F 9.28°C Bottom Temperature (50 meters): 48.78°F 9.32°C *Source: <u>www.neracoos.org</u>*