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THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE By: Mike Thalhauser

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Ringing in the New Year

As we wrap up 2024, and start getting used to 2025, many of us are just coming back from a needed retreat from our busy daily lives. We use this long break from school and work to think about the past and the future, and we spend a lot of that time with our people that we care about and make our lives what they are.

And this year, as I make it through ten days of unchecked emails and catch up with coworkers about funny holiday stories or look at cute pictures of cousins reunited and playing, I am getting ready for a convening of a fishier kind. This Thursday, MCCF and its collaborators at Manomet and Downeast Salmon Federation will be holding the first official in-person convening of the Gulf of Maine River Herring Network. We will be doing this in the form of our inaugural River Herring Network Research Symposium.

The River Herring Network is a group of passionate and dedicated river herring researchers, managers, fishermen and other stewards that come to this work from many places and with diverse interests. Our hundred or so members come from coastal communities, NGOs, and represent local, state, federal and Tribal governments. MCCF and Manomet created this effort in 2020 to create open dialogue and a level playing field among these groups of folks that know why alewife are important, and that all have their own unique capacities for the work that has to be done. If you want to know even more, check out our website at gomriverherringnetwork.com.

What I WILL tell you is that just like these special fish that connect our coastal communities to our vast ocean and terrestrial ecosystems, the people that work with river herring like being connected and working together just as much as these silvery fish that fill our waters by the millions each spring.

That's why this convening this week is so exciting. It seems like after four years of work, we are getting to that place where relationships are formed, trust is being built, and we are getting work done (not without its challenges every day.) Just like a family. We support each other where we can, challenge each other when we must, and we find common ground where we can agree.

So just like I was a couple weeks ago, thinking about gathering with my family, I'm excited now to gather with my friends and colleagues that share my passion for these fish and these communities and people that all depend on each other. Just like a family.

So as we hold our fishy convenings and make fishy plans for 2025, MCCF would like to wish everyone a happy and very fishy New Year! Do you have a question about 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 1/6/2025

Lobster (hard): \$6.90/lb.
Lobster (shedder) \$6.50/lb.
Roit (nogics): \$6.00 /box

Bait (pogies): \$90/box Fuel (diesel): \$3.10/gal

Oceanographic Buoy I-01

 $44^{\circ}6'10"$ N $68^{\circ}6'44"$ W – Frenchboro

Top Temperature (1 meter): 43.39°F 6.33°C Bottom Temperature (50 meters): 44.17°F 6.76°C

Source: www.neracoos.org