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THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE **By: Molly Miller** 

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## **Giving Thanks for Our Local Food**

Thanksgiving (and any other holiday that involves a particular emphasis on food) is one of my favorite holidays. While hunting a wild turkey or raising one as my Thanksgiving centerpiece was not in the cards, I find myself thankful for the bounty of local food on my dinner table year-round. Lobster and Jonah crab are almost always a possibility, with seasonal delicacies like halibut in the spring/summer and scallops in late fall/winter. On land, we have fresh produce from spring through fall here on Vinalhaven, and my partner always gets a deer in November that fills our freezer.

As someone who is "from away," this was certainly not my experience growing up in New England suburbia. Most of my food came from one of several large grocery stores, which left a disconnect between how food was grown/ raised/ caught and how it came to be on my plate. That connection to the land and sea has taken most of my adult life to cultivate. In contrast, Maine's fishing and farming heritage remains integral to not only our economy, but also our culture. To live in a place where I can be so dependent on the land and sea surrounding my home is truly special; and I am still in awe of the people who provide food for our communities.

As environmental conditions continue to change both on land and in the Gulf of Maine, we are seeing the impacts on our food production systems. As a state that is heavily natural resource dependent, adapting to changes in the environment will be crucial to keeping our communities vibrant. While I hope to enjoy the fisheries and farms that sustain my community long into the future, I also give thanks that we are resilient as individuals, in communities, and as a state and together we will find strategies to adapt.

## **FISHERIES LOG**

Prices to Harvesters in Stonington, as of 12/2/2024

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°F 8.89°C Bottom Temperature (50 meters): 48.2°F 9°C

Source: www.neracoos.org