



Island  **THE WEEKLY
Ad-Vantages PACKET**

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

By: Tom Duym

December 12, 2024

Passing the Wheel

As I was arriving at MCCF headquarters a while ago, I saw longtime friend Mike Grindle putting traps on his trailer. Thinking it strange for him to be taking some ashore just as lobsters were starting to pick up, I went down to say hello and perhaps lend a hand. After a brief greeting, I began with, “Taking some gear up for shop work?” and was answered with, “Nope, taking up for good!” “Yeah right!” I chuckled and after placing a trap up on the pile Mike added, “Nope I’m done. My boat answered the question I had been asking myself for a while now. Do I really need to keep doing this? So, while looking at a major engine investment, I decided it was a good time to come ashore.” It felt like a gut punch.

But with some reflection, this should be a congratulatory piece for a man who has poured more seawater out of his boots than I’ll ever sail across. For 50 years he has paid his “dues” working with his father and brother all over the Gulf of Maine then continued to use his experience and intellect to be a very successful fisherman on his own. Mike’s a natural born hunter. He loves the challenge of learning all he can about his catch and using skill and fortitude to bring it in. He applies this drive equally to fish, lobsters, or a buck with a trophy rack! Heaven knows he certainly deserves to leave the worries of fishing behind. He has been wise and diligent and can afford to step away. I am sure he will apply that “Hard Driver” attitude to whatever he chooses to pursue in the future. I am also sure the lure of seawater in his face will pull him back for a few traps or some halibut fishing. It would be an honor to sail with him anytime!

Though Mike and other friends our age are legendary in this town, they all earned the privilege to spend their remaining years taking life as they chose. I wish him and others all the best! And as we parted and shook hands, he said affirmingly, “But not to worry, there are a couple of young guys who want to buy my boat and carry on. It’s as it should be!”

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

FISHERIES LOG

**Prices to Harvesters in Stonington, as of
12/9/2024**

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): 47.08°F 8.38°C
Bottom Temperature (50 meters): 47.17°F 8.43°C
Source: www.neracoos.org