



THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

By: Kimberley and Matt Larsen

February 27, 2025

Gearing up for Fishermen's Forum

Look for the energetic 60 high school students running around in their dark blue hoodies! Students from this year's Eastern Maine Skippers Program (EMSP) schools are gearing up to present their projects and posters to the attendees of the Maine Fishermen's Forum. Experiencing this event is a highlight for our students and it's a great opportunity to hone their public speaking, presentation, and communication skills - while also sharing valuable information, thoughts and ideas with people from all over the industry!

As educators, we see the importance and value in this experience, and we work diligently to prepare our students, and support teachers along the coast year-round. Some of the projects are proposals, regulation overviews, surveys of current trends, identification of species, etc. This year's investigations include projects like: Tunicates (Sea Squirts), lobster measure gauge change, bait fish i.e. pogies vs. herring, a wooden rowing skiff restoration, study of the anatomy of a lobster and adaptation due to climate change, a look at the timeline of Maine lobster regulations and impacts, experimenting with gear, scallops as a wild and capture fishery, and more. EMSP gives students real world problems to solve with project-based learning. Every student is also exposed to traditional fishing skills, stewardship, business skills, and Drill Conductor Cold Water Survival training (yes, even in the winter.)

These students are our future! The critical thinking skills necessary to navigate the marine industry and blue economy of the future are a must in their educational experience. Please join us as we give them the spotlight to shine on their interests and concerns. EMSP creates opportunities for its participants to "get into the game" by direct contact with policy makers, marine scientists, and fishermen to experience first-hand, multiple stakeholder viewpoints.

Please join us on Friday Feb 28 from 1:00-2:30 in the Rockland Room at the Samoset Resort for the 50th Maine Fishermen's Forum! 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.