



**Island
Ad-Vantages**



**THE WEEKLY
PACKET**

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

By: Molly Miller

February 13, 2025

Lobsters Cross the Border A Lot

As someone who spent most of their professional life in the aquaculture industry (before my current position at MCCF), attending the U.S.-Canada Lobster Town Meeting in Bar Harbor was a new experience for me. While I have been part of a fishing family for over a decade, the finer details of how the industry operates on a day-to-day basis remain a mystery, and the learning curve has been steep so that each time I think I know what's going on, I learn something new.

Hearing from a panel of seafood dealers about the interdependence of the Canadian and American lobster fisheries was an especially interesting topic. I learned that Canada has 41 licensed fishing areas (LFAs), each with their own season ranging in length from eight weeks to six months, compared to Maine, where we have only seven zones and they are open year-round. During the spring, Canada lands huge numbers of lobster while Maine landings remain low. That all changes beginning in mid-summer, when landings in Canada decrease as their LFAs close for the season.

American processors buy Canadian lobsters in addition to U.S. caught lobsters to keep their plants running in the spring, and in turn, the processors in Canada buy lobsters from the U.S. to keep their businesses operational in the summer and fall. In fact, Canada is the single largest buyer of American lobsters in the world!

Due to our interdependence, not surprisingly, retaliatory trade acts could be a big deal for both countries, and likely to affect everyone in the industry on both sides of the border. Time will tell how this relationship plays out.

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