



**Island  
Ad-Vantages**



**THE WEEKLY  
PACKET**

**THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE**

**By: Larry Clifford**

March 27, 2025

**New England Icons in Peril**

I've been reading a lot of articles lately that talk about the impact of global warming on the maple syrup industry in the neighboring states of New Hampshire and Vermont. Warmer winters have resulted in an earlier (and potentially shorter) tapping season, reduced sugar content in the sap, and increased variability in syrup yields. Less than twenty-four hours ago, we celebrated Maine Maple Sunday Weekend—an annual event celebrating our New England heritage. Many sugarhouses throw their doors open to provide demonstrations on how pure maple syrup is made (including free samples!) Unfortunately, the combination of climate change and negative human behaviors seems to have put many of our New England icons at risk at various times: maple trees, lobsters, cod, blueberries, chickadees...shoot, maybe even Super Bowl-winning quarterbacks.

But it's not all doom-and-gloom. Last December, the Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine received more than \$15 million from the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service to make the state's wild blueberry crops more resilient to climate change. The Pine Tree State produces nearly 100 percent of the nation's wild blueberries, which generates hundreds of millions of dollars each year. But as climate change brings more extreme weather, blueberry growers say they're feeling the effects. Still, New Englanders can be very resilient, and conservation-minded. We'll take the time to understand the science behind what we're pulling from the water, smelling in the air, and seeing in the woods. For example: Maine fishermen recently hauled a few egg-bearing shrimp on deck, raising optimism about the possibility of our first decent shrimp season in over a decade.

As has been previously stated in this column: the combination of scientific research and learned experience is very hard to beat. Many farmers and fishermen have shown a willingness to modify their practices to combat climate change and help sustain the natural resources we've all come to depend on. There is hope on the horizon. I just hope they act soon. This stack of pancakes would look pretty pathetic without blueberries or maple syrup. Do you have a question about our fisheries? Send it to [info@coastalfisheries.org](mailto:info@coastalfisheries.org) or call 207.367.2708. Learn more about MCCF by visiting us at [www.coastalfisheries.org](http://www.coastalfisheries.org).

**FISHERIES LOG**

**Prices to Harvesters in Stonington as  
of 3/24/2025**

Lobster (hard): \$11.25/lb.

Lobster (shedder) \$10.25/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): 38.17°F 3.43°C

Bottom Temperature (50

meters): 38.01°F 3.34°C

Source: [www.neracoos.org](http://www.neracoos.org)