



Island
Ad-Vantages



THE
WEEKLY
PACKET

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

By: Tate Yoder

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Sometimes it's more about building connection

At this past Fishermen's Forum, I was reminded of the importance of gathering, and in-person communication. I spoke with a lobsterman who I hadn't met before and got a chance to ask him questions about his fishing experience, how he rigs his gear, and the ways he's changed his fishing practices over the years. You know...questions an amateur like myself is likely to ask and fishermen are likely tired of answering. Much of what he described was based on personal experience and trial by error - activities that were done repeatedly over decades and decades. I have no doubt that he probably kept a few tricks up his sleeve and out of the conversation.

I studied "New Media" as an undergraduate student, and many of the projects that we worked on involved designing technologies that bettered or furthered our current ways of communicating or interacting with information. There are some major benefits that technology can bring us, especially when direct, human-to-human interaction isn't possible: 1) Efficiency - delivering mass amounts of information without needing to share that information individually is critical; 2) Accessibility - we can now access practically anything anytime and anywhere, with newer technologies that address gaps in our ability to access or process information; and 3) Quantity - the sheer amount of information that's out there is unfathomable, built upon databases that can store immense volumes of data that can be delivered to you with lightning fast speed.

But something that I always struggled with was the *quality* of the communication that technology can facilitate. Surely all of these benefits must be at the cost of something, right?

After leaving my conversation with that fisherman, I couldn't help but think about the immense amount of highly valuable fishing knowledge that's out there within Maine's fisheries. No doubt, many resources exist - through written works, spoken word, audio recordings, and in the worlds I work in: video and online formats. The problem, however, is that the speed, efficiency, and quality of information one can share through in-person communication is almost always superior to any new media.

Now, I can't exactly do an apples-to-apples comparison of these different ways of communicating and select just one, because we should utilize every method we can. But in a world that is going more and more towards digital communication, I am even more grateful for opportunities to get together in-person; to converse and share in real time. It's not just about information. Sometimes it's more about building connections. Thank you to everyone who organized and/or attended the Fishermen's Forum - for keeping those connections alive.

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 3/31/2025

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): 38.59°F 3.66°C

Bottom Temperature (50 meters): 38.46°F 3.59°C

Source: www.neracoos.org