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## THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE By: Molly Miller

April 17, 2025 **Scallop Spat Season is Upon Us!** 

This is my first year experiencing the spring madness of our scallop spat project and, boy is it busy! MCCF, in collaboration with Hurricane Island Foundation, Colby College, and the University of Maine, are in the third year of data collection for this project. I have learned so much about the life of a scallop as a newbie to the project, so I'm going to try to break it down as I understand it.

During the early fall, the MCCF team (along with volunteer fishermen and aquaculture farmers) set out lines of rope in several different locations along the coast of Maine, ranging from Casco Bay to Narraguagus Bay. Attached to these lines are "spat bags" with mesh netting inside. Scallop eggs that become fertilized are drifting in the water column, leading to some tiny scallops (known as spat) landing in the bags and on the plastic netting. In the spring, our volunteer fishermen retrieve the bags and we spend weeks sorting the baby scallops from all of the other sea creatures.

With the help of community volunteers, we find every scallop that we can, while keeping track of which line they came from. This helps us to understand which locations have the highest rates of spawning. Some of these scallops are put back on the lines to better understand growth rates in different bays, while most of the spat is released back into the wild. All of this gives us a better understanding of how ocean currents and ecological factors affect scallop populations off the coast of Maine, which is incredibly important for managing the fishery.

You may be familiar with our motto at MCCF: *Fish Forever*. That applies to all fisheries, including the delicious scallop. We are very grateful to the fishers, farmers, scientists and managers who are invested in the success of this project. Do you have a question about our fisheries? Send it to <a href="mailto:info@coastalfisheries.org">info@coastalfisheries.org</a> or call 207.367.2708. Learn more about MCCF by visiting us at <a href="https://www.coastalfisheries.org">www.coastalfisheries.org</a>.

## FISHERIES LOG: Prices to Harvesters in Stonington as of 4/14/2025

Lobster (hard): \$9.25/lb. Lobster (shedder) \$8.25/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): 39.52°F 4.17°C

Bottom Temperature (50 meters): 38.91°F 3.84°C

Source: www.neracoos.org