

**Island**  **Ad-Vantages**  **THE WEEKLY  
PACKET**

**THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE**

By: Tom Duym

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**Fisherman's Spring**

Well here we are...springtime on coastal Maine. For many people whose life involves the near shore waters of Maine there are personal signs of seasonal change, tasks to be done, and hope for good weather. Some of mine are observing when the seals and osprey return to the cove, raising speculation there must be some feed in the water somewhere nearby. This, along with rising water temperatures, gets the blood pumping for the upcoming halibut season, and pressure to get the boat back into service.

Boat maintenance is another familiar right of spring for any of us who have been on the bank for the winter return to the yard to begin the necessary prep work for another season. Postponed repairs, sanding, painting, checking and replacing essential wear parts; there's always a lengthy list to get through while being mindful of getting back in the water and being ready to set out. There are boat transports headed to the nearest launching site, which need a wide berth on the road. Many of these trailers are laden with traps and other gear, destined for a favored spot in the hopes of catching a surprise spring spurt.

All this occurs with an undertow of anxiety; trying to predict when the catch will be good enough to start recovering the cash flow that has been foregone during the haul-out period. Even with quasi-secretive information gathered on a daily basis about how landings are looking, it boils down to just getting one's gear out there and beginning the hunt. There will be long days of lugging gear, gauging the weather, and setting as much as the boat and weather will allow - all of which leads to surprise or frustration for the first few hauls. Such is the Spring ritual for the fisherman.

So be sympathetic to the growling in the checkout line at the grocery store, or the unfriendly expletives from the cab of a truck that is towing a loaded trap trailer through town. It's Spring in a Maine fishing town! Do you have a question about 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 4/28/2025**

Lobster (hard): \$7.00/lb.  
Lobster (shedder) \$6.50/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): 41.18°F 5.1°C  
Bottom Temperature (50 meters): 40.37°F 4.65°C  
Source: [www.neracoos.org](http://www.neracoos.org)