

The Catch

Volume 6

Article 2

2018

Editor's Note: The Catch Volume VI

Catherine Schmitt

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/the_catch



Part of the [Aquaculture and Fisheries Commons](#), [Fiction Commons](#), [History Commons](#), [Marine Biology Commons](#), [Nonfiction Commons](#), [Oceanography and Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology Commons](#), and the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Schmitt, Catherine (2018) "Editor's Note: The Catch Volume VI," *The Catch*: Vol. 6 , Article 2.
Available at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/the_catch/vol6/iss1/2

This Editor's Note is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Catch by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

Welcome to Volume Six of *The Catch*: Writings from Downeast Maine!

This journal was launched in association with the Downeast Fisheries Trail, a maritime heritage education initiative in Downeast Maine that features 45-plus sites of historic and active fishing interest. The trail celebrates and shares fisheries stories past and present.

This volume of *The Catch* in particular shows this then-and-now focus, while also revealing the tensions that exist when present situations change how we think about the past.

“Rosie Wallace is a Seal” is Robin Hansen’s second story set in fictitious Ice Harbor, Maine. Both it and its predecessor, *Ice Harbor Mittens*, bring north Atlantic folk legends to life on the modern coast of Maine. Sadly, the modern coast is a place where entanglements in fishing gear are a serious threat to the endangered North Atlantic right whale, as presented by Hansen and echoed by Carl Little’s poem, a tribute to Spinnaker, a humpback whale that died on the rocky edge of Mount Desert Island.

This somewhat dark beginning continues with poems about cold and storms, drunkenness and death. The coast of Maine is not always the happy, sunny, summer place. Sometimes it is miserable and dark. Matt Bernier has written a thoughtful tribute to Jed Wright, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ecologist who took his own life in October 2017 following a struggle with severe anxiety. Bernier, who also works in habitat restoration, contemplates the loss to the habitat conservation community and specifically endangered Atlantic salmon, finding hope in Wright’s legacy that can be found in any of Maine’s salmon rivers.

Bernier brings us out of the dark with his second poem, with a play on words that transitions well to Aliya Uteuova’s essay on the Shakespearean saying “The world is your oyster.” Uteuova is a new writer to *The Catch*, as are Robin Hansen, Mary Lyons, and Christina Gillis. This volume also introduces two new features: a profile of an individual working in Downeast Maine fisheries (an interview with Robin Alden) and an oral history. Patrick Shepard’s experience and wisdom demonstrate the importance of talking to fishermen about the past in the present, so that we might have a better future.

We end on the side of joy, as Gillis answers where the blueberries are, and Pat Ranzoni exalts in the possibilities of restoration and re-creation. I hope you share some secret knowledge and myth, and find your own blueberries this summer. And remember to revisit to this volume in the fall when the days again get short, dark, and some cold.

- Catherine Schmitt