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Lobster Institute

Summer 2010

The Lobster Bulletin, Fall 2010

Lobster Institute, University of Maine

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Fall 2010

“News, research updates, and information on lobsters and the lobster industry.”

Published by the Lobster Institute

“Protecting and conserving the lobster resource, and enhancing lobstering as an industry...and a way of life.”

The Heanssler Family: Three Generations of Volunteer Lobster Researchers

When Tom Haynes, the son of Kathy Heanssler and grandson of Basil & Harriet Heanssler, put his first research tag on a lobster and drew his first lobster blood sample in November 2010 he became the third generation of the Heanssler Family to serve as a volunteer researcher for the Lobster Institute. The Heanssler's Conary Cove Lobster Pound in Sunshine-Deer Isle, Maine has been the site of many research projects since the late 1980s, when Basil was a member of the inaugural Lobster Institute Board of Advisors.



*Basil Heanssler helps prepare for a lobster study –
November 2010*

Now, over 20 years later, Kathy is a current member of the Institute's Board, and at age 79, Basil is still as involved as ever.

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Update on Lobster Science Centre's Moult & Quality Monitoring Available

Most recent data from the ongoing monitoring of lobster blood protein levels, shell hardness and moult stage is now available online through the Atlantic Veterinary College's Lobster Science Centre' Web site at www.LobsterScience.ca. The monitoring currently includes 15 areas in LFAs 33/34 with more than 92,000 lobsters sampled to date. Quality predictions and holding recommendations are included.

Lobstermen Qualify for TAAF Program – Can Apply for Training & Cash Benefits

Lobstermen from the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island were all certified through separate applications, as eligible for a training and financial assistance program through the US. Dept. of Agriculture, called the Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers (TAAF) program.

The program provides free technical training and cash benefits for eligible farmers and fishermen whose businesses have been adversely impacted by foreign imports. The program is designed to help individuals increase profitability, improve production efficiency, consider marketing opportunities and evaluate alternative enterprises.

Eligible individuals may apply for free technical training, business planning and cash benefits of up to \$12,000. Technical training will be offered through a series of informational workshops and free business planning assistance will be provided by professional business consultants.

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The **Lobster Bulletin**
published by the



LOBSTER INSTITUTE

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A member of the University of Maine System
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Trade Adjustment Assistance --cont. from page 1

There are three main phases of training:

- Initial Orientation Meeting [approximately 2 hours]. This meeting provides an introduction to TAA and must be completed by March 23, 2011 to continue in the program.
- Workshops and Initial Business Plan [minimum of 12 hours]: A series of 2 to 3 hour workshops designed to improve the profitability for lobstermen. Potential topics include marketing, product handling, business plan development, and alternative enterprises. Fishermen then complete a short worksheet about what was learned from the training and how it will be used in an operation business plan. Upon completing this phase, participants are eligible to receive up to a \$4,000 cash payment.
- Long-term Business Plan: A business counselor will be assigned to each participant to assist in developing an in-depth business plan. Upon completion and approval of the plan, participants are eligible to receive up to an additional \$8,000 to help implement their plan. This must be completed by September 24, 2013.

Lobstermen who can provide documentation that they harvested and sold lobster in 2009 and at least one other year between 2006 and 2008 are eligible. Lobstermen must certify that their average gross "non-fishing income" for 2009 did not exceed \$500,000, and that their average "adjusted gross fishing income" in 2009 did not exceed \$750,000.

State Sea Grant programs and USDA Farm Service Agencies (FSA) are working together to sign fishermen up for the program, and to deliver training. Applications must be made through a local FSA office. FSA staff will assist applicants in completing forms. Application forms are also available through most lobstermen's associations' offices. ***The deadline to apply is December 23, 2010.*** (Check with your local lobstermen's association or the Lobster Institute for the location of a Farm Service Agency near you.)

Unless filing as a business, both the lobster harvester and his/her spouse may each file a separate application. Lobstermen can designate an alternate when applying to the program to attend part or all of the training programs on their behalf. Completing an application does not obligate a person to participate in the program. However, those who do not submit an application by the deadline will not be eligible to participate. The TAA program is offered at no cost to fishermen, so there are no penalties for withdrawing from the program. Any payments through the program are taxable income.

Call the Lobster Institute at 20-581-2751 and they can direct you to helpful resources. ❄

HOLD THE DATE



CANADIAN/U.S. LOBSTERMEN'S TOWN MEETING

Hosted by the



LOBSTER INSTITUTE

This year's focus is:

*Opportunities and Challenges in the
Lobster Industry's Future*

**Friday – March 25, 9:00 - 4:00
&
Saturday – March 26, 8:30 - 11:30**
Only \$25 – including lunch.

**Delta Brunswick Hotel
Saint John, New Brunswick**

**Continue the day's conversation at a
Seafood Reception – Friday Evening
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Call the Lobster Institute at 207-581-1443 for
more information and to get your name on
the invitation list.**

**More details and a registration form will be
posted on the Lobster Institute's
Web site in January –
www.lobsterinstitute.org**



**As a Non-profit, the Lobster Institute relies on
industry and private support to continue its work
for and with the lobster fishery. Please consider
donating as a Friend of the Lobster Institute today.
Call 207-581-2751 or visit www.lobsterinstitute.org**





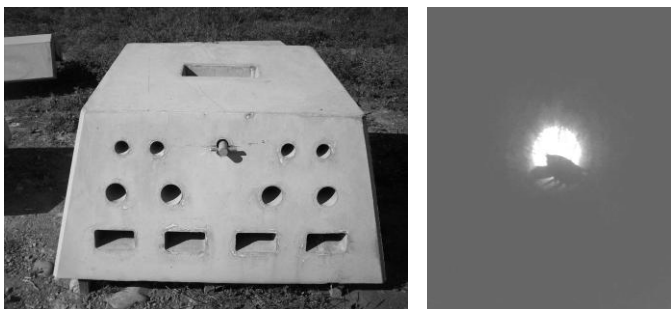
Contact us at 207-581-2751 if you would like to sponsor our “Research Report” and see your logo here!

RESEARCH REPORT

Readers may contact the Lobster Institute for more detailed information on any of these projects.

➤ **Habitat Mooring System Showing Early Results –**

As was reported in the Summer 2010 *Lobster Bulletin*, the first Habitat Mooring System (*HMS 4000*) was deployed from Seal Harbor in July 2010. It is being used to secure the Town of Mount Desert’s “No Wake” buoy in Seal Harbor, Maine. At six and then eight weeks following deployment, divers were sent down to video record any evidence of the mooring being used for productive habitat. Both dives showed substantial marine flora growth as well as habitation in and around the mooring by lobsters, crabs, flounder, pollock and other marine life. Further analysis will be conducted in the spring/summer of 2011. The Wind Reef Group, LLC designed this proprietary mooring system that creates habitat for lobsters and other marine life. Enhanced habitat can benefit lobster stocks. Research has shown that 15% of Maine’s lobsters have no home shelter and are constantly ranging in search of protected habitat, exposing them to predators and disrupting vital life cycle behavior. (Bricknell, 2009) By providing recessed cavities and tunnels, The Wind Reef Group’s moorings create ideal shelters for these lobsters. The *HMS 4000* is now available for sale exclusively through Hamilton Marine Services. Orders can be placed by contacting Hamilton Marine at (207) 548-6302. More information on these new moorings is available at www.habitatmoorings.com.



New HMS 4000 (l) and lobster taking up residence in HMS 4000 cavity (r) (shot isolated from video taken 8 weeks after deployment.)

➤ **Vertical Line Density Research –**

The Maine Department of Marine Resource’s Large Whale Conservation Program has received federal grants to conduct extensive lobster gear research in 2010 and 2011. This work will be conducted in conjunction with the Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation (GOMLF) and is funded through NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service. Two complementary projects began in August and September that aim to inform the Department of the density and relative risk of vertical lines in Maine’s lobster fishing industry. The first, a boat-based buoy density survey, will be performed using lobster vessels and captains up and down the coast of Maine. Surveys, or trips, will be conducted in each of three areas: Area 1 including lobster zones A and B, Area 2 including zones C and D and Area 3 including zones E, F and G. Data collectors from the Department and the GOMLF will be stationed on each vessel while they drive pre-determined transect lines through the non-exempt state, or “sliver” waters. Trips will be conducted twice a month through November, once a month from December to March and then twice a month again through the summer of 2011. Data will be used to determine the relative density of vertical lines seasonally throughout non-exempt state waters and can be used to verify results obtained from paper surveys mailed out to all lobster license holders in the winter of 2010. The second project utilizes aerial based surveys to obtain digital images of all non-exempt state waters and will allow analysts to pinpoint and map the density and locations of vertical lines throughout the coast. Transect lines will allow for full coverage of the area and will yield an absolute count of vertical lines during the time of year when effort is highest in this area. All of the data obtained in the above projects will be made available to the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team for discussions centering on the risk of entanglement to whales by vertical lines. For more information on these or any other projects being conducted by the Department’s Large Whale Conservation Program, please contact Erin Summers at (207) 633-9556 or erin.l.summers@maine.gov. ☞
(excerpted with permission from the “DMR Lobster Newsletter”, Volume 14, Issue 2, Fall – September 2010)



LOBSTER INSTITUTE

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The Heanssler Family

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All three generations were on the wharf at Canary Cove this fall to start a proof-of-concept project on a feeding regiment tailored to help reduce shrinkage in lobster pounds. Past research has included running pelleted feed tests, monitoring serum protein levels in pounded lobsters and various underwater video observation projects. "Basil's interest in improving the lobster industry is contagious," said Dr. Bob Bayer, Executive Director of the Lobster Institute. "He has a lot of ideas. He's progressive and receptive to trying new things. He's passed that on to his family."



Dr. Bob Bayer (l), Kathy Heanssler (c) and Tom Haynes set up a research project on the wharf at Canary Cove.

"It's great to have both Tom and my daughter Nicole involved with the family business now, and to see them continue in my father's footsteps by working with the Lobster Institute makes us very proud," says Kathy. "We've made a good living working with lobsters, and we've always felt giving back is the right thing to do."
✂


A Time of Giving

Please remember the Lobster Institute in your holiday and year-end giving. We rely on friends like our *Lobster Bulletin* readers to help keep the Institute's doors open and phones ringing. December is a great month to show your support by taking advantage of year-end charitable giving and tax savings opportunities.




You can give by calling 207-581-1443 or online via <http://www.lobsterinstitute.org/index.php?page=41>

Two Other Great Gift Ideas

 You can also receive a tax advantage by giving appreciated securities to the Lobster Institute. Some of the benefits of giving stock:

- You receive gift credit and an immediate income tax deduction for the fair market value of the securities on the date of transfer, no matter what you originally paid for them.
- You pay no capital gains tax on the securities you donate.
- You have the satisfaction of knowing you are helping the Lobster Institute sustain the lobster resource and the lobster fishery.

 We'd also welcome the opportunity to talk with you about including the Lobster Institute in your will. We have estate planning experts from the University of Maine Foundation willing to assist you in setting up an endowed fund in your name or that of a loved one.