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Lobster Bulletin

Lobster Institute

Summer 2014

The Lobster Bulletin, Summer 2014

Lobster Institute, University of Maine

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The Lobster Bulletin

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

In Memoriam



will be missed.” Another member of the Institute’s Board, Kathy Heansler of Conary Cove Lobster Pound on Sunshine-Deer Isle, Maine shared that, “Klaus was a very special man who cared so much for others and was so knowledgeable about the lobster industry.” Rick Doucet, also on the Institute’s Board of Advisors, and former Minister of Fisheries in New Brunswick, noted in an interview with CBC News, “ [Klaus] was a strong advocate for fisheries, not only for Grand Manan but around Atlantic Canada. He worked tirelessly over the years for fisheries. He threw his cards on the table and you always knew where he stood. He was well known and he fought hard. He was definitely one-of-a-kind and a very good individual.”

As noted in his obituary, Klaus was born in Germany and his family immigrated to Canada in 1952. “He graduated from the University of Idaho with a degree in Zoology and began his first career as a Chief Park Naturalist with Parks Canada. After discovering Grand Manan on a flight home to Ingonish, he set his sights on moving there to start an air service in 1978. Klaus’ first love was his family followed by flying. Klaus and Melanie met on Grand Manan in 1980 and they were married in 1981. Klaus was working for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans while organizing the startup of the air service business, then known as Seagull Aviation, now known as Atlantic Charters. He helped found the Grand Manan Fisherman’s Association. Between family, flying, and representing fishermen, Klaus’ days were full and he thrived on that. Klaus contributed to the overall success of the community through the air service and his work with the fishermen. He enjoyed a good debate, travel, experiencing new things and the company of friends Klaus will be remembered for his direct, no nonsense approach to life as well as for the many lives he touched through the medevac air lifts he performed over the years. He will be missed by many.”

Condolences, messages of sympathy also may be sent to www.ells.ca or (506) 662-3116.

Everyone connected with the lobster industry in both Canada and the United States was saddened to hear of the loss of Klaus Sonnenberg in a plane crash on Grand Manan on August 16, 2014. Klaus was a much respected member of the Lobster Institute’s Board of Advisors, representing the Grand Manan Fishermen’s Association. His wife Melanie also serves on the Lobster Institute’s Board, representing the Eastern Fishermen’s Federation. Our condolences go out to Melanie and her family.

Klaus’ presence at Lobster Institute Board meetings and the Institute’s Canadian/U.S. Lobstermen’s Town Meetings was so appreciated, as his input was always well thought out and valued. (Quotes by Klaus from various Town Meetings can be found throughout this Bulletin.)

According to Lobster Institute Chairman Bill Adler of Green Harbor, Massachusetts, “Klaus was one of our best board members from Canada and one that was always helpful to the industry.” Executive Director of the Institute Dr. Bob Bayer noted, “He was a wonderful man and an important part of the Lobster Institute. He



The Lobster Institute

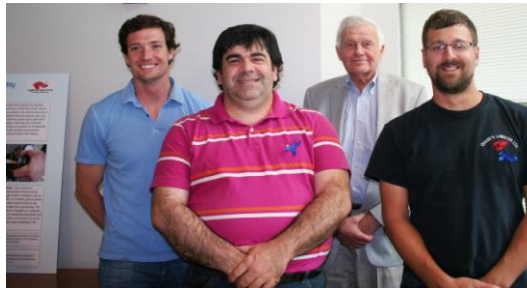
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The Lobster Bulletin

Lobster Institute Adds Two New Board Members

The Lobster Institute is pleased to welcome two new members to its Board of Advisors: Luke Holden, co-owner of Cape Seafood (a lobster processing plant in Saco) and Luke's Lobster (13 restaurants from New York to Maryland); and Carl Allen, the new president of the Maritime Fishermen's Union (MFU). The MFU represents over 1,300 owner-operator fish harvesters with small businesses actively fishing in the Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Its members are also multi-species owners and some harvest all or some of the following species: lobster, herring, scallop, mackerel, snow crab, ground fish (cod, hake, flounder, plaice and turbot).



New Lobster Institute Board Members are welcomed at their first meeting by Chairman Bill Adler [-r: Luke Holden, Michel Richard (MFU Alternate), Bill Adler, Carl Allen]

Changes in Leadership in Fishery Organizations

There have been a flurry of changes in leadership of several well-know fishery organizations in the past few months.

Bill Adler has left the Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association to concentrate more on fishing and consulting work. He is replaced as executive director by Beth Casoni, the former associate executive director. Adler will continue to represent Massachusetts on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission; and retains his position as the chairman of the Lobster Institute's Board of Advisors, a position he has held for the last 19 years.

Dina Desveaux is the new senior manager of the Fishermen and Scientists Research Society (taking over for Patty King.)



Dina describes herself as "a fisherman's daughter who's passionate about protecting our fishery, our coastline and ensuring that a decent living wage remains feasible in rural parts of the Maritimes."

The Maine Import/Export Lobster Dealers Association has been renamed the Maine Lobster Dealers Association (MLDA) with Tim Harkins (president of Rocky Coast Lobster Co. in Arrowsic) named as the newly appointed president following the retirement of Pete McAleney. According to their web site, "The MLDA was formed in 1985 in order to create a forum for Maine lobster dealers to come together and discuss important issues relating to the industry. This year, the group has been reenergized and restructured to give the association a stronger voice and consistent representation."

The MLDA has created a part-time executive director position, now filled by Annie Tselikis, former education coordinator with the Maine Lobstermen's Association.



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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 lobsterinsitute.org

If you would like to sponsor the Lobster Bulletin or the Research Report and have your business highlighted in each issue, call Cathy at 207-581-2751 or email lobsterinstitute@maine.edu

Shared by Klaus Sonnenberg:

On science: "One thing we need to come to grips with is the idea as lobster fishermen to feel free to give our scientific advice that we see from day to day without threat from the lobster regulators. Too often we're willing to say, 'well look we're seeing less lobsters up this way but if we say it, the gauge is going to go to 4 inches'. So there needs to be a better relationship between the fishermen and what they're seeing and the ability of governments and other organizations to turn that into something." Town Meeting 2004

On marketing: "The fact that it's a Canadian-American product, and it's not created anywhere else in the world... the whole world. And believe me, South Koreans, Indians, Japanese, Germans, I don't believe for one second that we've exhausted the possibilities... we should somehow bring it up to another level and say this is beyond each individual fisherman, fisherman's group, country, or buyer. It supersedes that."

Town Meeting 2007

RESEARCH REPORT

❖ **Green Crab Studied as Possible Lobster Bait:**

Researchers Shauna M. Ryan, Sara T. Livingstone, J.P. Barry, P. James Williams & Russell C. Wyeth of Nova Scotia conducted a comparative study on the use of Green Crab versus traditional fin fish baits. They made video recordings of lobster foraging responses in the laboratory to compare the attractiveness of the invasive green crab (*Carcinus maenas*) bait, two traditional finfish baits and an inert control. In an abstract from their article *Laboratory comparison of American lobster, Homarus americanus, foraging responses to invasive green crab, Carcinus maenas, and two traditional finfish baits* they noted, "Solitary lobsters approached and handled all three biological baits with similar latencies and spent similar time in contact with the biological baits. In contrast, lobsters took longer to approach and handle, and spent significantly less time in contact with control bait. As green crabs were statistically indistinguishable in attractiveness from traditional baits in our laboratory setting, we suggest field trials should test this alternate bait in circumstances more directly relevant to the fishery." The article was published in "Marine and Freshwater Behaviour and Physiology" online on July 21, 2014.

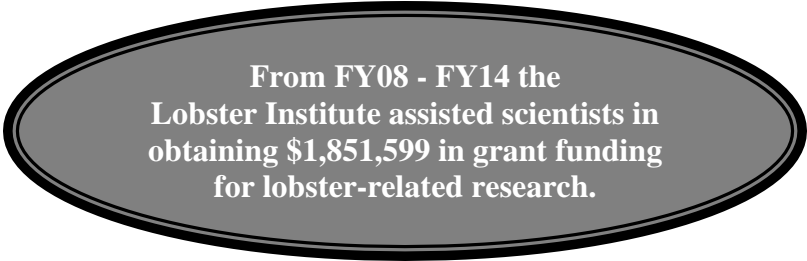
❖ **European Lobster Hatchery Aims to Release 60,000 Lobsters:** (with excerpts from *UK lobster hatchery helps boost local catch* by Nicki Holmyard, SeafoodSource.com, June 24, 2014)

The U.S. and Canadian lobstermen and scientists are not the only ones looking to improve hatchery techniques with an eye toward possible needs in the future to bolster lobster stocks. The National Lobster Hatchery in Cornwall, U.K. is hoping to develop a method of increasing European lobster populations in areas of decline. Like the American lobster in the U.S. and Canada, European lobster stocks are currently plentiful in the U.K. The U.K. lobster fishery landings value is equivalent to \$52.6 million U.S. Yet, according to a June 24, 2014 article in SeafoodSource.com, "there is always room for improvement, and U.K. fishermen point to the fact that demand outstrips supply, especially in December, when the market in Europe increases significantly. They also feel

that greater effort could be made to sell European lobster in the U.K. retail market, instead of importing American lobster, although price is a major factor in this."

Dom Boothroyd, general manager of the National Lobster Hatchery, explained in the article that lobster stocks in both the Scandinavian and Mediterranean stocks have completely collapsed and are yet to recover. He noted, "We have established ourselves as a center for excellence in lobster science and our research is cited all around the world. Through this we hope to develop better techniques to help re-establish lobster populations where they have declined, and to increase fisheries in areas where catches are poor. We know we can't feed the world, but we can make a contribution by providing a successful fisheries management tool that will help sustain the future of our seas and the coastal communities that rely on the lobster fishery for their livelihood."

The article goes on to explain that the hatchery collects around 100 berried lobsters each year, which are allowed to egg-out. Using methods with similarities to those used in hatcheries for American lobsters, "larvae are transferred to conical rearing tanks where they are fed on plankton, and kept for around two weeks until they reach their third moult. More than 40 percent of the lobsters survive to this stage, whereas in the wild, survival rates are thought to be less than one percent. After their third moult, the lobsters are separated into individual rearing compartments, housed in stacking systems known as Aquahives, and [are given a] powdered proprietary feed. Seventy-five percent of the lobsters are released to the sea at stage 5 and the remainder at stage 8 or higher. Local fishermen and divers ...take the animals to offshore locations around Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. The target for 2014 is to release 60,000 lobsters."



From FY08 - FY14 the
Lobster Institute assisted scientists in
obtaining \$1,851,599 in grant funding
for lobster-related research.

Hold the date!

**2014 Holiday Lobster
& Wine Feast
Thurs. December 4**

**Call 207-581-1443 to
get on the invite list!**

New Leadership

cont. from page 2

Carl Allen is the current president of the Maritime Fishermen's Union (MFU) replacing Francois Beaudin. The MFU has eight locals between New Brunswick in Nova Scotia. The MFU is the official representative of inshore fishers on the east coast of New Brunswick in accordance with the Inshore Fisheries Representation Act of New Brunswick. In Nova Scotia, membership in the MFU is voluntary. The lobster fishery provides the majority of the catch for MFU members at approximately 85%.



Mark Jacobson has been hired as the new executive director of the recently formed Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative. Marianne LaCroix had been the acting executive director since the MLMC's inception in 2013, and will stay on staff as a marketing specialist. The primary objective of the Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative is to increase awareness and demand for whole live Maine lobster as well as value-added Maine lobster products. The MLMC supports that objective by promoting the core values of the Maine lobster industry, which is sustainable and deeply rooted in tradition.

Shared by Klaus Sonnenberg:

On boat price: "Forget about just trying to produce lobster, let's focus on the sexy lobster product that has been our mainstay for the last 20 years, the quality. The only way is to increase demand, in my view. We've had a lot of initiative about science ... we've had our government fund science lately ... we've had fishermen who have supported science. Science of lobster is fairly basic. We protect the little ones until they're old enough to have babies and then we catch what we can. And, it works for us. So maybe it's time that some of the initiative goes from the government side to promotion not just the science part of it. What's the only thing that we can do that makes sense – that is possible? Create a bigger demand. And, if we create a bigger demand, the price will look after itself."

Town Meeting 2007

On right whales: "We've created an awareness amongst fishermen as to how important this issue is. But you know, one of the things we have to remember is let's sit back and try to get some common sense in there before we take the precautionary approach. I spend my time generally at about 10,000. I'm not a fisherman. I'm a pilot. I'm probably not going to interact with a right whale, but I don't want to see something imposed that obviously is not going to have any beneficial effect."

Town Meeting 2011



LOBSTER INSTITUTE
www.lobsterinstitute.org

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

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