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Lobster Bulletin

Lobster Institute

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Winter 2008

## The Lobster Bulletin, Winter 2008

Lobster Institute, University of Maine

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Winter 2008

*“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.”**

## Over \$4 Million For Lobster Research in Canada

In a January 21 article, the *Guardian* reports that Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency has given the Lobster Science Centre at the Atlantic Veterinary College on Prince Edward Island a grant of \$2.3 million for research related to lobster health and ecology. They note that the Centre is raising an additional \$2 million, and plans to use the funding for their Atlantic Lobster Molt and Quality Project, designed to gain a better understanding of factors that contribute to variations in lobster quality (soft shell, low yield), in particular life cycles and time of female sexual maturity. More information is available at [www.lobsterscience.ca](http://www.lobsterscience.ca) ☞

## Woodward Preserves a Piece of Lobster Industry History

“In Beals it is just growing daylight and thick-a-fog as Dad (Vernal) and I get to the wharf with our two small pieces of luggage and boxes of grub for the trip. It is a summer morning in the early 1950s, when I was maybe 18 years of age. We’d gone to the store last evening and bought groceries, enough to last four men for three days. Also in preparation we’d gotten fuel and water, and we had kindling wood and hard coal for the Shipmate range down in the foc’sle. We had everything in readiness for our trip in the lobster smack.” So begins *Lobsters: A 1950s Trip in a Lobster Smack* by Arthur S. Woodward, which recounts an actual trip he took in lobster smack. As Woodward describes it, “A smack is a vessel built with a well that has the free circulation of sea water to keep lobsters or fish alive until they are unloaded.” Smacks were first introduced in the late 1700s. As the first means of effectively transporting live lobsters to larger commercial markets, they are credited with being catalysts for the lobster industry. Woodward has contributed this story, and another piece entitled *Beals Reminiscences*, to the Lobster Institute. Both can be found in the Education Section of the Institute’s Web site at [www.lobstersinstitute.org](http://www.lobstersinstitute.org). ☞

*A continuing “did you know” series featuring historical highlights of Lobster Institute research and accomplishments*



## Town Meeting Celebrates 5<sup>th</sup> Year

Did you know that 2008 will mark the fifth year of the Lobster Institute’s Canadian/U.S. Lobstermen’s Town Meeting? The idea of creating a venue where lobstermen from all regions of the fishery, including both sides of the border, could come together for a frank and open discussion about the status of the resource and the industry was first conceived by Lobster Institute Board of Advisors member Dana Rice. The rest of the Board enthusiastically embraced the idea, and the Lobster Institute hosted its first Canadian/U.S. Lobstermen’s Town Meeting in 2004 in Portland, Maine. The Town Meeting has alternated between Canada and the U.S. each year since, and will return to Portland this year on April 4 & 5 (see ad on Page 3).

As always, the Town Meeting is designed first and foremost to allow fishermen’s voices to be heard. The

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5763 Rogers Hall, Room #210

The University of Maine, Orono, ME 04469-5763

Phone: 207-581-2751 Fax: 207-581-2744

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Cathy Billings, Editor

[cathy.billings@umit.maine.edu](mailto:cathy.billings@umit.maine.edu)

Made possible through an endowed gift by Helene & Frank Crohn.

# 2007 Friends of the Lobster Institute

Annual donors and sponsors who generously supported the work of the Lobster Institute in calendar year 2007.

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Dr. Catherine Van Poznak  
Thomas Yazwinski

### \*\*Others\*\*

Michael Loughlin

If we inadvertently left someone off this list, or printed any name incorrectly, we apologize. Please notify us so that we may post a correction.

*We sincerely thank the over  
130 annual donors & sponsors  
– businesses, foundations and individuals –  
who supported the work of the  
Lobster Institute in calendar year 2007.*

*We look forward to your continued support in 2008.*

Check out the Lobster Institute website  
at [www.lobsterinstitute.org](http://www.lobsterinstitute.org),  
providing the definitive site for lobster  
information ..... with nearly 200 links.



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.*

❖ **Lobster Enhancement Efforts Discussed** – The New England Aquarium recently hosted a gathering to discuss the present day status of North American lobster enhancement efforts. An historical look at lobster hatcheries as well as presentations on current rearing efforts were provided. Additionally, efforts to track hatchery released lobsters were described. In a summary of the day's discussion provided by Drs. Michael Tlusty and Rick Wahle, it was noted that the success of the Homarus Group in NB offers optimism that hatchery reared lobsters can be successfully released and survive, though it has not yet been determined if these animals will recruit to the fishery. They caution that a large number of questions still surround this body of work. They also state, "It is unknown whether these efforts will be successful everywhere, and furthermore, it is important to clearly define the criteria by which we measure success. Furthermore, a full risk-assessment has yet to be conducted, and in particular, are there deleterious effects on healthy populations. Work needs to be directed at determining program outcomes, and standards relating to program quality and best management plans." The full summary report is available on the Institute's Web site at [www.lobsterinstitute.org](http://www.lobsterinstitute.org). ❧

❖ **Coral Reef Crisis Could Signal Threat to Local Marine Life and Fisheries** – A rise in ocean temperature and acidity that threatens the world's coral reef ecosystems could also have troubling implications for marine life and fishing industries as far away as New England. Robert Steneck of the University of Maine is one of several authors of a study that predicts increasing concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, if not abated, will continue to deteriorate coral reefs to the point where they may disappear altogether in the next few decades. The potential collapse of these biologically diverse and economically important ecosystems suggests a global atmospheric crisis that, Steneck says, could seriously harm fisheries around the world. "While we are far from where coral reefs live, I think it's important to consider what this might mean in [our area]," says Steneck. Reduced carbonates in the ocean are forcing creatures to spend more energy making their shells, which places them under greater stress, and "anything that stresses shell-producers makes them more susceptible to disease." Results of the study were published in "The Carbon Crisis: Coral Reefs Under Rapid Climate Change and Ocean Acidification," in the December 14, 2007 issue of the Journal Science. ❧



## Spotlight on the Institute Canadian/U.S. Lobstermen's Town Meeting

--cont. from page 1

goals have remained the same: to provide fishermen with an opportunity to share with one another what they are observing in their day-to-day operations, what their concerns might be, and what positive things they are seeing; to allow fishermen to get a more complete picture of the entire resource, including commonalities, differences and potential future impacts; and to foster collaboration and communication between all geographic areas of the fishery, reinforcing the fact that all share and rely on a common resource that must be protected.

A special thank you to Darden Restaurants for serving as primary sponsor of the Town Meeting each and every year. We also welcome our newest sponsor, Orion Seafood Int. ❧



## Canadian/U.S. LOBSTERMEN'S TOWN MEETING

The 2008 focus is on  
price structures and marketing.

**April 4, 9:00 – 4:00 & April 5, 9:00 – 11:30**  
Clarion Hotel -- Portland, Maine  
(formerly the DoubleTree)

Hosted by the

### Lobster Institute

with primary sponsorship from

### Darden Restaurants

**Orion Seafood Int. & Fisheries Products Int.**

**\$25 Registration Fee – includes lunch.**  
**Pre-register strongly encouraged.**

Forms are available by calling 207-581-1443  
or online at [www.lobsterinstitute.org](http://www.lobsterinstitute.org)

A limited number of rooms are available at \$89 U.S. Reserve  
by calling the Clarion at 207-774-5611.

Lobster Institute  
 210 Rogers Hall  
 The University of Maine  
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**LOBSTER INSTITUTE**

*Lobster Bulletin, Winter 2008*

**C.O.R.E. Campaign Nears the  
 \$1.3 Million Mark**

With a recent federal appropriation of \$188,000 for the Lobster Institute’s C.O.R.E. Initiative the Institute’s C.O.R.E. Campaign giving total is close to the \$1.3 million mark. The chart below notes the giving amounts to various campaign components.

Campaign Component	Amount Raised To-Date
Seed Fund	\$144,146
Riverdale Challenge*	\$279,595
General Campaign*	\$285,289
Grants/Appropriations	\$586,705
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,296,735</b>

*\* Includes gifts to the Kenneth Brown Memorial Fund and the Herbert O. Hodgkins Lobster Research Fund*

Funds raised through the C.O.R.E. Campaign will secure the Institute’s progress in its C.O.R.E. functions: conservation, outreach, research and education. Endowed funds will allow the Lobster Institute to: ensure leadership succession by funding a full-time director/lobster researcher through a faculty Chair at the University of Maine; employ two additional scientists, in the areas of lobster health and value-added product development; and secure its operations for the future

The campaign has received gifts from \$10 through well over \$100,000 and we deeply appreciate each and every supporter. We particularly appreciate those who have contributed to the C.O.R.E. Campaign while continuing their much needed annual contribution as a Friend of the Lobster Institute. While the endowed funds being raised through the Campaign will secure the future for the Institute, it is annual gifts that still allow for day-to-day operations of the Institute at this time. Due to space constraints, we cannot list all Campaign donors, but are honored to recognize the following:

**\*\* \$1,000 -- \$4,999 \*\***

- Bangor Savings Bank
- Brooks Trap Mill
- Robert Brown
- Burnham Trust
- Cheryl Wixson’s Kitchen
- Commonwealth Management
- First National Bank of Bar Harbor
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- The Lobster Trap
- Jack & Erica Merrill – Bottom Dollar
- John Reeves
- James Rittenburg
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**\*\* \$5,000 - \$9,999 \*\***

- Fisheries Products International

**\*\* \$10,000 - \$24,999 \*\***

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- Riverdale Mills – James & Betty Knott

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