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Winter 2008

The Lobster Bulletin, Winter 2008

Lobster Institute, University of Maine

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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

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.

Town Meeting Celebrates 5th 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 – cont. on page 3
**Benefactors $10,000+**
- Darden Restaurants Foundation

**Partners $5,000 - $9,999**
- 

**Supporters $1,000 - $4,999**
- Billings Lobster Pound
- Blue Seal Feeds
- Bottom Dollar – Jack & Erica Merrill
- Farm Credit of Maine, ACA
- Maine Lobster Pound Assn.
- Massachusetts Lobstermen's Assn.
- National Fisheries Institute
- Southern Maine Lobstermen's Assn.
- Weathervane Seafoods

**Associates $500 - $999**
- Hancock Gourmet Lobster Co.
- Maine Salt Co.
- New England Health Search
- Union Trust Company
- Univ. of Maine Alumni House

**Friends $100 - $499**
- Barnacle Billy's Inc.
- Bayley’s Lobster Pound
- Bell Power Systems, Inc.
- Bruce W. Fernald, Inc.
- Bruce Heanssler Lobster Co.
- City Fish Market
- Conary Cove Lobster Co.
- Cranberry Isles Fishermen's Co-op
- Eastern Fishermen's Federation
- Fishermen’s Market Intl.
- Friendship Trap Company
- Frank & Brina Sands Foundation
- Fundy Lobster, Ltd.
- Glen’s Lobster
- Grand Manan Fishermen's Assn.
- Hamilton Marine
- Lobster Products, Inc.
- Maine Import Export Lobster Dealers
- Maine Lobster Promotion Council
- Maine Lobstermen's Assn.
- New Harbor Co-op
- Seaview Lobster Co.
- Small Point Impounding Corp.
- South Bristol Fisherman’s Co-op
- South Shore Lobster Fishermen’s Assn.
- Spruce Head Fishermen’s Co-op
- Swan’s Island Fishermen’s Co-op
- William Atwood Lobster Co.

**Others**
- Aquatecnics, LLC/ Coquille Catering
- Commonwealth Management
- Georgette Corp. – M. & G. Faulkingham
- J&J of Northport
- Marcella Brothers
- Merchant’s Automotive
- Montauk Marine Science Institute
- Plante’s Lobster Escape Vents
- Sea View Lobster Corp.

**INDIVIDUALS**

**“Blue Lobster” League $10,000+**
- 

**Blackmore Federation $5,000 - $9,999**
- 

**Highliner Club $1,000 - $4,999**
- 

**Heritage Guild $500 - $999**
- Cathy Billings
- Charisse Kaplan
- Roland & Sharyn Leach
- Thomas & Sally Savage

**Shoal Society $100 - $499**
- H. Craig Avery
- Robert & Jenny Bayer
- Ed & Mary Blackmore
- Susan Bruce
- Francis Chalmers
- Tom & Paula Colwell
- Lloyd D’eon
- Carolyn Eason
- Frank Fassett
- Paul & Paula Graller
- Stephen & Joanne Greer
- James & Geraldine Halkett
- Judy & Rodney Hanscom
- Anthony Harwood
- Daniel Hodgkins
- Herbert & Pat Hodgkins
- Robert Hoy
- Al McNeilly

**Associates $50 - $99**
- Daniel Andrews
- Richard Allen
- John & Margaret Bennett
- Baron Hicken
- Mary & Thomas Kemper
- John & Pat Marsh
- Leslie Peterson
- David Riddle
- Dr. Sandra Shumway
- David Sullivan
- John Sylvester
- David & Roberta Townsend
- John & Marian White

**Friends $25 - $49**
- Renee Allen
- Robert & Alice Cantrall
- Harry Carpenter
- Steve & Joanna Curtis
- Deirdre Grammas
- Robert & Alice Hawes
- David & Betty Heanssler
- Sam Hill
- Dale Keyes
- Roger Lee
- John Mahoney & Jane Crowley
- Bruce McLeod
- Tyler H. Thompson
- Jonathan & Wendy Townsend
- 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.

Check out the Lobster Institute website at www.lobsterinstitute.org, providing the definitive site for lobster information …… with nearly 200 links.
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.

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.

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campaign Component</th>
<th>Amount Raised To-Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seed Fund</td>
<td>$144,146</td>
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<tr>
<td>Riverdale Challenge*</td>
<td>$279,595</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Campaign*</td>
<td>$285,289</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants/Appropriations</td>
<td>$586,705</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,296,735</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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
- Gorham Savings Bank
- The Lobster Trap
- Jack & Erica Merrill – Bottom Dollar
- John Reeves
- James Rittenburg
- Smithwick & Mariners Insurance

** $5,000 - $9,999 **
- Fisheries Products International

** $10,000 - $24,999 **
- Bar Harbor Bank & Trust
- Camden National Bank
- East Coast Seafood – Michael Tourkistas
- Machias Savings Bank
- D. B. Rice Fisheries – Dana & Barbara Rice
- Union Trust

** $50,000 - 74,999 **
- Helene & Frank Crohn

** $75,000 - $99,999 **
- Darden Restaurants Foundation

** $100,000 - $124,999 **
- Jones, Verras & Freiberg, L.L.C.
- Long Island Sound Lobstermen
- Riverdale Mills – James & Betty Knott

** $125,000+ **
- M. Perry Hunter