

The Lobster Conservancy

Sustaining a thriving lobster fishery through science and community

Autumn 2008

Dear Volunteers and Friends of The Lobster Conservancy,

The Lobster Conservancy's (TLC's) mission is to strive to sustain a thriving lobster fishery through science and community. Our quarterly newsletter keeps TLC members and volunteers informed of our research, education and outreach activities.

Juvenile Lobster Monitoring Program

The Lobster Conservancy's annual report to Maine's Lobster Advisory Council is now available on line at http://lobsters.org/volunt/final_report_jlmp_2007.pdf. Many thanks to the Council for continued support of the Juvenile Lobster Monitoring Program.

August and September were extremely challenging months for sampling due to unfavorable tide conditions. Some teams were able to sample all of their quadrats, other teams some of their quadrats and some of us were unable to sample at all! Table 1 summarizes the sampling results from June through September.

Table 1. Results of Jun-Sep 2008 Juvenile Lobster Census. Sampling locations are listed geographically from Northeast to Southwest. Lobster density is reported as mean number of lobsters per square meter. nd = no data.

Sampling Location	Lobster Density			
	June	July	August	September
Dobbins Island, Jonesport, ME	1.1	nd	0.5	0.7
Beach Street Cove, Winter Harbor, ME	3.1	1.9	nd	nd
Coast Guard Beach, Islesford, ME	0.4	0.3	0.4	nd
Lanes Island, Vinalhaven, ME	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.1
Waterman Beach, South Thomaston, ME	1.0	0.8	1.1	nd
Drift Inn Beach, Port Clyde, ME	1.2	1.9	1.6	1.0
North Beach, Allen Island, ME	2.1	2.4	1.5	nd
Deep Cove, Friendship Long Island, ME	4.7	4.1	4.3	nd
Pratts Island, Southport, ME	1.7	2.0	2.5	2.4
Cundy's Harbor, Harpswell, ME	1.4	1.3	0.8	1.9
Gun Point, Harpswell, ME	2.4	2.5	2.9	3.5
Lowell's Cove, Orrs Island, ME	5.8	5.1	3	nd
Pott's Point, Harpswell, ME	2.5	4.2	2.2	3.2
Bennett Cove, Chebeague Island, ME	1.3	1.9	nd	nd
Spar Cove, Peaks Island, ME	1.2	1.4	1.7	nd
Broad Cove, Cape Elizabeth, ME	1.0	0.5	0.4	nd
Goose Rocks Beach, Biddeford, ME	2.1	2.8	2.5	nd
Odiorne Point, Rye, NH	1.3	0.7	1.2	0.5
Fort Stark, New Castle, NH	2.6	3.1	nd	nd
Plum Cove, Gloucester, MA	1.6	2.2	1.3	1.3
Gerry Island, Marblehead, MA	4.7	4.0	3.0	nd
Bluefish Cove, Green Harbor, MA	1.4	1.6	1.0	nd

Fortunately, the remainder of 2008 promises to send us better sampling conditions! It was particularly unfortunate to not be able to reach so many transects in September because it is a month

when we typically find settlement, much molting activity and relatively high densities. Even so, we have detected settlement at 16 of the 22 sites sampled this year.

Dobbins Island was the only team unable to sample their transect line in July. That was not for want of trying! Lynn Alley has been dedicated to accomplishing the monthly lobster census with Jonesport High School students since 2003. The last batch of students graduated, so I headed Downeast to train the new recruits.

We had an excellent training session under the shelter of the porch at Lynn's brother's pound keeper house overlooking the low tide rocks while the thunder crashed and the lightning flashed. Each claim I made that the storm was letting up was met with a furious response from the sky. The storm desisted too late to reach the transect line but we were able to do some haphazard sampling to give the students hands-on training in handling and measuring lobsters. The group included two licensed lobstermen and all of the students were adept at handling and recognizing characteristics of lobsters thanks to their life-long interactions with the crustaceans. Welcome to the Juvenile Lobster Monitoring Program! This is a terrific new team!



Figure 1. Dobbins Island team in Jonesport with teacher Lynn Alley and her newly trained students, Erin Crowley, Kaitlyn Alley, Harold Lyons, Lindsey Jones, Whitney Norton, and Andrew Beal from left to right.

Memberships

We sent out our annual appeal for memberships in August. Many thanks to renewing and new members! If you have not yet mailed your tax-deductible contribution, please send your check to PO Box 235, Friendship, Maine 04547 today!

Outreach, Education and Media

Jul – Sep 2008 Outreach and Education Activity				
Organization	Location	Date	Title	Presenters
Hurricane Island Outward Bound School	The Lobster Conservancy	Jul 9	Service Learning Project	Diane Cowan
The Lobster Conservancy	Friendship, Maine	Jul 26	Touch Tank for Friendship Day	Diane Cowan, Jane Roundy
Martin Point Community Center	Friendship, Maine	Aug 12	The Life and Times of a Friendship Lobster	Diane Cowan
Unity College	Unity, Maine	Sep 10	Community-Based Lobster Science	Diane Cowan
University of Maine	Orono, Maine	Sep 12	Community-Based Lobster Science	Diane Cowan
Vinalhaven Community School	Vinalhaven, Maine	Sep 22	Lobster Literacy: What Every Student Should Know	Diane Cowan

Jul – Sep 2008 Media Coverage and Publications			
Publication/Media	Date	Title/Link	Author / Interviewer
You Tube	Jul	Volunteers Take Lobster Census http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOLsVIMj3Og	Potts Point Team, film by Patricia Irish
Village Soup	Sep 29	Art for the Sky and PIE	Dagney C. Ernest
Fundy North Fishermen's Association	Sep	Should we Protect Large Lobsters?	Diane Cowan

Yours in TLC,

Diane F. Cowan, Ph.D., Executive Director
Jane Roundy, Volunteer Coordinator