



The Lobster Conservancy

Sustaining a thriving lobster fishery through science and community

March 2009

Dear Volunteers and Friends of The Lobster Conservancy,

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

Juvenile Lobster Monitoring Program

It was an interesting winter at our field sites but something catastrophic happened at Lowell's Cove. One transect we've censused for the past 16 years became almost completely buried in coarse sand. The full extent of exposed loose rock traditionally extended for an expanse of 45 meters. In March, all except the easternmost eight meters were inaccessible due to sedimentation. For now, we can only guess at the source of the sediments and will investigate. Other parts of the cove appeared undisturbed.

New volunteers recruited to join existing lobster-census teams include Eliza Greenman at Coast Guard Beach in Islesford; Dee Amplo at Pratts Island in Southport; Carrie Kelly Fuller, James McMahan, Jr., and Carolyn Giles at Lowell's Cove in Harpswell; Steve Fox data recorder for Spar Cove at Peaks Island; Dari Ward at Ft. Stark in New Castle, NH; Glenn Crilley at Odiorne Pt in Rye, NH; and Alicia Kirk at Gerry Island in Marblehead, MA.

Additional volunteers are needed in Massachusetts at The Glades in Scituate, and Gerry Island in Marblehead. If you are interested in volunteering at either Scituate or Marblehead, please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Jane Roundy by email, jane@lobsters.org.

Recent Activities

February 5 & 6: Peer Review of Maine's Lobster Programs at Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR). The Lobster Conservancy's Juvenile Lobster Monitoring Program was included in a peer review conducted by DMR. Diane made a power point presentation, submitted reports, data and protocols to the reviewers. Verbal feedback was positive and useful and we look forward to the written feedback and recommendations.

February 25: Meet and Greet with Marine Resources Committee of Maine State Legislature. Diane briefly described who we are and what we do, and then introduced the Joint Standing Committee for the 124th legislature to a couple of their lobster constituents. It was a great learning experience for all involved.

Science Fair News:

The Lobster Conservancy helped students with Science Fair Projects including Shannon Love (What color am I?) in Cumberland; Julia Maine (Does water temperature effect a lobster's behavior?) of Chebeague Island; and Casey Benner and Justin Koon (Food preferences in lobster, which bait is best lure?) of Friendship. Special congratulations to both Julia Maine and Shannon Love who will be competing in the state finals at University of Maine Orono in April!



Julia Maine's experimental set-up for science fair project on lobster behavior.

Upcoming Events and Presentations Open to the Public

April 2: *The Friends of Merrymeeting Bay Winter Speaker Series* takes place monthly from October-May on the first Thursday. The April presentation, *Community-Based Lobster Science* features Diane Cowan, Director of The Lobster Conservancy. This event will take place at 7 pm on Thursday April 2 at the Bath City Hall Auditorium. The series, which is free and open to the public, is sponsored by Friends of Merrymeeting Bay with support and valuable door prizes from Patagonia Outlet in Freeport.

April 4: *Damariscotta River Association* (organized by Maine State Planning Office, Maine Coastal Program) 10 - noon will be a show and tell. Diane will bring a pair of adult lobsters, go over general biology and host a question/answer session. This is a fun interactive format.

April 15: Muscongus Bay Atlas Exhibit will arrive in Friendship, Maine on April 15th with a grand opening celebration at 6:30 pm at the Friendship Town Office. The Quebec-Labrador Foundation, in collaboration with local cosponsors (in this case, The Lobster Conservancy, Medomak Valley Land Trust, Friendship Museum, Friendship Village School, Artist Sam Cady and Midcoast Audubon) will present the excellent mapping project that Jennifer Atkinson spearheaded and made happen. The 51 page Muscongus Bay Atlas will be available for sale at the event. For more information, contact Amanda LaBelle by email alabelle@qlf.org or by calling 207-832-8109.

By Invitation

April 11, 18, 19: *Volunteer Season Kick-Off Meetings* for The Lobster Conservancy volunteers give us an opportunity to present the results of last year's census taking, expand volunteer training, and exchange stories.

May 6: *Midcoast Marine Stewards* at Damariscotta River Assoc. 9:30 - 11 am. This is another program of Maine Coastal Program. Stewards will have a hands-on learning experience with lobsters.

May 14: Brunswick Public Library. *Cornerstones of Science* is a program for teenaged girls to learn about science. Budding scientists will learn about lobsters and lobster research with live lobsters and a power point presentation.

Hope to see you at one or more of the upcoming events.

Happy Spring!

Yours in TLC,

Diane F. Cowan, Ph.D., Executive Director
Jane Roundy, Volunteer Coordinator
Marissa McMahan, Graduate Student