



The 8th international conference and workshop on lobster biology and management: Brief overview

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Foreword

The 8th International Conference and Workshop on Lobster Biology and Management: a brief overview

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The 8th International Conference and Workshop on Lobster Biology and Management (ICWL) was held at the Delta Prince Edward Hotel in Charlottetown, Canada in September 2007. This conference followed in the tradition established by previous conferences with an array of presentations and conference delegates from around the globe. Initiated in 1977 in Perth, Australia, it has become known 30 years later as the “olympics of lobster conferences”, being held every 3 to 4 years. The 2007 ICWL was only the second time this conference was held in Canada, the previous being in St. Andrews, New Brunswick in 1985. The ICWL has also been held in Havana, Cuba (1990), Sanriku, Japan (1993), Queenstown, New Zealand (1997), Key West, United States (2000) and Hobart, Australia (2004).

The 2007 ICWL was well attended with over 275 scientists, fishery managers, government representatives, and industry professionals participating in this week-long event. There were a total of 161 oral and 55 poster presentations during the conference. The 2007 ICWL continued the tradition established through the previous 7 conferences, with high-quality presentations and posters and mingling of scientists, managers, academia, and industry representatives in a friendly and informal atmosphere. However,

one component of the 2007 ICWL was somewhat different from the others: the “Industry Day”. This addition to the programme allowed industry representatives and others to attend presentations on lobster fishery management measures from around the world and to compare notes and swap tales. The Industry Day proved to be very successful with over 100 attendees.

How important lobster fisheries have become globally is illustrated by the growing interest from all stakeholders for events such as the ICWL, which is the preferred medium for international information exchange on lobster science. The ICWL continues to play a crucial role in leading-edge information exchange, ensuring that our respective lobster fisheries remain sustainable and healthy.

Dr. Peter Lawton, Director, Centre for Marine Biodiversity, Fisheries and Oceans Canada was the 2007 ICWL keynote speaker. Although Dr. Lawton’s research focus has shifted towards general support of ecosystem-based management approaches, he gave an overview of lobster in the ecosystem science and management context. Dr. Lawton’s address focused principally on Canada, but also highlighted similar international work. Following the keynote address, the conference had two concurrent streams daily for a total of 16 different themes. Of those 16 themes, “Assessment Methodologies” and “Management Strategies” were the largest with 20 presentations each, and “Health Assessment & Disease” came in third with 19 presentations.

A special “Lobster Behaviour Symposium” was also organised and consisted of contributed presentations and invited talks to highlight the professional career of Professor William Herrnkind. He has dedicated 40 years to the behavioural ecology of the spiny lobster *Panulirus argus*.

The 2007 ICWL was co-hosted by the AVC Lobster Science Centre at the University of Prince Edward Island and the Prince Edward Island Department of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Rural Development. The Organising Committee extends a heart-felt thank you to all our sponsors for their commitment to making this event so successful.

Those include: Darden Restaurants, Canadian Gold Seafood Company, Orion Seafood International, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture & Fisheries, New Brunswick Department of Fisheries, NSERC Atlantic, Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association, Clearwater Seafood, Prince Edward Island Business Development, Prince Edward Island Department of Tourism, Ocean Choice International, Atlantic Veterinary College, Ferguson's Lobster Pound Co., Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute, Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences, Lobster on the Wharf, University of Prince Edward Island, Sea Grant Florida, Sea Grant Connecticut, Sea Grant Woods Hole, Murphy Group of Restaurants, Fisherman's Market and the Delta Prince Edward. Our sincere thanks and gratitude to Conference

and Events Managements for planning, managing, and helping in the delivery of the ICWL; their professionalism allowed us all to enjoy a great conference. Also special thanks to the staff of the AVC Lobster Science Centre, the Prince Edward Island Department of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Rural Development and all the volunteers that ensure a seamless conference.

Finally, we thank each of the delegates who took the time to come to Charlottetown to attend the 8th ICWL. It was the vision of the Organising Committee to provide a pleasant, comfortable and safe environment to inform and entertain all delegates. To all, a sincere thank you and see you in Norway in June 2011 for the 9th ICWL. Finally, in Europe.

