

Industry Contact: Connecticut Commercial Lobstermen's Association

To Trish Russell, Career Services – T. Visel

Initial Contact: Phone contact Bart Mansi Friday, March 25th

Guilford Lobster Pound

505 – A Whitfield Street, Guilford, CT 06437

March 29th 2006

Previous Contact – September 2005 – At Sea Grant reception for Ed Monahan. I met Bart – we discussed the association lawsuit against the State for the pesticide use/lobster die off controversy. He has in the past had Sound School students work for him – like Luke Knuttel, very positive about our program.

March 25th 2006 – Called to ask if our students would help his association with a management program for lobsters. Connecticut had a gauge increase in November and the association would like to explore other resource management options – such as a female V notch program used in Maine since the 1920's than having a second proposed gauge increase later in 2006. DEP insists the program be verified. Meeting – Tuesday, March 28th 3:15 pm Guilford Lobster Pound.

I met with Bart and Nicholas Crismale – President of the Association. They described a legislative effort proposed by Senator Cathy Cook last year (SB132 attached) to set up a program to monitor the V notch program. Some management proposals that might be considered.

- A) Notching females with and without eggs
- B) Notching females below gage measure
- C) State purchasing lobsters and returning them (both Bart and Nick did not support this).

- D) Hiring a consultant to monitor lobster fisheries – sort of a “observers program”.
- E) Involved students from the two Aquaculture Centers, they would take trips out and record population, note any notching etc.

The legislature would look at this program instead of another gage increase – at least for a year.

Nick and Bart explained that they communicate with Maine Lobster Institute as part of a national effort for fishermen’s group to take back some of the regulatory management of the resource. Nick explained that they want the effort to increase female egg production and want to give Maine V Notch program a chance and would we (The Sound School) help them?

The legislation is “in the hopper” I believe in appropriations and DEP would have some funding to assess the regulatory impact. DEP suggested a consulting company to verify the program but Bart asked for forty of our students. I suggested involvement of Bridgeport – perhaps we could provide 10 to 12 Bridgeport some students and perhaps other programs. The meeting then talked about documentation of the program – the details when would it start – possibly November, on Saturdays. I explained that summers are best (but they feel the DEP may prevent notching in the summer but Maine notches year round) the SOE component etc. To date they have no program developed on paper I also mentioned John Roy working with OTC (Dick Cooper and Ted Colburne) 5 years ago with a Rhode Island DEM notching program. Rhode Island now reports a 30% increase in female lobsters producing eggs. V notching has gained acceptance as a management tool. The legislation has Jim Amanns support it is also supported by all fishermen’s associations.

Nick and Bart now seek a letter of interest – support from us. I explained that I would bring this information to Steve Pynn and would need a supervising aquaculture teacher to organize and monitor the students with our Career Services Dept.

Nick invited me and any teachers to their monthly meeting – first Tuesday at the Branford Elks Club.

This does have the potential to provide students with SOE/research opportunities.

The meeting ended at 4:15

Appendix D Report Information – 30 Minutes