

# WE NEED YOUR INPUT!!



## **LOBSTER INSTITUTE**

[www.lobsterinstitute.org](http://www.lobsterinstitute.org)

Periodically, the Lobster Institute reaches out to the various communities it serves to assess its mission and priorities in order to update the strategic plan that guides its programs and outreach. The Institute is currently in the process of strategic planning to steer its decision-making for research priorities and program development for the next 3-5 years.

Guidance from those directly involved in the fishery is crucial to the success of this process. We need your input in order to ensure goals for our research and educational programming that will best serve the fishermen, the industry, and the lobstering community. Please take a moment to complete the brief survey starting below, and on the second page of this document. The survey includes no identifying information, thus your responses will be anonymous.

Your input is essential to help ensure that the Lobster Institute serves the lobster industry and its constituents in the most effective way possible.

**Once completed, please print and mail to:**

**Lobster Institute, 210 Rogers Hall, University of Maine, Orono, ME 04469.**

# THANKS!!

### Demographic Information

**I am a:**     Lobsterman     Dealer/Distributor     Processor     Scientist     Fishery Manager  
                   Member of Media     Other (note here) \_\_\_\_\_

**I'm from:**  Canada (which province: \_\_\_\_\_)  U.S. (which state: \_\_\_\_\_)  Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Age:** \_\_\_\_\_

**If a fisherman, how many years fishing?** \_\_\_\_\_    **Boat size?** \_\_\_\_\_    **Number of traps?** \_\_\_\_\_

## THE LOBSTER INSTITUTE'S 2010 NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Please rate the importance of the following priorities for the Lobster Institute by placing your assessment of each element in the space before each question with a 5 represent extremely important - scaled to 0 for no opinion.

### General Priorities

(5=extremely important, 4=very important, 3=important, 2= not very important, 1=not at all important, 0=no opinion)

- \_\_\_ 1. Involving fishermen in its research projects?
- \_\_\_ 2. Collaborative work with other lobster researchers?
- \_\_\_ 3. Having representation from all aspects of the fishery on its advisory board?
- \_\_\_ 4. Developing state of the art educational activities for those in the lobster industry?
- \_\_\_ 5. Developing educational activities for K-12 students?
- \_\_\_ 6. Developing educational activities for the general public?
- \_\_\_ 7. Facilitating communication across segments of the lobster industry, research community, and government agencies, to increase understanding of each one's challenges and objectives
- \_\_\_ 8. Communication to ensure that research information reaches the industry, the public and policy makers
- \_\_\_ 9. Serving as an independent source of research based information for the industry and policy makers

**Please note your top two general priorities:**

**Research Priorities** – How do you rate the importance of focusing research on the following issues:

(5=extremely important, 4=very important, 3=important, 2= not very important, 1=not at all important, 0=no opinion)

- \_\_\_ 10. Lobster health issues?
- \_\_\_ 11. Effects of environmental toxins on lobsters?
- \_\_\_ 12. Understanding lobster ecology?
- \_\_\_ 13. Understanding lobster biology?
- \_\_\_ 14. Understanding lobster behavior?
- \_\_\_ 15. Understanding lobster population dynamics?
- \_\_\_ 16. Developing value-added products as part of lobster processing?
- \_\_\_ 17. Developing strategies for sustaining the herring population?
- \_\_\_ 18. Developing affordable and effective alternative lobster bait?
- \_\_\_ 19. Right whale entanglement issues?
- \_\_\_ 20. Assessing economic factors influencing the lobster industry
- \_\_\_ 21. Assessing the impact of the lobster industry on the regional economy
- \_\_\_ 22. Other – should have been included but wasn't (please specify):

**Please note your top two research priorities:**