



Milestones of the Lobster Institute's First Twenty Years 1987 - 2007

Preliminary milestones

1985 – the concept of an institute devoted to lobster research is first conceived by Maine's leading lobster industry organizations – the Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA), the Maine Lobster Pound Association (MLPA), and the Maine Import/Export Lobster Dealers Association (MIELDA) – and the idea is brought to the attention of the University of Maine (UM).

1986- Organizational efforts begin, with the first official meeting held at the offices of the Maine Lobstermen's Association (then in Nobleboro, Maine) on January 6, 1986. Key leadership present David Dow (UM) (elected as chair of the organizational meeting), Edward Blackmore (MLA), Robert Brown (MIELDA), Herbert Hodgkins (MLPA), and Joseph Vachon (MLA). It was agreed that "The Maine Lobster Institute be established to conduct research and provide information to protect, conserve and enhance the Maine lobster resource and its environment in order to ensure the continuance of a viable lobster industry that will benefit Maine people."

1987

- ❖ The University of Maine System Board of Trustees votes to finalize its authorization of the formation of the Maine Lobster Institute at the University of Maine (July 27, 1987).
- ❖ By a vote of the University of Maine System Board of Trustees, Dr. David J. Dow is named the Maine Lobster Institute's first director (July 27, 1987 – retroactive to May 1987).
- ❖ Edward Blackmore is voted in as the first Chairman of the Lobster Institute Board of Advisors.
- ❖ The first *Lobster Bulletin* is published in November 1987. The *Lobster Bulletin* is still published today. It is printed quarterly and archived issues can be found on the Lobster Institute's Web site (www.lobsterinstitute.org).

1988

- ❖ The Lobster Institute conducts its first research on lobster shell disease.
- ❖ The first Lobster Dealers & Pound Operators Workshop is organized by the Lobster Institute, in conjunction with the Maine Lobster Pound Association and the Maine Import/Export Lobster Dealers Association.

1989

- ❖ It was agreed by the Board of Directors that the word "Maine" be dropped from the name of the Institute, making it simply the "Lobster Institute". It was determined this title more clearly reflected the regional nature of the Institute, covering the northeastern coastal states in the U.S. and the Canadian Maritime Provinces.

- ❖ *Lobsters Inside-Out* is published, an easy to read workbook with basic information about lobsters and lobster fishing.

1990

- ❖ Studies on alternative lobster baits are initiated.
- ❖ *A Lobster in Every Pot* is published, the Lobster Institute's book of recipes and lobster lore.

1991

- ❖ The Institute plays a major role in creating the Maine Lobster Promotion Council.

1992

- ❖ Institute scientists develop a now patented technique for improving yield and shelf life of processed lobster.

1993

- ❖ The Lobster Institute is instrumental in organizing the first International Lobster Congress.

1994

- ❖ The Lobster Institute participates in a research and trade mission to Galway, Ireland.

1995

- ❖ Dr. Robert Bayer replaces Dr. Dow as Executive Director of the Lobster Institute.
- ❖ A test is devised for law enforcement to determine if eggs have been illegally scrubbed off of lobsters.

1996

- ❖ The Institute launches its first site on the Internet.
- ❖ An endowment fund is established at the University of Maine Foundation to help secure the work of the Lobster Institute for the future.

1997

- ❖ William Adler becomes only the second Chairman of the Lobster Institute Board of Advisors, replacing Ed Blackmore who served for the Institute's first ten years.
- ❖ The Lobster Institute co-sponsors the first Lobster Summit held at the Maine Fishermen's Forum.

1998

- ❖ The Friends of the Lobster Institute is formed to help raise awareness of and funds for the Lobster Institute.

1999

- ❖ The Lobster Institute is called upon by the lobstermen of Connecticut and New York to investigate the lobster die-off in Long Island Sound.

2000

- ❖ Lobster Cam is launched – a live video feed to the Internet from a lobster trap.
- ❖ The Lobster Institute initiates its first comprehensive strategic planning process.

2001

- ❖ The Lobster Institute hosts its first Lobster College.

2002

- ❖ Saltwater Marketing becomes the commercialization partner of the Lobster Institute.

2003

- ❖ Lobster Institute value-added product work on pet treats transitions from the lab to the commercial market, as Saltwater Marketing partners with Blue Seal Feeds to add Lobster Bisque-its to Blue Seal's dog biscuit line.
- ❖ An advisory committee is formed to explore a possible capital campaign to endow the functions of the Lobster Institute.
- ❖ Darden Restaurants Foundation issues the first challenge grant for the Institute, as the capital campaign enters the quiet phase of fundraising.

2004

- ❖ The Lobster Institute hosts its first Canadian/U.S. Lobstermen's Town Meeting, in Portland, Maine.
- ❖ The Institute's capital campaign is named the C.O.R.E. Campaign – Conservation, Outreach, Research and Education...for the future of the lobster industry.
- ❖ Long-time Lobster Institute volunteer Herbert Hodgkins is recognized by *Yankee* magazine with a "Barn Raiser Award", as one of New England's top volunteers.

2005

- ❖ The Institute completes the Darden Challenge and enters the Pacesetter Phase of the C.O.R.E. Campaign.
- ❖ The Institute hosts the Canadian/U.S. Lobstermen's Town Meeting in Canada for the first time.

2006

- ❖ The C.O.R.E. Campaign receives its first Pacesetter gift in the form of a \$100,000 challenge from Riverdale Mills and Jim Knott and family.
- ❖ The Institute tops the \$1,000,000 mark in grant funds it facilitates for lobster research.
- ❖ The Lobster Institute helps bring in nearly \$400,000 in funds to equip the new Maine Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory at the University of Maine with state-of-the-art instrumentation, which can be used in lobster health research and diagnostics.