

## WHO WE ARE

The AVC Lobster Science Centre (AVCLSC) is a research centre located at the Atlantic Veterinary College, University of Prince Edward Island.



Since its inception in 2000, the AVCLSC has directed its research and development efforts to the long-term benefit of the lobster industry.

## OUR GOAL

Our ultimate goal is to increase the overall productivity of the lobster industry and related sectors. The challenge is the novelty of applying the principles of veterinary medicine to a wild fishery. In this regard, the AVCLSC is quickly developing expertise in many aspects of crustacean health and is available for consultation and to conduct research projects.

## OUR SCOPE

Research at the AVCLSC is conducted in response to the needs of the industry now and in preparation for the future. Our research is a collaborative effort that engages different industry sectors and partners, to be both timely and successful. The AVCLSC provides a credible, confidential and independent research team to meet the scientific needs of the lobster industry. Our major research areas are designed to ensure the industry survivability and sustainability, and to increase its productivity.

## OUR PARTNERS

Our funding partners come from all sectors of the lobster industry and include fisher organisations, processors, exporters, Aboriginal groups and private sector companies, in addition to various governments and the Atlantic Innovation Fund of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. Therefore, our research activities are directly overseen by, and applicable to, the lobster industry.

## COMMUNICATION

The information generated by the AVCLSC is distributed to all stakeholders through many different channels. These range from scientific journals, trade magazines and lobster health fact sheets to industry forums, face-to-face meetings and



via the news media. We also provide courses and seminars in an expanding curriculum that includes, among others, lobster handling practices, V-notching and refractometer use.

Our website ~ [www.lobsterscience.ca](http://www.lobsterscience.ca) ~ is a dynamic resource for the all those interested in lobster research and industry. Research conducted at the AVCLSC is also presented at international scientific conferences. Since 2004, the AVCLSC has provided an opportunity for presentations and discussions pertinent to all sectors of the lobster industry through our annual Lobster Science Workshop and recently at the 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference and Workshop on Lobster Biology & Management, held in September 2007.

## OUR PRODUCTS

Our research will lead to the development of several 'products' including: discovery of lobster life cycle markers to better describe quality and thus maximise the commercial value; development of diagnostic tests and potential immuno-stimulants and treatments for lobster diseases; and deployment of industry-wide, web-based lobster research databases. The R&D undertaken by the AVCLSC has already resulted in the creation of a useful knowledge base for developing future strategies to ensure that the health, sustainability and quality of the lobster industry remain the best possible.

## OUR SPHERE of INFLUENCE

The north eastern seaboard of North America annually harvests 200 million pounds of lobster; Atlantic Canada's exported lobster was valued at approximately \$1 billion (Cdn) in 2006. Since the early 2000s, there has been an alarming number of lobsters harvested with soft shells and low meat yields. These animals are more susceptible to



transport and handling stresses that can lead to substantial financial losses; these losses in southwest Nova Scotia alone were as high as \$40 million during December 2005. Further losses associated with a damaged reputation for what used to be a reliable

premium product of Atlantic Canada, and the subsequent loss of international markets, may already be a reality.

## GRADUATE STUDIES

Our research activities encompass various aspects of basic and applied lobster health, both in the laboratory and field environment. We welcome applications from highly qualified students in several disciplines including parasitology, molecular biology, biochemistry, clinical pathology, bacteriology and epidemiology. If you are interested in taking part in a graduate training program in lobster health at the MSc or PhD level, please contact us.

## RESEARCH COLLABORATION

The AVCLSC conducts research in collaboration with local, national and international colleagues in government, academia and industry to expand expertise in crustacean health. If you have a specific topic in mind or just a general idea for a research project, the AVCLSC may be there to help. If you would like to find out more about Research Projects Opportunities in collaboration with the AVCLSC, simply contact us.

*The AVCLSC is responsive to industry needs with regular discussion regarding the priorities of fishers, buyers, live shippers, pound operators, processors and others, resulting in a growing list of important issues identified by these stakeholder groups.*



### AVC Lobster Science Centre

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