

# The Lobster Conservancy

*Sustaining a thriving lobster fishery through science, community and education*

December 2014

Dear Volunteers and Friends of The Lobster Conservancy,

The Lobster Conservancy's mission is to strive to sustain a thriving lobster fishery through science, community and education. Our quarterly newsletter keeps members and volunteers informed of recent research, education and outreach activities.

## **Introducing [www.lobsterconservancy.org](http://www.lobsterconservancy.org)**

The Lobster Conservancy launched [lobsterconservancy.org](http://lobsterconservancy.org) on Monday, December 8, 2014!

After a couple false starts attempting to update the old site, we decided not to reinvent the wheel by reproducing what's already available online at [lobsters.org](http://lobsters.org). Instead, we added up-to-date information at our brand new site: [www.lobsterconservancy.org](http://www.lobsterconservancy.org).

Special thanks to Nancy Randolph, CEO of Just Write Books, for hosting [lobsterconservancy.org](http://lobsterconservancy.org).

## **The Lobster Conservancy Receives Grant to Support “Counting on Lobsters in Friendship”**

The Lobster Conservancy recently received a \$5,000 grant from the Maine Charity Foundation Fund of the Maine Community Foundation to engage community volunteers and teach them to identify, survey and census juvenile lobsters at naturally occurring lobster nursery habitats in Friendship, Maine.



Handful of recently settled young-of-the-year lobsters like those we'll be finding next summer when The Lobster Conservancy's "Counting on Lobsters in Friendship" project begins thanks to grant support provided by Maine Charity Foundation Fund of the Maine Community Foundation! Photo by Sara Ellis.

“Counting on Lobsters in Friendship will measure the pulse of the next generation of lobsters and lobstermen,” said Dr. Diane Cowan, the conservancy's director. “Lobsters are the life blood of Friendship and The Lobster Conservancy doctor monitors its blood pressure.”

The nonprofit Lobster Conservancy was founded in 1996 with a mission to sustain a thriving lobster fishery through science, community and education. For more information visit [www.lobsterconservancy.org](http://www.lobsterconservancy.org).

With offices in Ellsworth and Portland, the Maine Community Foundation works with donors and other partners to improve the quality of life for all Maine people. To learn more about the foundation, visit [www.mainecef.org](http://www.mainecef.org).

# The Lobster Conservancy



## Juvenile Lobster Monitoring Program Update: Post-larval Lobsters Continued to Settle on Friendship Long Island in Autumn

Lobsters begin life as pelagic larvae inhabiting open water spending part of their time at the surface, other times in mid water. After an estimated few weeks and three larval stages, larval lobsters shed into a post-larval stage that closely resembles the adult in body form. Post-larval lobsters spend part of their time swimming at the surface and part diving to the bottom seeking a place to “settle” down. For more than 22 years, The Lobster Conservancy’s Dr. Cowan has been flipping rocks to keep track of this event including when, where, and how many post-larval lobsters settle month after month and year after year. This fall, Kim Harrington of Friendship, helped with the successful search.



In the wee hours of a dark cold morning, Kim Harrington flips over a rock in search of tiny offspring of the elusive *Homarus americanus*. Below, she found one! Photos by Diane Cowan.

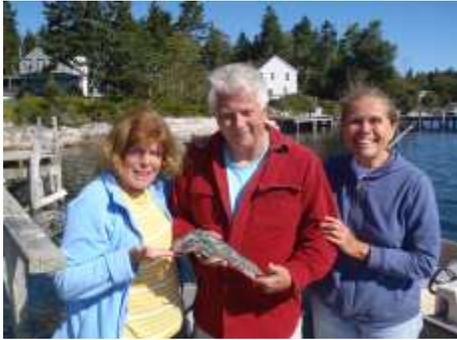


## Story of Mr. and Mrs. Blue

Two colorful visitors lived at The Lobster Conservancy research center during the fall. Mr. Blue Crab, of the species, *Callinectes sapidus*, was captured by Timmy Thompson who asked if we wanted him. Of course, we welcomed the opportunity to observe the creature. Although relatively rare in Maine, it is not unprecedented to find blue crab here. Although most common along mid-Atlantic shores and Chesapeake Bay, the natural geographic range of *Callinectes sapidus* is from Nova Scotia to Argentina.

The Lane Webb, and Frank & Lane Quinn found Mrs. Blue Lobster in the crate of lobsters Harley Wallace dropped off for dinner. Not wanting to eat the beauty, the Lane’s decided to give her to The Lobster Conservancy where she entertained guests until leaving for the Maine State Aquarium in October. Read more about blue lobsters at <http://www.lobsters.org/ldoc/ldocpage.php?did=427>

# The Lobster Conservancy



Lane & Frank Quinn & Peggy Burnett of Martin Point in Friendship, donated Mrs. Blue Lobster to The Lobster Conservancy. We shared her beauty with visitors at Friendship Long Island until taking ramp and float out in October. Mrs. Blue now dwells at the Maine State Aquarium. Photo by Diane Cowan.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Blue were transported to the Maine State Aquarium in October.

## Recent Press

“Big Story” Associated Press article and video at <http://www.pressherald.com/2014/09/03/gulf-of-maine-is-warming-faster-than-99-of-worlds-oceans-say-scientists/> Link to story can also be found on “About Lobster Conservancy” page at [www.lobsterconservancy.org](http://www.lobsterconservancy.org)



Veronica Ward (ginger) and Sula Cowan (blonde) assist in lobster census. Lobster held by Dr. Cowan. AP photo by Robert F. Bukaty.

Enjoy the holidays!

Yours in TLC and Friendship,

*Santa Claws & Sula-belle*