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## Sea Grant's Long Island Sound Lobster Initiative

### Long Island Sound Lobster Extension

*Meet Your Extension Specialist*

#### Background

The Lobster Health Symposium that was convened in Stamford, Connecticut identified a wide range of possible causes for the mass mortalities and shell disease of Long Island Sound Lobsters during Fall and Winter 1999. The meeting was an opportunity for resources managers and scientists to hear statements from lobster fishers regarding the mass mortality events and increased incidence of shell disease, including observations on unusual occurrences in the marine environment. The scientists used the information to establish a research agenda to investigate the possible causes leading to the extraordinary events in 1999 and 2000.



*Dr. Jack Mattice, NYSG Institute Director and Antoinette Clemetson, Lobster Extension Specialist*

The Sea Grant Programs recognize the importance of having direct interactions with all stakeholders, including lobster fishers. Sea Grant is committed to facilitating communication between Long Island Sound lobster fishers, resource managers, and scientists, as part of the Long Island Sound Lobster Research Initiative. There also is a need to establish a formal feedback mechanism to inform the lobster fishing community on the research progress and results, especially for on-going studies.

Information will be disseminated using a variety of media including annual symposia, press releases, a website, [www.seagrantsunysb.edu/LILobsters/LILobsters.htm](http://www.seagrantsunysb.edu/LILobsters/LILobsters.htm), and informative fact sheets and newsletters. The New York and Connecticut Sea Grant Programs have each designated an extension professional to act as the liaison between the resource managers, scientists and fishing community. The Lobster Extension Specialists will also operate within the formal framework for conducting the research initiative, by working in concert with the Lobster Steering Committee to plan all public outreach activities.

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**For additional information, contact:**

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