



ATLANTIC  
**LOBSTER**  
SUSTAINABILITY  
FOUNDATION

FONDATION POUR  
**LA PÉRENNITÉ**  
DU HOMARD  
DE L'ATLANTIQUE

## Backgrounder – Four Research Priorities

### Lobster enhancement

- Measuring survival of hatchery-reared larvae once they are released into the wild and comparing with natural survival of wild stocks.
- Determining if artificial reefs serve to attract lobsters or to produce more lobsters by improving survival.
- Measuring effects of diet on survival and growth of hatchery-reared larvae.
- Measuring health of larvae in terms of both their survival and their potential impact for contaminating wild stocks.
- Priority would be given to large-scale studies that measure survival over the normal range of a lobster's benthic life history and long term studies that measure survival for up to two generations.
- Priority would also be given to initiatives that integrate, coordinate and rationalize lobster enhancement projects throughout the Atlantic coast.

### Indicators of lobster sustainability

- Monitoring the abundance, recruitment, growth, age, maturity and health of lobster.
- Examining the inter-relationships or connectivity among lobster stocks.
- Priority would be given to studies that integrate information throughout the natural range of lobster.

### Environmental impacts

- Examining the impact of contaminants and other sources of pollution on the survival and growth of lobster.
- Examining the impact of large-scale events such as acidification, temperature change, ocean currents and coastal erosion on the survival and growth of lobster.
- Examining the impact of the lobster fishery on the ecosystem, such as the origin and health of bait and the entanglement of endangered species in lobster gear.

### Socio-economic aspects of sustainability

- Measuring the ecological footprint or conduct life-cycle analyses of the lobster fishery.
- Examining the consequences of lobster enhancement on coastal communities.
- Examining the costs and benefits of management and enhancement interventions.