



Issue: 2017-2

Summer 2017



**FISHERMEN & SCIENTISTS  
RESEARCH SOCIETY**

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## LATEST NEWS

Welcome to the latest edition of the Fishermen and Scientists Research Society newsletter.

Summer is HERE! We are all excited to hear all about your summer plans and what you have on the go! Drop us a line on our [facebook](#) or [twitter](#) page!

Our Spring sampling is wrapping up on the Eastern Shore and we have a fabulous fisheries technician (Vonica) in Cape Breton this year to collect data and catch up with our fishermen members and colleagues. Don't hesitate to say Hi when you see her.



Special thanks to Brandon and Candace who helped Jessica and Elizabeth with our spring sampling this year!

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*Photo credits in this issue: Jessica Cosham, Brandon Fitzgerald, Elizabeth Baker, Vonica Flear and Candace Nickerson*

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FSRS Membership is free, and you can help us out with research ideas and

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the work we do or how we can help you achieve your sustainability goals. We are always looking for ideas for research and volunteers to help on our committees. Contact us at: [info@fsrs.ns.ca](mailto:info@fsrs.ns.ca)

Let us know how we can make the Fishermen and Scientists Research Society better for our members and our supporters.

If you have an event coming up that you would like us to attend and promote on the website, Facebook or Twitter– send it along!

Wishing you all the best and a happy and safe summer!



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## ICWL REVIEW

***Jessica Cosham, Senior Research Assistant***

Do you know how lobsters breed?

I was lucky enough to find out! This June, I attended the 11<sup>th</sup> ICWL (**International Conference and Workshop on Lobster Biology and Management**) in Portland, Maine. While this conference is only held every few years, the location and hosts changes each time. Researchers, fishermen, government scientists, business representatives, and students from across the country and around the globe attended to network and learn about lobster research, lobster management projects, and the activities of industry organizations.



*Enjoying a view of the Damariscotta River*

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## SCIENCE UPDATE

***Elizabeth Baker – Science Projects Manager***



It was a great spring on the water for staff at the FSRS! While the weather wasn't overly cooperative for much of the season, it did behave enough to have another successful season of sampling on the Eastern Shore, while our sampling season in Cape Breton is still ongoing. We were happy to have Brandon back for his second season of field work with us, in addition to welcoming two new technicians to the team, Candace Nickerson and Vonica Flear. Each of these young scientists had previous experience working with fishermen's associations in the province, so we are

lucky to have them working with us. You can read more about them below.

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the **Eastern Shore Fisherman's Protective Association (ESFPA) Research Strategy**. The fishermen who we conduct at-sea samples with volunteer to have us on their vessels to sample everything that they catch while not interfering with their normal operations; they then receive a report on their catch at the end of the season. The data collected from these samples helps monitor aspects of the fishery including catch rates, discards, and bycatch throughout LFA 32 and part of 31B. This data helps the ESFPA with things such as their Marine Stewardship Council sustainability certification, and DFO's catch monitoring requirements.

[Read More](#)

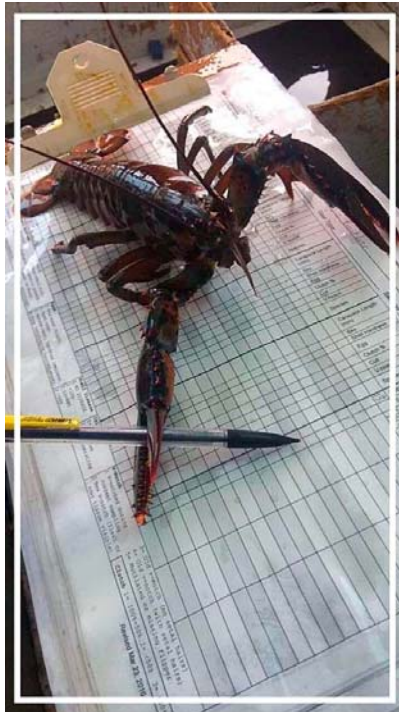
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### **Spring and Summer living the lobster life!**

As always we wish to Thank all the fishermen with whom we have interacted with for helping us gather valuable data about their lobster stock. We wish you a wonderful summer!

My name is Brandon Fitzgerald, this is my second year sampling with the FSRS and my first year doing Sea sampling and V-Notching. This year's sampling went very well. I really enjoyed the sea sampling, at the start it was very stressful trying to keep up but towards the end it was going very smooth. The Fishermen were great to deal with on the boats and very helpful of the project. The fishermen asked lots of questions and couldn't wait to see the results from the data collected. As for V-Notching for the most part went very well. I enjoyed it. Most of the fishermen were very happy to be doing it and asked lots of questions, such as if I have been seeing lots of V-Notched lobsters on the boats while sea sampling. I also worked a little with the plants to do plant samples and setting up V-Notch appointment, which all of the plants were very helpful and accommodated me well. I hope I will be able to work with the FSRS next spring as well.



*Even the lobsters love to help with the sampling*

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"Hi, my name is Vonica Flear and I'm from Sydney River, Nova Scotia. I am now finishing my final year of my BSc in biology and will be starting my MSc in biology this September. I am working as a fisheries technician this summer for FSRS, primarily sea sampling for the Lobster Recruitment project. Before work as a fisheries technician, I never thought myself as a sea or fishing person, but every day I spend at sea makes me love it more and more. The ocean is stunning to watch during a sunrise, and besides that meeting new fishermen and hearing all the stories they have to tell is fascinating. I love my work, and the awesome experiences it gives me. Can't wait to get back on the water again!"



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From a long line of lobster harvesters, Candace was raised in New Harbour, Guysborough County. She completed her BSc. Biology and Aquatic Resources at St. Francis Xavier University and currently lives in Halifax, where she recently graduated from Dalhousie's Masters of Resource and Environmental Management program.

Candace has worked with Guysborough County Inshore Fishermen's Association for three seasons and worked with Fishermen and Scientists Research Society during the 2017 season. She is passionate about sustainable fisheries and rural development, as well as connecting people to their natural environment through education and outreach.

### **That's Our Future"**

*V-Notching: Working together for economic and environmental sustainability*

I recently had the great opportunity to work with FSRS, doing technician work at local lobster pounds and helping with V-Notching appointments. In both cases, I was welcomed with open arms and offered countless helping hands from everyone I met!



*Elizabeth Baker and some of the fishermen from Mushaboom, NS  
carrying female lobsters to be vnotched ( June 17, 2017)*

The V-Notching program has been in place for 18 years, meaning that over

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female V-Notched lobsters. These lobsters are protected so that they can reproduce and add more lobsters to the population. Throughout my life, growing up in a fishing family and working in fisheries, I have encountered countless supporters of the V-Notching program. Typically, each port comes together to release their lobsters in a collective effort. On V-Notching day, my late grandfather used to say “That’s our future, treat them like gold, because they are!”. Time and time again, from Canso area to the Eastern Shore three hours away, I have heard similar phrases repeated. “That’s our future”. “Money for future years”. “Go and make more babies for me to catch next year!”.

At each appointment, seeing competing lobster harvesters come together to protect the lobster stock never fails to put a smile on my face. Once each season, the same hard-working fishers that compete to catch the most lobsters, compete to see who can release the largest and healthiest females. Then they come together, with technicians whom they may be meeting for the first time, to complete the task of notching and setting their females free. There was a day when lobster harvesting was not as lucrative as it is today, and many believe that the V-Notching program has contributed to the industry’s prosperity. I believe that V-Notching is making a positive difference and hope that it continues to, for lobster harvesters past our lifetimes, and for our future.

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### **2018 FSRS Conference! Help us plan our best yet!**

We would love your input on some discussion topics.

*The FSRS 25th Annual Conference is coming up in 2018 and we would love to get your ideas for presentation topics, as well as discussion topics for breakout groups and panels. Below are some suggestions but please add others if you feel that they will generate positive discussion. Contact us at: [fsrs.conference@gmail.com](mailto:fsrs.conference@gmail.com)*

Possible Breakout group/workshop topics:

1. Monitoring and data collection in the Bay of Fundy



traditional science, and is there a common ground?(still not sure about wording here)

3. Why don't lobster fishermen overfish their resource?
4. Discussion about the collapse of Newfoundland's 'northern cod' in the early 1990s? and current conditions?

Possible Presentation topics:

1. Effectiveness of conservation tools in the lobster industry (i.e. including window size, V-notching, MLS, etc.)
2. Bird bycatch in fishing gear/getting accurate estimates of bird bycatch in the Maritimes and impacts on bird populations / most effective gear for reducing bird bycatch while maintaining high take.
3. More industry/fisher/community presentations
4. Genomics and fishery evolution

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## UPCOMING EVENTS AND LINKS OF INTEREST



20 September- 24 September [BIO Expo 2017](#)

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*are interested in volunteering for a few hours- let us know!!*

21-22 September 2017: [Sustainable Oceans Conference](#) being held in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

29 November- 1 December 2017 [Sustainable Ocean Summit](#). Halifax , NS

1 November-3 November The 9th Annual Canadian Science Policy Conference (CSPC ) Ottawa, ON

Stay up to date on various coastal issues with [COINAtlantic](#)

### **Articles of Interest**

#### [Impact of climate change on direct and indirect species interactions](#)

Enacting and Contesting neoliberalism in fisheries: The tragedy of commodifying lobster access rights in Southwest Nova Scotia

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2016.03.002>

Impact of water temperature change on the southernmost snow crab fishery in the Atlantic Ocean

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fishres.2017.06.009>

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If you have comments about the articles or are interested in becoming a [Member of the FSRs](#), please contact Shannon at [Shannon.tibbetts@fsrs.ns.ca](mailto:Shannon.tibbetts@fsrs.ns.ca) or download the application form on the [website](#).

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