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Lobster Behavior Research Slated for Urban Forestry Center Presentations Jan. 28

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NH Sea Grant

January 21, 2004

DURHAM, N.H. – University of New Hampshire Zoologist Win Watson and his students have been studying lobster behavior with a video camera-equipped lobster trap for the past five years. The UNH professor will show some of his video and talk about what he's learned with this technique at Portsmouth's Urban Forestry Center (45 Elwyn Road) at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28.

Watson's presentation will be one component of an informational meeting on the latest findings in lobster behavior research. The two-and-a-half-hour meeting is being sponsored by NH Sea Grant, UNH Cooperative Extension and the Northeast Consortium. Visit Watson's Web site at <http://www.lobsters.unh.edu/> for information on his research.

While the session is focused on meeting the information needs of lobster fishermen, researchers and resource managers, anyone with an interest in lobsters is welcome to attend the free event. Diane Cowan of the Lobster Conservancy and Tim Thompson, owner of the fishing vessel Haley & Amy, will also make a presentation. The conservancy and a group of lobstermen have been using sonar to trace the migratory routes of lobsters. They are particularly interested in the travels of egg-bearing lobsters during the nine to 13-month period they carry eggs. Their work will help define lobster stocks and answer questions about the species' preferred habitat.

The presenters will be available to answer questions.