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Lobster Biology and Management: Preface

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This issue of *Marine and Freshwater Research* contains the Proceedings of the Fifth International Conference and Workshop on Lobster Biology and Management. The meeting is described by the Conference Convenor, John Booth, in the Introduction (page xiii).

Papers in this issue reflect the diversity of lobster research being conducted worldwide. We have organized the papers by broad subject heading, following the format of the nine workshops held at the meeting. Each section begins with the report of the Workshop Convenor.

Lobsters are commercially valuable animals and support economically important fisheries in many places. Much of the focus in lobster research is to maintain sustainability in lobster fisheries. Thus, the largest single group of papers is Stock Assessment. The next largest group is Benthic Processes, reflecting the ecological importance of lobsters and the complexity of their individual and population behaviours.

The Fifth ICWL actively encouraged participation from lobster industry groups. An invited paper describes an industry view of the meeting. Many of the papers reflect topics of special interest to the lobster industry: for example, several papers deal with aquaculture and the physiology of live transport.

This is not to minimize the contribution from basic biology, which is well represented in papers describing basic physiology, behaviour, reproduction, life history and evolutionary biology.

As Editors, our goal was to publish this volume within a year of the meeting. We have succeeded in that, but only because authors were good at submitting and revising their manuscripts within tight deadlines, and because most reviewers were responsive to our requests for fast reviews. We thank all these people for their help and patience in making this volume possible. Special thanks to Ann Grant, the editor of *Marine and Freshwater Research*, for her help and encouragement throughout, and for her own efforts.
