
C S I R O P U B L I S H I N G

Marine & Freshwater Research

Volume 48, 1997
© CSIRO Australia 1997

A journal for the publication of original contributions
in physical oceanography, marine chemistry,
marine and estuarine biology and limnology

www.publish.csiro.au/journals/mfr

All enquiries and manuscripts should be directed to

Marine and Freshwater Research

CSIRO PUBLISHING

PO Box 1139 (150 Oxford St)

Collingwood

Vic. 3066

Australia

Telephone: 61 3 9662 7618

Facsimile: 61 3 9662 7611

Email: ann.grant@publish.csiro.au



Published by **CSIRO PUBLISHING**
for CSIRO Australia and
the Australian Academy of Science



Lobster Biology and Management: Introduction

John D. Booth
(Conference Convenor)
NIWA, PO Box 14901, Wellington, New Zealand

'Twenty years of international lobster workshops: communication and collaboration' — the special lecture by Professor Stan Cobb from Rhode Island and Professor Bruce Phillips from Western Australia — provided compelling evidence for the value of this series of international lobster meetings. The Fifth International Conference and Workshop on Lobster Biology and Management, held at the Lakeland Hotel, Queenstown, New Zealand from 9 to 14 February, 1997, came after ones in Australia, Canada, Cuba and Japan, and it was the largest. Cobb and Phillips showed how these meetings have facilitated publication of results, set research directions and contributed to the development of scientific principles. Many of the afternoon workshops during the Queenstown meeting, and the final plenary address, resulted in recommendations for future research directions; and so this meeting, like those before it, will have an impact on the course of lobster research internationally.

There were 117 full registrants and 15 student registrants from 19 nations at the Queenstown meeting. People came from Europe and the Middle East, North and South America, southern Africa, India, and the Pacific region including Asia and Australia and, of course, New Zealand. This was the first meeting in this series at which the commercial lobster industry itself was involved in organizing and attending proceedings.

There were 9 workshops, 40 posters, and more than 70 oral papers. The oral papers were organized into benthic processes, stock assessment, physiology, biology, oceanic processes, behaviour, aquaculture, and management sessions. They dealt with topics as diverse as aquaculture and artisanal fisheries; habitats and harvesting strategies; and live transport and larval dispersion for lobsters of all types (rock [spiny], clawed, and slipper) around the world. Many of these appear as refereed papers in this volume.

Each of the workshops had a panel of experts in the field convened by an experienced facilitator who set the directions for the workshop: Professor Mark Butler (USA), benthic processes; Professor Stan Cobb, oceanic processes; Professor Rufus Wells (NZ), physiology and live transport; Professor Bruce Phillips, aquaculture; Drs Ray Hilborn (USA), and Julian Addison (UK), stock assessment (two workshops); Dr John Annala (NZ), management strategies; Dr Mike Childress (USA), marine reserves; and Dr Rick Wahle (USA), consequences of fishing. The panellists were asked to discuss both unpublished as well as other material within the themes set by the facilitators. Outcomes from each of these workshops are also published here.

Meetings such as this enhance the opportunities for international collaboration, particularly in areas such as the development of stock assessment techniques, live handling procedures, aquaculture and ongrowing opportunities, in the development of techniques such as those to determine larval recruitment mechanisms, and in other projects where sampling and/or processing costs are high. The Queenstown meeting was no exception in this, with several co-operative projects put in place.

The meeting's Organizing Committee came from research organizations, the rock lobster industry, and from Maori. It comprised (from the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) unless otherwise specified): John Booth (Convenor), Paul Breen, David Higgins (Ngai Tahu), Terese Kendrick, Alistair MacDiarmid, Phil Mladenov (University of Otago), Daryl Sykes (New Zealand Rock Lobster Industry Council), Len Tong, and Rick Webber (National Museum of New Zealand). We thank the sponsors and helpers, along with all who participated in this event. Our principal sponsors were NIWA and the New Zealand Rock Lobster Industry Council.

Special thanks, too, to Ngai Tahu, the local Maori people, for their memorable welcome and farewell to us.

The next international lobster meeting in this series is planned for Florida in 2000.

Tena koutou katoa. Thank you, and greetings to you all.