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## **Published Research on Interactions between Lobster Catches and Finfish Aquaculture in Port Mouton Bay, Nova Scotia**

The Marine Pollution Bulletin Journal has published a study of fishermen's participatory research on annual lobster catches in Port Mouton Bay, a sheltered bay, on Nova Scotia's South Shore. The 7 year study covered two periods of active finfish production, occurring before and after a thirty-six month (3 year) fallow period.

Fishermen recorded catches of market and seeded female lobsters between 2007 and 2013 during the last two weeks of May, a time when higher numbers of lobsters historically migrate into the bay.

Data analysis of catches showed displacement of lobsters over a 20 square kilometer area of the bay during aquaculture operations and partial recovery during the period of aquaculture fallow.

There was negligible recovery in the region of the bay adjacent to the finfish farm.

Catches within the bay were compared with aggregated landings within the larger Lobster Fishing Area 33. There was no correlation between lobster landings within Port Mouton Bay and LFA 33 landings. These lobster catch patterns in Port Mouton Bay persisted regardless of bottom water temperatures and weather conditions. Odours and habitat changes surrounding open-net pen finfish operations are potential factors affecting lobster displacement.

"To our knowledge, this is the only relatively long-term published data series for examining the potential impact of an open net pen finfish farm on lobster catches. Other than the wastes from the finfish farm, it is unclear what factors could explain the displacement of lobsters from the surveyed portion of Port Mouton Bay and their partial return and recovery during fallowing", says Dr. Ron Loucks, oceanographer and member of Friends of Port Mouton Bay.

The scientific paper, *Interactions between Fin Fish Aquaculture and Lobster Catches in a Sheltered Bay* authored by Ronald Loucks, Ruth Smith and Brian Fisher is published on-line at <http://authors.elsevier.com/sd/article/S0025326X14005876>.

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