



**PRESS RELEASE:**

**For more information, contact:**

**Joe Conlon**

**904-215-9660**

[conlonamcata@gmail.com](mailto:conlonamcata@gmail.com)

## **Study Finds Zika-Control Products Not Found in Lobster Population in Long Island Sound**

**(May 2, 2016)** — Newly released scientific research has conclusively disproved claims that mosquito control products have been detected in lobsters in the Long Island Sound (LIS). The joint study by Connecticut’s Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the University of Connecticut (UConn) found no trace of pesticides used to control mosquitoes in LIS lobsters. The report supports community efforts to control mosquito populations, protecting the public from diseases like Zika, West Nile virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis.

“With warmer temperatures come mosquitoes potentially carrying diseases. Now is the time for Connecticut legislators to protect residents and tourists by supporting vital mosquito control efforts,” said Joe Conlon, Technical Advisor to the American Mosquito Control Association.

“This research confirms previous scientific studies that show these products are safe for aquatic organisms when used correctly. It sinks the myth that methoprene or resmethrin is harming lobsters.”

The study found no detectable levels of permethrin, resmethrin or methoprene, all common mosquito control products, in lobster tissue samples. The study concludes that elevated water temperatures, not pesticides, likely caused the declining lobster populations in LIS and Southern New England. The study supports recent research from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission pointing to rising coastal ocean temperatures in Southern New England as a cause for the continued lobster declines.

“According to the Centers for Disease Control, Zika will likely be more widespread than originally thought. These essential mosquito control tools can prevent the spread of mosquito-borne disease like Zika and West Nile virus,” said Conlon. “Lawmakers should rely on sound science before making decisions that endanger public health. Why would lawmakers prevent state and local officials from using every possible legally registered tool to combat diseases like Zika? Connecticut lawmakers should reverse unnecessary restrictions on these products before the mosquito season begins – people’s lives and wellbeing are at stake.”



In 2013 Connecticut placed restrictions on the use of methoprene and resmethrin based upon preliminary tests, which reportedly found traces of what were believed to be the pesticides in lobster tissue. Those results were later proven to be false-positives, and so considered inconclusive. To resolve the inconclusive findings and initiate new research, a steering committee of analytical chemists from DEEP, UCONN and Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) was formed.

In this study, 45 LIS lobsters were collected between Stonington and Stamford in October 2014. Tissues samples were taken from each lobster. They were tested for the presence of pesticides, including methoprene and resmethrin, using gas chromatography/tandem mass spectrometry (GC/MS/MS) to identify compounds. The tissues were independently evaluated by two separate laboratories. No traces of pesticides were found.

With the Zika virus expected to spread further into North America and the continued threat of West Nile virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis, mosquito control efforts are seeing renewed focus. The AMCA would like to remind consumers they can reduce the spread of disease and mosquito bites by:

- Wearing loose fitting, long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors.
- Make sure window and door screens are able to keep mosquitos outside.
- Stay indoors at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- Use EPA-registered insect repellents. When used as directed, EPA-registered insect repellents are a proven safe and effective way to keep mosquitoes from finding human targets.

*The AMCA mission is to provide leadership, information and education leading to the enhancement of health and quality of life through the suppression of mosquitoes and other vector-transmitted diseases, and the reduction of annoyance levels caused by mosquitoes and other vectors and pests of public health importance. To learn more, visit: [www.mosquito.org](http://www.mosquito.org).*

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