



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY
BOARD OF PESTICIDES CONTROL
28 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

WALTER E. WHITCOMB
COMMISSIONER

Memorandum

To: Board of Pesticides Control

From: Pam Bryer, Toxicologist

Subject: Additional information regarding *Bt*'s effects on lobsters

Date: May 18, 2018

At the April 6, 2018 board meeting the question of whether *Bt* is toxic to lobsters was asked.

In preparation for the May 18, 2018 meeting my response was published online as a part of the "Board Packet". Subsequently, I received a phone call from the previous Board of Pesticides Control's Toxicologist, Lebel Hicks, with information she found salient to the discussion.

Dr. Hicks adds that the pH of the lobster intestinal tract is quite acidic and that *Bt* only targets organisms with alkaline digestive tracks. The *Bt* is a crystalline spore that needs higher pH values to be activated. She referenced Chapter 16 Digestive Physiology and Nutrition by DE Conklin from the book, *Biology of the Lobster*, by Jan Factor 1995. It is Dr. Hicks' belief that lobsters are not likely to be affected by *Bt*.