

The Rhode Island Lobstermen's Association is concerned with the wide spread use of Altosid (methoprene) that is being used in storm drains through out the state. In fact, after much research it seems all lobster producing states with the exception of Maine are participating in such programs to some degree or another. This product is a juvenile hormone agonist and has been shown to have toxic effects on larval and adult crustaceans. Are we poisoning our environment by introducing tons of this product into our estuaries and ocean year after year? Is it a coincidence that lobster settlement has not been good anywhere this product is in use? After the last several years of the v-notch program and more egg bearing lobsters than anyone has ever seen, why are we not seeing a big increase in settlement? Maine does not allow this product into its marine environment and lobster settlement is good which bares well for the future of their industry. Is there a direct link to not introducing these chemicals to their marine environment? Maybe. The truth is nobody knows what the effects this practice is having on lobsters or anything else in our delicate marine environment. Remember this is being mixed in with other harmful products such as chlorine and who knows what else, mix it all up and we have quite the cocktail.

We will be working to build a coalition of fisheries organizations and environmental groups such as Save The Bay to try to stop this questionable practice. There are more environmentally friendly methods available to deal with mosquito control, we realize the delicate balancing act that is needed when concerned with public health and protecting our environment. One question that should come to mind is what effect does this program really have on the mosquito population? Is it more of a feel good measure for the general public? We should not be taking chances with the environment due to ease of application or cost with these mosquito abatement programs especially if it is nothing more than a feel good measure, that's just common sense. The need to form this coalition and educate the general public is our obligation. We as American citizens have an obligation to protect this delicate ecosystem for future generations. Take a look at the links on the web site and you be the judge.