

## Letter to the Editor

After reading the story which appeared on March 29 regarding the lobster men and pesticides, and investigating on our own, we are convinced the benefits outweigh other considerations, and have requested through resolution of the council to discontinue use of methoprene in our catch basins which retain standing water.

The story was well-balanced citing various studies and experts; but fact remains, our local fishermen have noticed an appreciable reduction of young lobsters over the last few years. As one fisherman stated, "We catch the females all the time, loaded with eggs, and throw them back. We know they never mature into lobsters because the pesticide is designed to attack larvae, which is their egg stage." They believe it is cumulative effect of the pesticide which the State has provided to cities and towns for treatment for free since 2000.

Perhaps it's time to take a step back and take a cue from Maine's robust lobster industry, and discontinue the use of methoprene in our catch basins which empty into the bay. There have been no reported cases of West Nile virus in Newport County for many years. We are still cautioned to use skin lotion applications, long sleeve shirts and pants when necessary, and other protections, which are easily available to us. We should not ignore or diminish the knowledge base provided by our local fishing community. Newport, as a coastal community, should discontinue the use based on the information provided by our local experts, the fishermen themselves. We would rather err on the side of caution, than destroy the entire industry.

Jeanne Napolitano

Charles Duncan