

Background Information

- ✦ Lobsters are of both ecological and economic importance
- ✦ Populations rely on dominance hierarchies to determine food and mate acquisition
- ✦ Agonistic interactions and chemical cues aid lobsters in establishing dominance
- ✦ Acidification of oceans may contribute to a loss of established hierarchies

Methods

- ✦ Experiment lasted 10 days
 - ✦ First 5 days regular seawater, bubbled oxygen (pH 8.2)
 - ✦ Next 5 days acidified water, bubbled CO₂ (pH 7.6)
- ✦ Lobsters were recorded each day for 15

Research Question

Does acidification affect the stability of established hierarchies?

