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LOBSTER HATCHERY WORK IS PRAISED IN LONDON

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Live baby lobsters were on display at the House of Lords in London last week at a reception to promote the work done at Padstow's National Lobster Hatchery.

The reception, hosted by the hatchery's patron, Baroness Wilcox of Plymouth, was attended by 150 guests, including politicians, business people, academics, fishery managers, conservationists, fishermen and Friends of the National Lobster Hatchery. Among the distinguished guests were fisheries minister Jonathan Shaw MP, Minister for Sustainability Lord Rooker MP, Minister for the South West Ben Bradshaw MP, Shadow Fisheries minister Bill Wiggin MP, and North Cornwall MP Dan Rogerson.



The aim of the reception was to celebrate the success of the NLH, show what has been achieved since Baroness Wilcox opened the unit in 2000 and outline the hatchery's plans for development.

The NHL's general manager Dom Boothroyd thanked the supporters of the project to date.

He also gave special praise to the six members of staff who work at the hatchery.

He explained that the hatchery has released more than 60,000 juvenile (three-month-old) lobsters at selected sites around Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, helping the replenishment of wild stocks.

He said: "In addition to this important lobster stock enhancement project, the Padstow hatchery runs a public education programme about marine conservation that attracts over 40,000 visitors each year.

"On a more formal basis, the hatchery delivers part of a foundation degree in aquaculture science for Cornwall College Newquay and is a partner on the new masters degree in sustainable aquaculture at the University of Plymouth.

"The centre is also used to educate school children, older students and researchers about lobsters, the local fishery and the marine environment.

"The evening had been successful and the aim to publicise more widely the work of the National Lobster Hatchery at a political and corporate level had been taken a few steps further."

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