*… monitoring population and trophic dynamics becomes increasingly important to assess the impact of snow crabs on benthic communities and …*

* Complex large-scale and local dynamics

*Moriyasu et al. (2004, 2011b) used caged snow crabs; however, baseline information on the effects of caging on snow crab has never been examined and it remains unknown if caged animals are representative of the natural population.*

However, these studies did not examine possible effects of sampling method on dietary selection and diversity

The **objectives** of this study were to

1) describe the diet of snow crab in the southern Gulf of Saint Lawrence and compare present results from data obtained in 2002;

2) apply stable isotope analysis, in association with stomach content analyses, to snow crabs in order to examine their dietary intake and feeding habits **at different life stages**; and

3) examine the effects of sampling method (trapping versus trawling) and caging on the diet of snow crabs.