

European Lobster (*Homarus gammarus*)

Malacostracea (Arthropoda:Decapoda)



Taxonomy: Arthropoda->Crustacea->Malacostracea->Decapoda->Nephropidae

IUCN Red List Categorisation: Least Concern

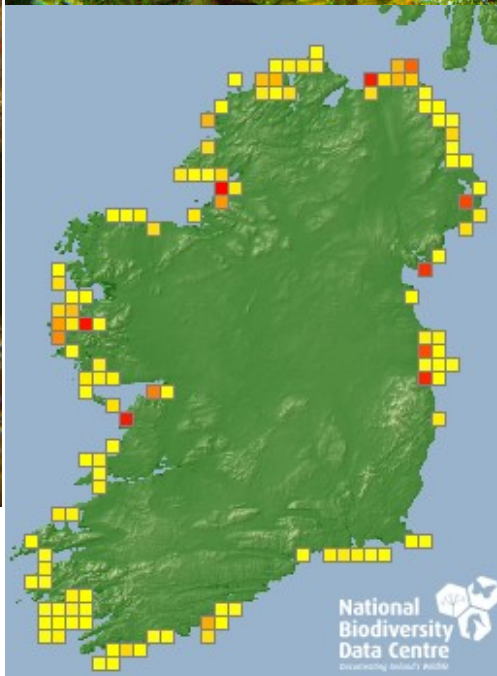
European Lobster are found from Norway to the Black Sea but not in the Baltic Sea. Due to the high fecundity of females a conservation method known as V-notching is undertaken in Ireland, whereby female lobsters are marked on the tail and if re-caught released into the sea to allow each female to reproduce. Similarly maximum size limits apply to lobsters in order to enhance the breeding stock.

Blue in colouration lobsters have a well developed tail fan (right). Chelae (claws) on the first 3 sets of walking legs distinguish it from the crayfish (*Palinurus elaphas*), it is the largest crustacean in Irish waters reaching up to 4m in length. Primarily nocturnal they are normally seen peering from holes which they generally share with a collection of common prawns (*Palaemon serratus*).



What dive sites can I see it at?

Found at virtually all sites with suitable rocky habitat though more common in offshore and deep water sites. Gaps in distribution are likely as a result of recording effort.



National Biodiversity Data Centre
Documenting Ireland's Wildlife

seasearch
Ireland

Every dive can be a Seasearch dive

