

sizes of lobsters there is only one layer of lobster in the box. Deaths in transit can normally be attributed to one of two reasons.

1. Poor quality or weak fish being packed/or
2. Damage in transit or packing. Damage occurs when one of the spines on the back or top of a claw pierces the soft membranous joints or tail underside of another lobster. This leads to bleeding from the damaged lobster and, out of seawater, lobster blood does not coagulate easily, so the pierced lobster will either bleed to death or be so severely weakened that it will not survive re-tanking. With only one layer per box this problem should not arise. These boxes normally are divided into two compartments so even when tipped on their sides in transit the lobsters still remain in place. Ice bags keep the lobsters cool and seawater dampened newspaper or seaweed helps to keep the gill damp improving oxygen exchange through the gills and keeping the lobster strong. No such box exists on the UK market so a large box fitted to capacity with lobsters is the normal UK packaging with resulting damage.

FROZEN AND PROCESSED PRODUCTS

All the previously made points do in fact refer to the live lobster trade and there is also available a wide range of frozen products which can be substituted.

These products are produced when the lobster is at its cheapest and best so with reduced freight rates an equivalent product can be obtained more cheaply.

All the main products available are on display next door and there are experts on board to discuss the suggested uses for each product.

1. Whole cooked lobsters. These are presented in a variety of forms and sizes. They are mostly used where a whole lobster split is required.
2. Lobster meat. This can be presented in cans of 11.3 oz or 32 ozs either as a frozen product or heat packed. 5lb frozen blocks or 200g bubble packs are also available. The meat is prepared from the canner lobsters and the top grade products contains up to 20 percent broken pieces and 80 percent whole peeled claws and tails. For use in any dish where the shell is not presented.