

CURRENT STATE

At Simson's we use Canadian live lobsters throughout the year as our main lobster supplied to our customers for several reasons.

1. There is a vast range of sizes generally available throughout the year. These range from 6 ounces to 6 pounds, with larger animals being available if required. The various sizes have different uses in the UK market as follows:

The Canners These range from 6 ounces to 14 ounces but are not always available throughout the year as a live product. These can be used for dishes, where large langoustinas have been previously used to give some variation to a menu. The added bonus to the Restaurateur is that canner lobster are normally approximately £1.00 per pound cheaper than large langoustine, they arrive and stay live longer than langoustine. They can also be used as part of a platter de fruits de mer.

Chix Quarters and Halves These are normally used as single portion lobsters for a main course or as half-a-lobster as a starter or fish course. The size used will depend on the type of Restaurant or more particularly the budget. There are examples of all three sizes on the display next door, both whole and split.

1.3/ - 3 lbs (The Select Lobsters) These sizes of lobster are ideal for using split in half and half a lobster would be served per person.

3 lbs and over Lobsters The tail of this size of lobster is about 2 inches in diameter so the major use for these fish is as tail meat which is cut into medallions.

Extra large Lobsters Especially when they reach the 15-20 lb size make very impressive centre pieces for banquets and displays. The large lobster in the tank is approximately 6-lbs so you can imagine how eye catching a really big specimen would be.

Culls or, as we call them over here, crippled lobsters are the ones that have fought and lost. They have deliberately shed one or more claw to escape a predator knowing that a new claw will be grown. They are always sold cheaper and normally used broken down into meat for use in cocktails and any other dishes where only meat is required.