

LOBSTER

HOMARUS GAMMARUS

LOBSTER LIFESTYLE



- Live in a range of habitats, mostly found in rocky crevices
- Females incubate eggs for ~9 months, hatched larvae then stay in the water column for 4-5 weeks before settling.
- Around 7 years old when they first start breeding
- Lobsters continue to breed and grow their entire lives
- Average age is 41 years for males & 54 years for females

RESEARCH

ONBOARD CATCH DATA

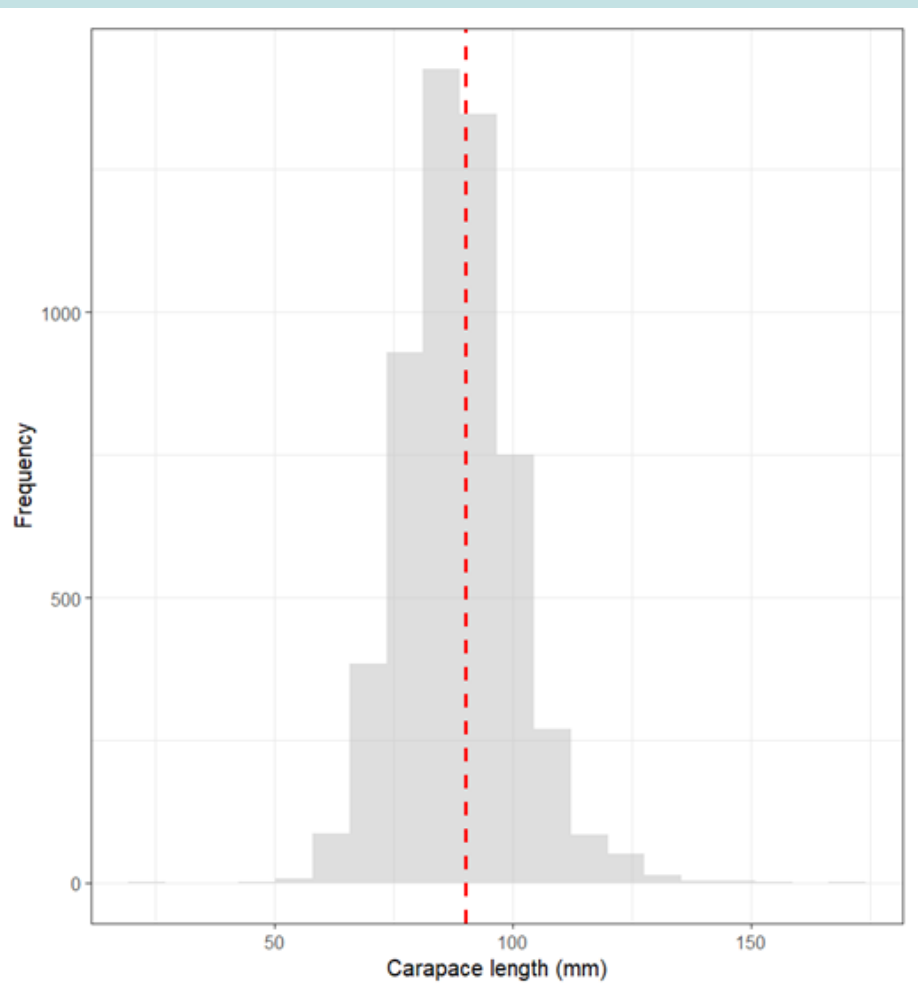
Working onboard boats with local fishers helps us collect data on catch health. For example the number of juvenile lobsters which will enter the fishery in future years as they grow. Or the amount of large breeding individuals in the fishery.

This research also allows us to monitor for disease.

TAGGING

From 2013 to 2015 tagging research was carried out by IoSIFCA using streamer tags to track growth and movement in lobster.

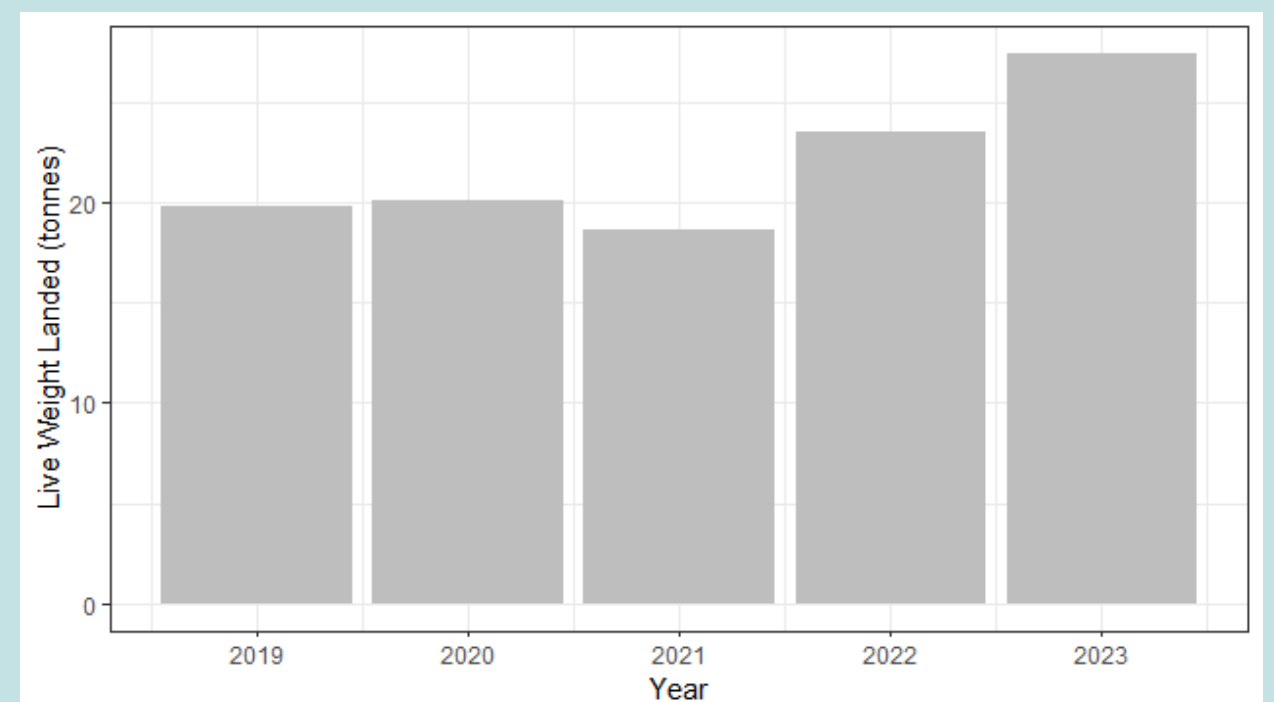
It found the lobster in our District do not move far and grow between 10 and 20% of their previous length with each moult.



Frequency of carapace length (CL) - red line is minimum landing size of 90mm CL

Report Results 2023

- Landings are steadily increasing
- Males and females are caught equally
- Average size of males and females is below minimum landing size.
- Maximum carapace length has decreased



Landings on Isles of Scilly 2019 - Sept 2023

References:
 Klapper, W., Kühne, K., Singh, K.K., Heidorn, K., Parwaresch, R. and Krupp, G., 1998. Longevity of lobsters is linked to ubiquitous telomerase expression. FEBS letters, 439(1-2), pp.143-146.
 Sheehy, M.R.J., Bannister, R.C.A., Wickins, J.F. and Shelton, P.M.J., 1999. New perspectives on the growth and longevity of the European lobster (*Homarus gammarus*). Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, 56(10), pp.1904-1915.