



INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES INFORMATION NOTE

American Lobster (*Homarus americanus*)

Invasive non-native species (INNS) are species that are outside of their natural range and cause significant impacts to native biodiversity, our economic activity and human health.

American lobster is classified as an invasive non-native species in the UK because it is outside its natural range of North Eastern America and it can cause impacts to our local lobster and crab populations. Impacts are caused by outcompeting native populations for food and shelter and the spread of disease.

It is not currently illegal to import American lobsters into the UK. Imports are controlled by the Fish Health Inspectorate through the Lobsters (Control of Deposit) Order 1981 and the Lobster (Control of Importation) Order 1981. However, it is an offence under Section 14 (1) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to release or allow to escape in to the wild any animal which is not ordinarily resident or a regular visitor to Great Britain.

Welsh seas are dynamic and support a diverse range of habitats and species. The Welsh Government is committed to maintaining and enhancing our marine life and we are working with partners to prevent the introduction and spread of INNS.

The deliberate or unintentional release of American lobster and other INNS into Welsh waters can have devastating effects. We require the support of all, including local merchants, to raise awareness of the impacts of releasing INNS into our waters.

Please help to maintain and enhance our marine life by reporting any suspected sightings or catches of INNS to either of the following bodies:

- Natural Resources Wales, incidence number: 0800 807060 (24-hour service) or by email enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk
- Welsh Fishermen's Association (WFA), via mobile phone app Succorfish Catch App.
- GB Invasive Non-Native Species Secretariat website, which also provides further information on INNS, their impacts and how to identify them.
<http://www.nonnativespecies.org>

An identification sheet for American lobster is attached.