

1 in 50 Million Split-Colored Lobster Captured Off the Coast of Cape Cod and Donated to Aquarium

"Moments like this are why we do what we do: supporting our fishing community... and sharing its wonders with everyone," said Wellfleet Shellfish Company

By [Kimberlee Speakman](#) | Published on April 22, 2026 03:56PM EDT



A one in 50 million catch is going on display!

Wellfleet Shellfish Company (WSC) announced in a [Facebook post](#) on Tuesday, April 21, that an incredibly rare split-colored lobster was caught off the coast of Cape Cod by the crew of the F/V Timothy Michael vessel.

"Split lobsters like this are extraordinarily rare — caused by unique genetic variations that create their striking half-and-half coloring," said the WSC.

"Moments like this are why we do what we do: supporting our fishing community, protecting the ocean, and sharing its wonders with everyone," they added.



A split-colored lobster, which features two distinct colors split in the middle of its body, has a 1 in 50 million chance of occurring, according to [Seacoast Science Center](#). The rarity is due to their unique genes, as the lobsters result from “two zygotes absorbing one another that develop into an individual with two separate sets of genes,” per the center.

Wildlife experts told local outlet [WVCB](#) that the split color can also come from genetic mosaicism, pigment irregularities during development or gynandromorphism, a rarity that occurs when a lobster has both male and female characteristics.

The recent lobster that was caught also has these unique features, with a bright orange shell on one side and a black shell on the other, according to photos shared by Wellfleet Shellfish Company.

The lobster’s claws had a mix of both colors, though its legs on one side had more of an orange hue compared to the other. One of its whiskers was also darker than the other.

WSC also shared photos of the crew who brought the lobster in. One woman could be seen placing the lobster into a cooler with water. In another photo, that same woman posed alongside three other crew members as they showed off the lobster in the water.



Instead of cooking the crustacean, WSC said that it would “donate” the rare lobster to Woods Hole Science Aquarium, where “she’ll eventually be on display for the public to experience up close once they reopen.”

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In the meantime, the lobster was put into the care of the team at the Marine Biological Laboratory of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

WSC noted that wildlife fans should “stay tuned” for updates on the lobster’s “journey.”