

## Cape Cod fishermen catch rare split-colored lobster



cape cod rare split-colored lobster SOURCE: Wellfleet Shellfish Company



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**Tim Nazzaro**



**EASTHAM, Mass.** — A rare, split-colored lobster was recently caught off the coast of Cape Cod in Massachusetts, much to the surprise of the fisherman and oceanic experts.

The bilateral crustacean was caught by the crew of the Timothy Michael on April 16.

According to wildlife experts, split coloration can arise from genetic mosaicism, pigment irregularities during development, or, in rare cases, gynandromorphism (half male, half female).

Officials said there's about a 1 in 50 million chance of finding a split-colored lobster in the wild.

Because of the crustacean's rarity, the Wellfleet Shellfish Company has donated the lobster to the Woods Hole Science Aquarium, where it will be on public display.

The lobster is currently being housed in holding tanks at the Marine Biological Laboratory while the aquarium remains under construction.

The aquarium thanked the Wellfleet Shellfish Company for their commitment to sustainability, stewardship, and supporting the region's marine science community.

