

THE HANDLING PROCESS: FACTORY TO CONSUMER

Lobster processing factories purchase lobster from fisherman. When the catch arrives at the factory each animal is graded for quality. Strong animals that have an acceptable number of attached appendages are deemed suitable for live transport to a customer. Before a live pack-out lobster are usually chilled prior to make the lobster easier to handle and slow down their metabolism. Lobster are then tightly packed in polystyrene boxes. Dry wood wool or sawdust is added for insulation and to ensure a snug fit. Lobster are then sent to the discerning customer for a time period ranging from 2 to 40 hours.

Treatment of lobster with AQUI-S® can be integrated with the chilling operation where lobster are dipped in a bath containing AQUI-S® for a few minutes directly before being packed in polystyrene boxes. Sedated lobster are essentially 'asleep' when being packed and during the first few hours of transport. This means they are less stressed and conserve energy, improving their condition and survivability. Because lobster have an increased resilience it allows extended transport events and accessibility to more lucrative markets. Additionally, sedated lobster are less active making them easier to handle reducing packing time and increasing the number of animals per transport unit. Electricity costs can be saved as less severe water chilling regimes are used in conjunction with AQUI-S® sedation.

HOW TO USE AQUI-S® IN A LOBSTER PACK-OUT

Step 1: Gradually lower the water temperature in the live holding tank over a 12 hour period (final temperature will depend on the species and personal preference)

Step 2: Set up an AQUI-S® bath next to the live holding tank and fill it up with the same water before the pack-out.

Step 3: Determine the amount of AQUI-S® required and make up as a stock solution at a 1:10 dilution. Add AQUI-S® to the bath. Final concentration in the bath should be between 10 and 40ppm. Ensure that bath water is the same temperature as the water lobster are removed from.

Step 3: Remove lobster from the live holding tank and transfer to the AQUI-S® bath preferably in bulk using crates or cages.

Step 4: Remove lobster from the AQUI-S® bath once they have lost the reflexive tail curl but still retain turgor.

Step 5: Sedated lobster are packed according to normal operating procedures.

PROCEDURE



1 AQUI-S® poured into bath



4 Sedated lobster are packed as per normal



2 Lobster transferred to bath



5 Lobster emerging after 32 hrs storage



3 Lobster stay in bath until they lose tail curl response



6 Lobster in a seafood market