

The Lobster Blues



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Scientists think that the blue lobster is about 8 years old.

One lobster has been getting a lot of attention lately. Although most lobsters are a brownish red, this one is showing off its unusual color—bright blue!

Blue lobsters are very rare. Only about one in 3 million lobsters is blue! A fisherman caught the blue creature two years ago and donated it to a nature center in Bristol, Rhode Island.

Lobsters are **crustaceans** (kruss-TAY-shunz). A crustacean is an animal with a hard shell. Lobsters, like all crustaceans, grow by **molting**. When a lobster molts, it loses its old shell and grows a new one. The "new shell is always a brighter color," nature center staff member Anne DiMonti told *Weekly Reader*.

Lobsters keep growing throughout their lives. They can live to be 100 years old. Lobsters molt about 25 times in the first five to seven years of life. After that, they molt just once a year.