

## Newport Life Magazine announces Lobster Shack is Newport's "Best Kept Secret!"



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## Crustacean Central

obstering can be a lonely profession. Out on the water doing grueling work in the darkest hours and the coldest days, with increasing state and federal restrictions, lobstermen are constantly battling the elements. So when the commercial

fisheries industry reported several years ago that, "lobster was the highest value of the single species of landings in the state," those in the industry realized the crustacean needed a hand spreading the word. So 25 local lobstermen joined forces and created the Newport Lobster Shack co-op at the State Pier in Newport to make it easier for the public to affordably purchase their product. "We can pay the fishermen a little more than they would get otherwise, and can sell to the public for a little less than they would pay elsewhere," says co-op head David Spencer. "We can stay together

stronger as a group, which can be difficult in these economic times."

Heading into their third season, the co-op will still sell only what is landed at the State Pier, so if you show up any day May

through New Year's Eve, you know what you're buying is literally the freshest catch of the day brought to you by local lobstermen. It's the simplest, and best kept secret around. "There is no criteria to be part of this co-op. We take a portion of everyone's catch on a rotating basis based on what the need is," says Spencer. "We still need our local dealers, too. They are very important to us, and support us year round."

-ANNIE SHERMAN



## **Newport Lobster Shack**

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