

**Failure to make crustaceans unconscious before killing could result in a criminal conviction and fine of up to \$5,000 (or \$25,000 for the business)**

- Any killing methods
  - ✗ should not cause the crustacean unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress
  - ✗ should be as swift as possible with minimal pain
  - ✗ must not allow the crustacean to regain consciousness

### ...then kill

- ③ Use an approved anaesthetic agent
  - ✓ an ice slurry, or  
✓ air
  - ② Chill to 4°C in either
  - ① Electrically stun them with an appropriate device
- To make crustaceans unconscious you can either must stay unconscious until dead.  
crustaceans to be unconscious before killing. They  
New regulations require all **commercially killed**

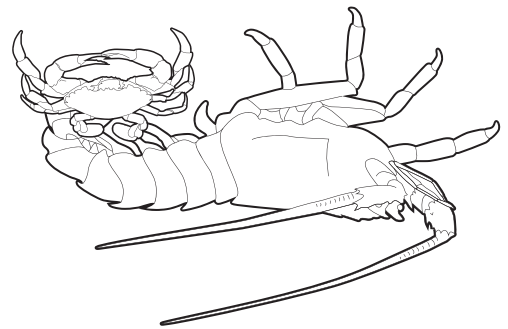
## ■ Chill...

Rock lobster, crayfish, crabs and kōura are animals protected under the Animal Welfare Act 1999. You must not cause them any unnecessary pain or distress and you must kill them humanely.

Humane killing is either killing as soon as they are caught, or making the animal unconscious and ensuring they remain that way until death, without pain, suffering or distress.

Crustaceans don't have one central brain or nerve centre. Their nerve centres are spread down the length of their bodies.

To kill them, you need to destroy as many of the nerve centres as quickly as possible.



## ■ Crayfish, crabs and kōura

## ■ More information

This regulation has come straight from the commercial slaughter code of welfare. Codes set out minimum standards and recommended best practices when dealing with animals. There are also regulations which apply to

- calves
- cattle
- dogs
- goats
- horses and donkeys
- layer hens
- llamas and alpacas
- pigs
- sheep

For more information on regulations and the codes of welfare please visit [www.mpi.govt.nz/animalregs](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/animalregs)

Ministry for Primary Industries  
Manatū Ahu Matua



While every effort has been made to ensure that this information is accurate, the Ministry for Primary Industries does not accept any responsibility or liability for error of fact, omission, interpretation or opinion that may be present, nor for the consequences of any decision based on this information.

■ From 1st October 2018

## Animal Welfare Regulations

# Crustaceans



## ■ How to make crustaceans unconscious

### Electrical stunning

Electrical stunning and killing is the preferred way to stun and kill crustaceans. Only use an appropriate device.

### Chilling in an ice slurry

- 1 Fill a container with crushed ice
- 2 For every 3 litres of ice add 1 litre of water – it should be the consistency of wet cement.
- 3 Add salt for salt water species. 35g or 2T of salt per litre of water, or 350g to every 10 litres
- 4 Stir to ensure salt dissolves

Slurry temperature should be  $-1^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Larger crustaceans can need up to 20 minutes so you may need to top up the ice.

Aim to chill the crustaceans to  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

### Chilling in air

Place them in a chiller kept at below  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$  and check them regularly. This will most likely take longer than 20 minutes.

Once unconscious, remove them from the chiller and kill them swiftly. Do not allow their extremities or limbs to freeze.

### How to test if a crustacean is unconscious

- ✗ They do not react when body parts are moved or their mouth is touched
- ✗ Their eyes do not react when their shell is tapped
- ✗ They do not move or turn over when placed on their sides

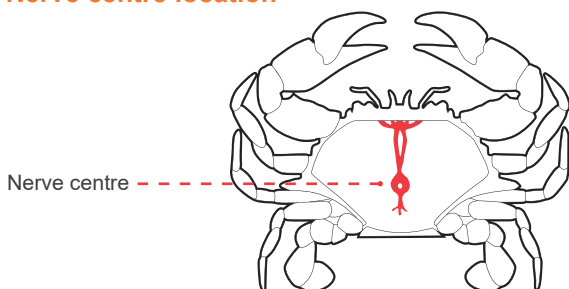
**Do not allow them to regain consciousness.**

## ■ How to kill crustaceans

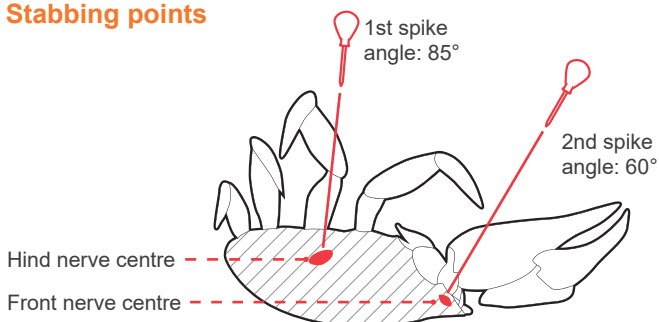
If you can't use an electrical stunning and killing device, chill then kill swiftly using a knife or awl.

### Stab the Crab

**Nerve centre location**



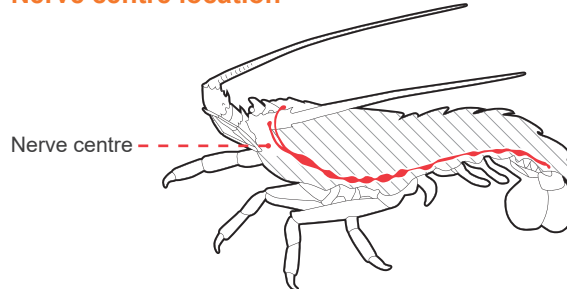
**Stabbing points**



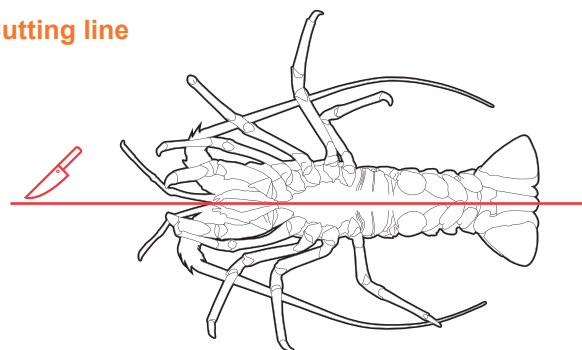
Stab swiftly to both points as shown above

### Cut the Cray

**Nerve centre location**



**Cutting line**



Swiftly split lengthwise, or swiftly split as much of the body as possible then remove tail



Any other killing methods you choose should not cause the crustacean unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress, should be as swift as possible with minimal pain, and must not allow the crustacean to regain consciousness.