



## **Neocrab® Crab Care: Recovery of condition after transport or after time**

This note provides information on a recovery step for live mud crabs, designed to keep them in top condition - longer. Mud crabs that are stored for more than five days are more likely to die. If they survive, their eating quality may be inferior to fresh crabs. A recovery step can reduce mortalities and loss of quality by eliminating the crabs waste and toxins.

**You will need:** Fresh, clean sea water, bore water, town water or rain water at around 25oC and aeration to create fine bubbles. Use a ratio of 1:10 live crab weight to water, for example 1kg crab + 10 litres of water.

### **Before recovery**

Make sure crabs and water are about the same temperature.

Sort crabs - badly damaged, very slow or frothing crabs should be killed and cooked. These crabs will not survive further transportation or storage.

Gently clean and rinse crabs or wipe them with a clean cloth to remove excessive mud, faeces or other contaminates. Ensure crabs are well tied.

Isolate damaged or bleeding crabs, blood in the recovery water will increase animal aggression during the recovery process.

### **Recovery procedure**

Aerate the water with fine bubbles. Without fine bubble aeration of water, all oxygen is depleted within 15 mins and crabs will die.

Immerse crabs individually - hold with flippers down and mouth just under water. Hold crab until water starts flowing over the gills and out of the mouth. This is important as a crab risks drowning if dumped in water without releasing trapped air and allowing gill action to start. Some crabs will go upside down - this is fine as long as air has been released.

If crabs cannot pump water across their gills after 2 mins, then recovery is not possible - remove them and kill and cook them .

Immerse for exactly 3 hours. No shorter, no longer.

Return crabs to damp hessian lined crates, store at 18°C to 25°C. Be aware that air-conditioning and the cooling effect of damp hessian can drop temperature by another 5°C. This can stress crabs.

Recovery water is high in ammonia after treatment. Dispose of water, following appropriate local regulations.