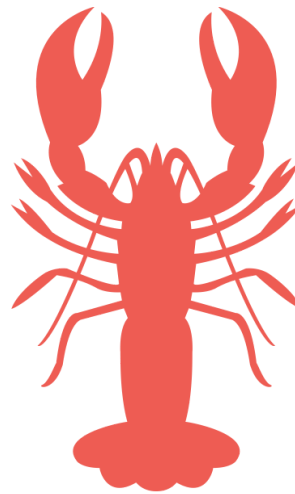


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Lobster Emoji Submission

To: Unicode Consortium

From: Frederik Fredslund Lassen and Katrine Kammeyer-Andersen

Date: June 30, 2017

Abstract

This is a request for the addition of a lobster emoji into Unicode. It already contains a crab and a shrimp, thus this paper serves to explain the need for bridging the gap and adding in the lobster.

Introduction

Lobsters are large marine crustaceans, and are highly prized seafood. They have both legs and claws, where the claws usually are disproportionately large compared to the body. While live lobsters usually are a black/blue color, they change color when cooked to a orange/red color.¹

Lobsters differentiate themselves from crabs by having a completely different shape, bigger claws and walk differently.² Lobsters also differentiate themselves from shrimp by being a lot bigger, usually having claws and carrying their eggs.³

¹ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lobster>

² http://www.diffen.com/difference/Crab_vs_Lobster

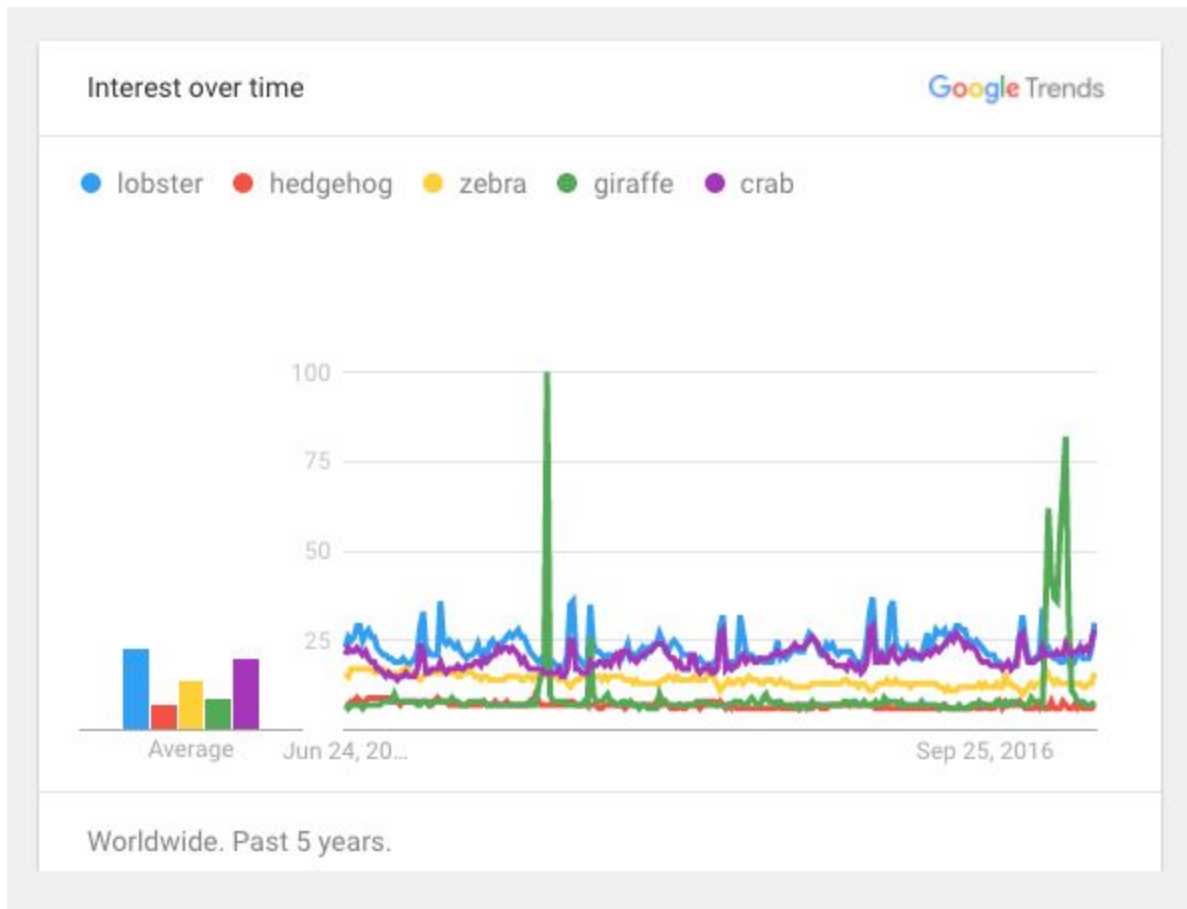
³ <http://www.wikidifference.com/difference-between-shrimp-and-lobster/>

While all three, crab, lobster and shrimp, are seafood, they are different, and should be treated this way. Thus, this is a proposal to add in the lobster alongside the crab and the shrimp.

Expected usage

Frequency

When comparing the lobster search term to perhaps it's closest emoji equivalent, the crab, it seems to be just a tiny bit more popular. In comparison with the newly added hedgehog, zebra and giraffe, the lobster is largely more popular.



Multiple uses

In the popular tv-series Friends, Rachel and Ross are lobsters.⁴ This is considering, according to Phoebe, that lobsters mate for life.⁵ This makes being lobsters a symbol of eternal love, thus the emoji might be used to symbolize just that: love - especially if the the emoji i implemented in the orange/red color.

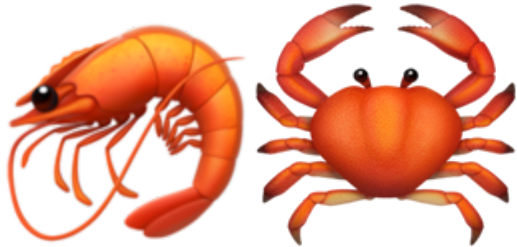
⁴

<https://www.bustle.com/articles/23107-hes-her-lobster-a-friends-dictionary-to-help-you-interpret-ross-rachel-and-the-whole-gang>

⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TyvRjF0NBem>

Image distinctiveness

The lobster would differentiate itself visually from the crab and shrimp emoji (here pictured from iOS 10) by having the long, straight lobster shape and big claws. Thus it would not be bent as the shrimp is, and not be the shape of the crab. The big claws, are however, the biggest difference.



Completeness

The lobster emoji would fill in the gap between the crab and the shrimp, and would indeed help complete the collection of seafood/sea animals present in the current set of emoji.

Selection Factors for Exclusion

Overly specific

The lobster emoji will signal the end of misrepresenting it by using the crab or shrimp emoji. Those are different animals, and should be treated as such. Thus, the lobster is not overly specific, as it signifies a family of sea animals.

Open ended

As mentioned, the lobster signifies a family of sea animals, of which not too many visual differences are found. Thus, the lobster should only need one emoji to encompass all its internal diversity.

Already Representable

As mentioned, while the lobster can perhaps be represented by using either a crab or a shrimp, this is not right, and it doesn't specifically indicate that a lobster is meant. Instead, the lobster should have an emoji of its own, as it is different enough.

Transient

Lobsters are staying with us for a long time, however, they might be on the path to extinction.⁶ Perhaps the emoji can help the lobster stay with us, and if not, serve as long-term memory of this great sea creature.

Location on the emoji keyboard

The lobster should be located between the crab and the shrimp, bridging the gap.

⁶ <http://www.foodandwine.com/news/global-warming-driving-maine-lobsters-extinction>