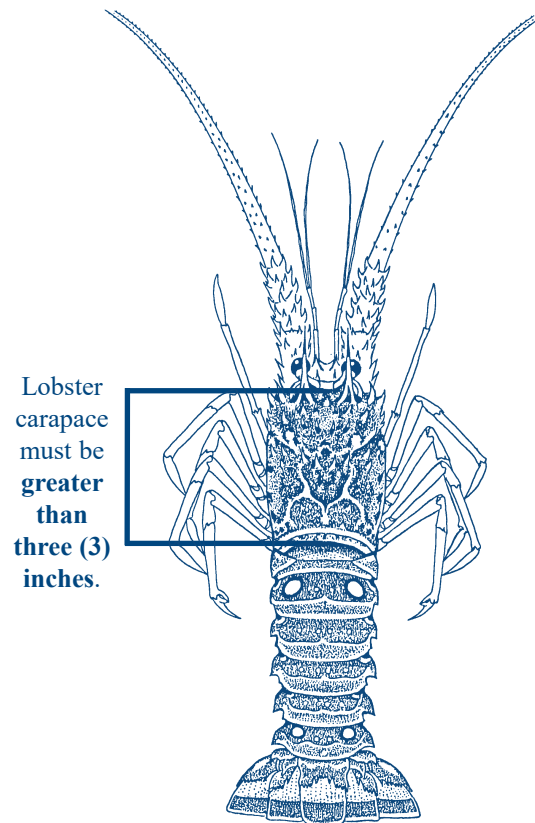


Measuring Lobster

- ✓ No person shall harvest or attempt to harvest spiny lobster by diving unless they possess, while in the water, a gauge made for measuring lobster.
- ✓ All lobster must be measured in the water, if harvested by diving.
- ✓ Lobster carapace must be **greater than three (3) inches** to be harvested or possessed. All undersized lobsters must be released unharmed. The carapace measurement begins at the forward edge between the rostral horns, excluding any soft tissue, and proceeds along the middle to the rear edge of the carapace.
- ✓ All recreationally harvested lobster must remain in whole condition while at sea.
- ✓ Tails can only be separated on land. When the tail is separated from the body, it must be greater than 5-1/2 inches.



Facts for All Seasons

Possession: Lobster must be of legal size before they are in possession. NOTE: You may not have lobster in your possession in Everglades National Park (Florida Bay).

Bag Limits: The Federal bag limit cannot be combined with the State bag limit. In addition, people who are NOT actively harvesting or are not properly licensed (when a license is required) may NOT be counted for purpose of bag limits.

License Requirements: Recreational harvesters are required to possess a valid Florida Saltwater Fishing License with a current spiny lobster permit. Consult your license agent for exemptions.

Gear: Harvesting or attempting to harvest spiny lobster using any device that will or could puncture, penetrate, or crush the exoskeleton (shell) or the flesh of the lobster, and the use of such devices is prohibited.

Commercial Lobster Traps and Ghost Traps: It is a felony to molest, damage, or take lobster from traps in State or Federal waters. (Recreational trapping is prohibited.)

Coral is protected from damage and removal in State and Federal waters. Do NOT touch, hold on to, stand on, break, anchor on, flip over or otherwise harm coral. It is a fragile living animal.

Egg-bearing (berried) lobster regardless of species must be released unharmed. Stripping egg-bearing females of eggs, and possession of spiny or ridged slipper lobster tails from which eggs have been removed is prohibited. Eggs are an orange, yellow, brown, or red mass found covering the underside of the lobster's tail.

Dive Flag: All divers and snorkelers in the water are required to prominently display a diver down flag. Vessel operators should slow to idle speed within 100 yards of a dive flag.

“Bully-netting” is using a circular frame attached at a right angle to the end of a pole and supporting a conical bag of webbing. Possession of bully nets is prohibited in Everglades National Park (Florida Bay).

“Hoop-netting” is using a frame, circular or otherwise, supporting a shallow bag of webbing and suspended by a line and bridles. Possession of hoop nets is prohibited in Everglades National Park (Florida Bay).

“Artificial Habitats in State Waters”: Placing artificial habitat or harvesting lobster from artificial habitat is prohibited. Artificial habitat is any material placed in the waters of the state that is reasonably suited to providing cover and habitat for spiny lobster. Such material may be constructed of, but is not limited to, wood, metal, fiberglass, concrete, or plastic, or any combination thereof, and may be fabricated for this specific purpose or for some other purpose. Artificial habitat does not include fishing gear allowed by FWC or artificial reefs permitted by Florida DEP or Army Corps.

This is not an official publication of lobster season rules and regulations.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

For questions on regulations or to report a violation
 Division of Law Enforcement 888-404-3922
 Marathon Office 305-289-2320
 Division of Marine Fisheries 850-487-0554

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council 866-723-6210

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council 888-833-1844

John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park 305-451-1202

National Parks- Everglades, Dry Tortugas and Biscayne
 Information 305-242-7700
 24-hour Dispatch (Everglades, Biscayne) 305-242-7740

Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuges 305-872-2239

NOAA Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
 Key Largo Office 305-852-7717
 Key West Office 305-809-4700

For questions on shoreline regulations or to report a shoreline violation, contact the appropriate entity:

Islamorada 305-664-6480

Key Colony Beach 305-289-1212

Key West 305-809-3700

Layton 305-664-4667

Marathon 305-743-0033

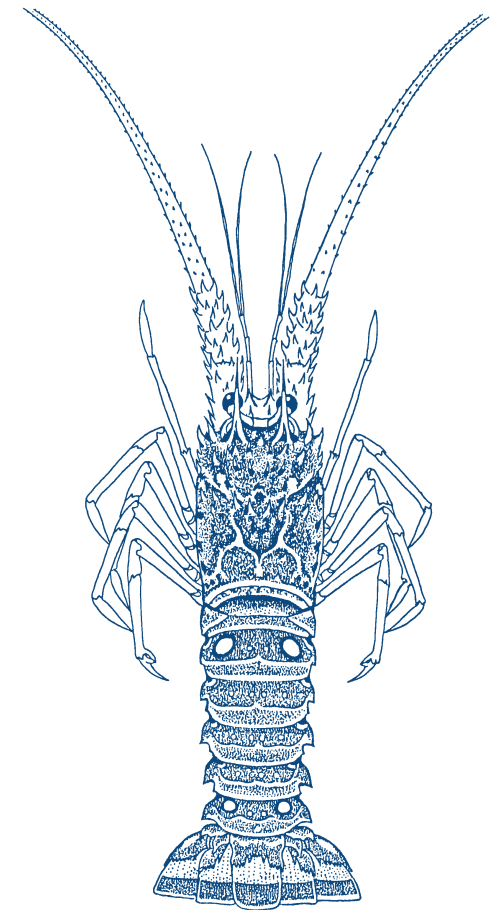
Monroe County 305-289-2805

Visit these websites!

www.myfwc.com
 www.nmfs.noaa.gov
 www.floridastateparks.org/pennekamp/
 www.nps.gov/ever
 www.nps.gov/bisc
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 floridakeys.noaa.gov
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 www.islamorada.fl.us
 www.keycolonybeach.net
 www.cityofkeywest-fl.gov/
 www.cityoflayton.com
 www.ci.marathon.fl.us
 www.monroecounty-fl.gov



Regulations for Recreational Harvest & Lobster Information for Monroe County, Florida



**Florida Spiny Lobster
 (Crawfish)**
Panulirus argus

FACTS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO...

Additional Rules and Measuring Information found in
Facts For All Seasons & Measuring Lobster sections of this brochure

Areas/Zones Closed to Harvest of Spiny Lobster			
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Closed Zones (Year Round) (Marked by 30" Yellow Boundary Buoy)		John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park (JPCRSP)	
Sanctuary Preservation Areas (SPAs) Carysfort, Cheeca Rocks, Conch Reef, Davis Reef, The Elbow, Grecian, French Reef, Hens and Chickens, Key Largo Dry Rocks, Molasses Reef, Alligator Reef, Coffins Patch, Sombrero Key, Eastern Dry Rocks, Looe Key, Newfound Harbor, Sand Key, Rock Key	Ecological Reserves Western Sambo Tortugas Ecological Reserve North & South (refer to GPS coordinates, not marked)	Special-use Research Only Areas (No entry) Conch Reef Tennessee Reef Looe Key Patch Reef Eastern Sambo	JPCRSP – Closed for Sport Season * All of JPCRSP is closed during the Two-day Sport Season to the harvest of any lobster species. Year Round Coral Rule: No person shall harvest any lobster species from or within any coral formation (patch reef) regardless of its proximity to or exclusion from a Lobster Exclusion Zone.
Other Closed Areas (Year Round)		JPCRSP Lobster Exclusion Zones * Closed (Year Round) (Marked by Orange/White Spar buoys) are found at:	
Everglades National Park Dry Tortugas National Park	Biscayne Bay/Card Sound Spiny Lobster Sanctuary	Artificial Habitats in State Waters City of Layton	Turtle Rocks, Basin Hills North, Basin Hills East, Basin Hills South, Higdon's Reef, Cannon Patch, Mosquito Bank North, Mosquito Bank South East, Three Sisters North, Three Sisters South
Spanish and Slipper Lobster Closed Areas Spanish and slipper lobster are closed year round to harvest in Key Largo and Looe Key Existing Management Areas, all FKNMS zones listed above in this table, Everglades & Dry Tortugas National Parks and all coral formations and Lobster Exclusion Zones in JPCRSP.			
NOTE: Coral is protected from damage/removal in state and federal waters.			

Spiny Lobster Regulations — Regular and Sport Two-day (Mini) Season				
Season Dates	Bag Limit	Possession limit — off the water	Minimum size	Diving at Night
TWO-DAY SPORT SEASON is the last consecutive Wednesday and Thursday in July; Begins 12:01 am on Day 1 & ends 12:00 midnight on Day 2.	Six (6) per recreational harvester per day in Monroe County and Biscayne National Park	The two-day limit of 12 per recreational harvester in Monroe County and adjacent federal waters can only be possessed when transporting your catch by car on, or after, the second day.	Carapace must be larger than 3", measured in the water. Possession and use of a measuring device is required.	NOT Permitted in Monroe County. <i>Note:</i> Night is 1 hour after official sunset to 1 hour before official sunrise.
REGULAR Season August 6 – March 31. Begins 12:01 am Aug. 6 & ends 12:00 midnight Mar. 31.	Six (6) per recreational harvester per day	Six (6) per recreational harvester per day	Carapace must be larger than 3" and must be measured in the water. Possession and use of a measuring device is required.	Permitted
NOTE: Egg-bearing lobsters regardless of species must be released unharmed.				

Spiny Lobster Local Ordinances — Regular and Two-day Sport Season			
Local Rule: No snorkeling or diving within 300 ft. of improved residential or commercial shoreline or any manmade or private canal, any public or private marina. This rule is in effect according to the information provided below.			
Marathon — Local rule applies only during Sport Season	Unincorporated Monroe County, Layton, Key West — Local rule applies during the 3 days preceding Sport Season, the entirety of Sport Season and the first 5 days of Regular Season. Exception — Diving and snorkeling in front of his/her property to the center line of the canal or open water. * Layton has a prohibition on harvesting lobster any time from waters within city limits.	Islamorada — Local rule applies during the 3 days preceding Sport Season, the entirety of Sport Season and the first 5 days of Regular Season	Key Colony Beach — Local rule applies during 4 days preceding Sport Season and continues until 10 days have elapsed after the opening of Regular Season