**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.

**“Hool-netting”** is using a frame, circular or otherwise, supporting a shallow bag of webbing and suspended by a line and bridles. Possession of hool 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.

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

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

For questions on regulations or to report a 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
- www.nps.gov/drt6
- floridakeys.noaa.gov
- www.dep.state.fl.us
- www.islamorada.fl.us
- www.keycolonybeach.net
- www.cityofkeywest-fl.gov/
- www.cityoflayton.com
- www.ci.marathon.fl.us
- www.monroecounty-fl.gov

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Closed Zones (Year Round) (Marked by 30’ Yellow Boundary Buoy)</th>
<th>John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park (JPCRSP) - Closed for Sport Season *</th>
<th>JPCRSP Lobster Exclusion Zones * Closed (Year Round) (Marked by Orange/White Spar buoys)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sanctuaries &amp; Preservation Areas (SPAs)</td>
<td>Ecological Reserves</td>
<td>Special-use Research Only Areas (No entry)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caysfort, 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</td>
<td>Western Sambo Samba Ecological Reserve North &amp; South (refer to GPS coordinates, not marked)</td>
<td>Conch Reef Tennessee Reef Looe Key Patch Reef Eastern Sambo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOTE: Coral is protected from damage/removal in state and federal waters.</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Other Closed Areas (Year Round)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Everglades National Park</th>
<th>Biscayne Bay/Card Sound Spiny Lobster Sanctuary</th>
<th>Artificial Habitats in State Waters</th>
<th>City of Layton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dry Tortugas National Park</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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: Egg-bearing lobsters regardless of species must be released unharmed.

### Spiny Lobster Regulations — Regular and Sport Two-day (Mini) Season

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season Dates</th>
<th>Bag Limit</th>
<th>Possession limit — off the water</th>
<th>Minimum size</th>
<th>Diving at Night</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TWO-DAY SPORT SEASON</td>
<td>Six (6) per recreational harvester per day in Monroe County</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Carapace must be larger than 3” as measured in the water. Possession and use of a measuring device is required.</td>
<td>NOT permitted in Monroe County. Note: Night is 1 hour after official sunset to 1 hour before official sunrise.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REGULAR Season</td>
<td>Six (6) per recreational harvester per day</td>
<td>Six (6) per recreational harvester per day</td>
<td>Carapace must be larger than 3” as measured in the water. Possession and use of a measuring device is required.</td>
<td>Permitted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marathon — Local rule applies only during Sport Season</th>
<th>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.</th>
<th>Islomarada — Local rule applies during the 3 days preceding Sport Season, the entirety of Sport Season and the first 5 days of Regular Season</th>
<th>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</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*NOTE: Coral is protected from damage/removal in state and federal waters.*