

## **IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL SPINY LOBSTER DIVE ENDORSEMENT (CD) REMINDER**

The FWC Spiny Lobster Rule, 68B-24, FAC, in conjunction with 50 CFR 640.4, requires commercial divers who harvest crawfish (spiny lobster) by diving do so from a vessel that has been issued an FWC Spiny Lobster Endorsement and Commercial Dive Permit (CD#). All vessels used for commercial harvest of spiny lobster by diving must be licensed with a vessel SPL, RS, C# and CD#. Dive vessels must be marked with divers-down symbols that are visible from the air and water with the CD# (displayed as the diver's C# followed by the letter "D") on the diagonal stripe of each symbol.

- **Divers commercially harvesting lobsters by diving in federal waters or bringing commercial quantities of spiny lobster harvested by diving back from federal waters must have a vessel SPL with a CD# for the vessel from which they are diving and/or using to transit through state waters.**
- A 250 lobster per day vessel limit applies when harvesting spiny lobster with a CD in Broward, Dade, Monroe, Collier and Lee counties and adjoining federal waters.
- A corporation must designate a diver authorized to represent and harvest under its permit.
- Divers with a CD# are prohibited from holding trap certificates.
- The dive permit is for a vessel saltwater products license only.
- Dive permits not renewed by September 30, of each year are forfeited to the FWC.
- Divers must permanently and conspicuously display a "divers down flag" placard on the vessel and affix the CD# to the diagonal stripe with 10" numbers visible from the air and 4" numbers visible from the water
- Harvest from artificial habitat is prohibited.

If you have any questions related to commercial harvest please do not hesitate to call Dan Ellinor at 850-617-9629.