AREAS/ZONES CLOSED TO HARVEST OF SPINY LOBSTER

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

FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
CLOSED ZONES (YEAR-ROUND) (MARKED BY 30” YELLOW BOUNDARY BUOY)

Sanctuary Preservation Areas (SPAs)

Ecological Reserves
- Western Sambo, Tortugas Ecological Reserve North and South (refer to GPS coordinates, not marked).

Special-use Research Only Areas (No entry)

Other Closed Areas (Year-Round)
- Everglades National Park
- Dry Tortugas National Park
- Biscayne Bay Card Sound Spiny Lobster Sanctuary
- Biscayne National Park Coral Reef Protection Areas
- City of Layton Artificial Habitat in State Waters

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.

JOPRENKEMP CORAL REEF STATE PARK (JPCRSP)

Ecological Reserves

JPCRSP Closed for Sport Season
- All of JPCRSP is closed during the 2-day Sport Season for 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.

JPCRSP Lobster Exclusion Zones:
- Closed year-round. Marked by Orange/White Spar buoys, found at:

Other Closed Areas (Year-Round)
- Everglades National Park
- Dry Tortugas National Park
- Biscayne Bay Card Sound Spiny Lobster Sanctuary
- Biscayne National Park Coral Reef Protection Areas
- City of Layton Artificial Habitat in State Waters

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

SPINY LOBSTER LOCAL ORDINANCES REGULAR & 2-DAY SPORT SEASON

Local Rule:
- No snorkeling or diving within 300 ft. of improved residential or commercial shoreline or any man-made or private canal, or any public or private marina. This rule is in effect according to the information provided below.

Islamorada
- Applies during the 3 days preceding Sport Season, the entirety of Sport Season and the first 5 days of Regular Season.

Marathon
- Applies only during Sport Season.

Key Colony Beach
- Applies only during 4 days preceding Sport Season and continues until 10 days have elapsed after the opening of Regular Season.

Unincorporated Monroe County, Layton, Key West
- Applies during the 3 days preceding Sport Season, the entirety of Sport Season and the first 5 days of Regular Season.
- Exception: an owner 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.

FACTS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO:
Additional rules and measuring information found in Rules For All Seasons & Measuring Lobster sections of this brochure.
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, are prohibited. Eggs are an orange, yellow, brown, or red mass found covering the underside of the lobster’s tail.

“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 Habitat 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. Artificial habitat is not allowed by FWC or artificial reefs permitted by Florida DEP or Army Corps.

### SPINY LOBSTER REGULATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2-DAY SPORT (MINI) SEASON</th>
<th>REGULAR SEASON</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Season Dates</strong></td>
<td>Aug 6 - March 31. Begins 12:01 am Aug 6 and ends 12:00 midnight March 31.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lobster mini-season takes place on the last consecutive Wednesday and Thursday in July. It begins 12:01 am on Day 1 and ends 12:00 midnight on Day 2.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bag Limit</strong></td>
<td>6 per recreational harvester per day in Monroe County &amp; Biscayne National Park.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Possession limit off the water</strong></td>
<td>The 2-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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minimum Size</strong></td>
<td>Carapace must be larger than 3 inches and must be measured in the water. Possession and use of a measuring device is required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Diving at Night</strong></td>
<td>NOT permitted in Monroe County. Note: Night is 1 hour after official sunset to 1 hour before official sunrise.</td>
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#### 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. 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 whole 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.

#### RULES 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 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.

Everyone loves *Panulirus argus*, Florida’s spiny lobster. And for two days every July, these tasty morsels become the quarry du jour in The Florida Keys. But Lobster Mini Sport Season is by no means a 48-hour free-for-all. There are clear guidelines designed to make the hunt fun, safe – and legal. If everyone plays by the rules, we can all enjoy these delectable crustaceans for years to come.

Local, state and federal agencies strictly enforce lobster harvest and boating safety regulations.

**Size matters: Use a gauge and know how to measure.**
1. **Six means six.** Bag limit = 6 person per day.
2. **Don’t forget your boating safety gear.**
3. **Avoid closed areas.**
4. **Display a dive flag. Always.**
5. **Touching or anchoring your boat on coral is prohibited – be aware!**

**Stay Legal. Stay Safe.**