

# Marine Fisheries

## SPINY LOBSTER SEASON INFORMATION

The [spiny lobster](#) sport season will fall on July 30th and 31st for 2003. The [bag limits](#) are 6 per person, per day for Monroe County, and 12 per person, per day for the rest of Florida. There are no vessel limits for the sport season only, and possession limits are enforced on and off the water. The possession limit [on the water](#) is equal to the daily bag limit, and [off the water](#) is equal to the daily bag limit on the first day, and double the daily bag limit on the second day. Spiny lobster has a minimum size limit that must be larger than 3" carapace, measured in the water. A reminder that possession and use of a measuring device is required at all times, and night diving is prohibited in Monroe County (only during the sport season). A recreational saltwater license and a crawfish permit is needed for harvest. Holders of a [Special Recreational Crawfish License \(RL\)](#) may not harvest pursuant to this license during the sport season.

Regular spiny lobster season is August 6 through March 31. The [bag limit](#) is 24 per vessel or 6 per person per day, whichever is greater. The vessel limit applies only in state waters and does not apply in federal waters. Only individual bag limits apply in federal waters. Holders of a [Special Recreational Crawfish License \(RL\)](#) may not harvest pursuant to this license in federal waters. The RL is only applicable in state waters. State waters extend to nine nautical miles on the Gulf of Mexico and three nautical miles on the Atlantic.

## LOBSTER BAG LIMITS

The bag limit for lobster during the sport season is 6 per person per day if you are in Monroe County (the Keys), and 12 per person per day if you are anywhere else in the state except for Monroe County. The 24 per vessel bag limit does not apply during the sport season, and bag limits for holders of a Special Recreational Crawfish License also do not apply during the sport season.

The bag limit for lobster during the regular season is 6 per person per day, or 24 per vessel WHICHEVER IS GREATER. If there are 1, 2, or 3 people properly licensed and actively harvesting on the boat, 24 lobsters would be greater and the vessel limit would apply. If there were 4 people properly licensed and actively harvesting, it would be the same either way (bag limit or vessel limit). 5 or more people properly licensed and actively harvesting, it would be greater to go with the 6 lobsters per person per day. It is important to know that the state vessel limit does not apply when you are harvesting in federal waters.

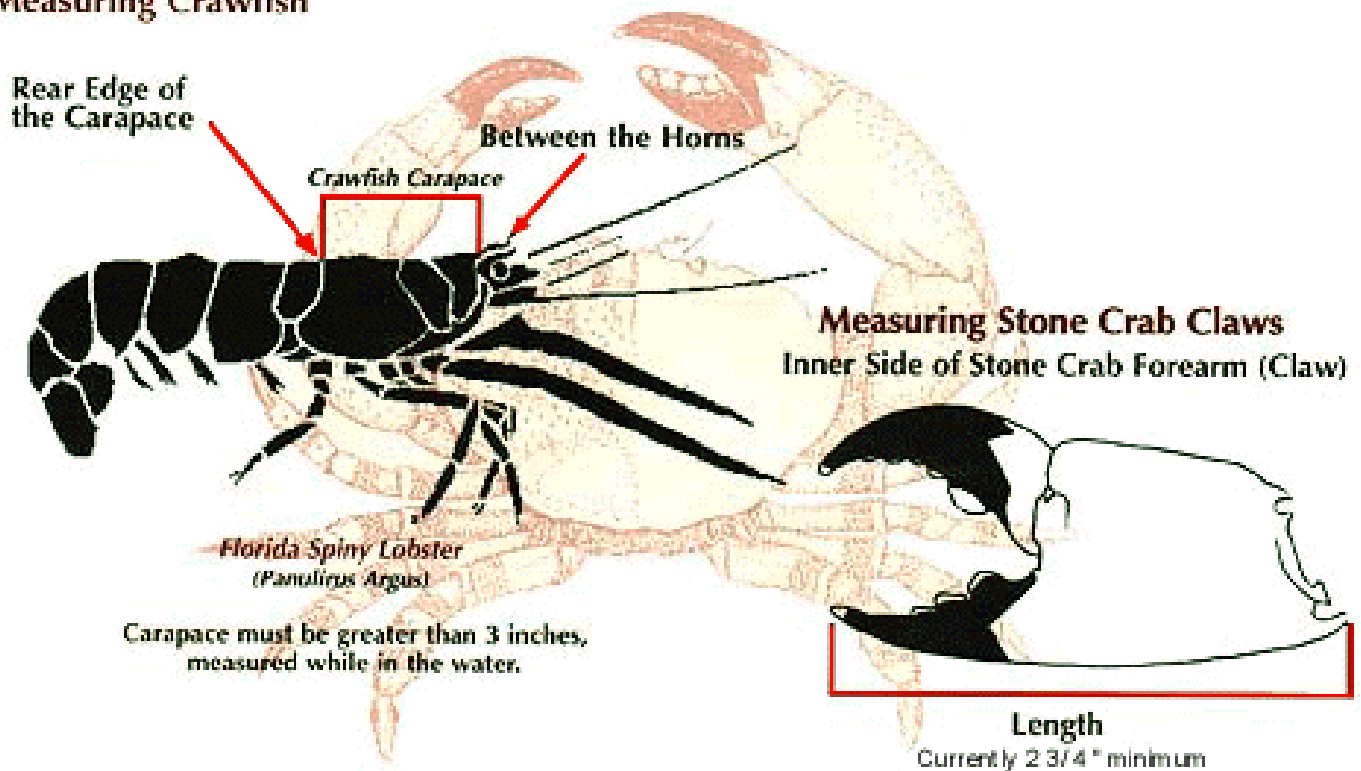
Regardless of what species you are fishing for, bag limits are only for properly licensed people actively harvesting, and those people harvesting may not exceed their individual bag limit and take someone else's bag limit. People (including children) who are not actively harvesting or are not properly licensed (if a license is required), may NOT be counted for purposes of bag limits.

## SPECIAL RECREATIONAL CRAWFISH LICENSE

The Special Recreational Crawfish License (RL) was only issued for a brief period of time after the inception of the commercial spiny lobster trap certificate program. The RL license was intended to decrease the impact on recreational harvesters who were commercially licensed and using commercial harvesting gear (traps), but were eliminated from using lobster traps because they did not meet the qualifications that were established for the commercial lobster trap certificate program.

**RL licenses are no longer issued and cannot be transferred from the original person it was issued to. Additionally, if the current holders of those licenses do not renew it every year, they lose it.**

## Measuring Crawfish



The spiny lobster sport season will fall on **July 30th and 31st for 2003**. The bag limits are 6 per person, per day for Monroe County, and 12 per person, per day for the rest of Florida. There are no vessel limits for the sport season only, and possession limits are enforced on and off the water. The possession limit on the water is equal to the daily bag limit, and off the water is equal to the daily bag limit on the first day, and double the daily bag limit on the second day. Spiny lobster has a minimum size limit that must be larger than 3" carapace, measured in the water. A reminder that possession and use of a measuring device is required at all times, and night diving is prohibited in Monroe County (only during the sport season). A recreational saltwater license and a crawfish permit is needed for harvest. Holders of a Special Recreational Crawfish License (RL) may not harvest pursuant to this license during the sport season.

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