



A Summary of Lobster Report Card Data 2008-2017

The Department is making a focused effort to improve estimates of recreational lobster effort and catch by taking action to increase the number of report cards returned each year. It is extremely important (and required by law) for ALL PEOPLE WHO PURCHASE REPORT CARDS to submit their completed cards on time, even if they did not fish for lobster.

Summary of Report Card Returns 2008-2017

* Because the lobster report card was implemented in the fall of 2008, CDFW only has report card data for the latter half of calendar year 2008.

Year	Number of Cards Sold	Number of Cards Returned	Percent Return Rate	Number of Returned Cards that Did Not Fish	Number of Returned Cards that Did Fish
2008*	27,472	5,987	22 %	749	5,238
2009	32,343	4,379	14 %	610	3,769
2010	29,108	3,494	12 %	489	3,005
2011	33,376	5,482	16%	742	4,740
2012	37,193	12,139	33%	2,834	9,305
2013	14,514	7,061	49%	1,498	5,563
2013-14 (season)	33,668	16,198	48%	3,554	12,644
2014-15 (season)	36,414	19,698	54%	4,265	15,433
2015-16 (season)	32,666	15,299	47%	3,760	11,539
2016-17 (season)	30,762	15,442	50%	3,733	11,709

Summary of Reported Catch and Effort Data 2008-2017

* Seven (7) is the legal sport limit of lobsters that may be possessed in California

Year	Number of Lobsters Reported Kept	Number of Cards that Reported 0-7* Lobsters Kept per Trip	Number of Trips that Reported 0-7* Lobsters Kept	Avg. Number of Lobsters per Card	Avg. Number of Lobsters per Trip	Number of Trips with Zero Lobsters Kept
2008	47,633	5,167	22,439	9.2	2.1	8,591
2009	43,642	3,703	19,693	11.8	2.2	7,290
2010	31,805	2,981	15,155	10.7	2.1	5,919
2011	49,534	4,730	25,373	10.5	2.0	10,442
2012	81,399	8,996	40,232	9.0	2.0	16,269
2013	70,153	5,398	33,679	13.0	2.1	12,511
2013-14 (season)	67,722	12,407	41,768	5.5	1.6	18,876
2014-15 (season)	114,562	15,199	59,424	7.5	1.9	24,178
2015-16 (season)	76,378	11,332	38,036	6.7	2.0	15,577
2016-17 (season)	84,065	11,516	39,966	7.3	2.1	15,607

Summary of Report Card Total Effort Estimates 2008-2017

* Because the lobster report card was implemented in the fall of 2008, CDFW only has estimates for the latter half of calendar year 2008.

Year	Percent of Returned Cards that Did Not Fish	Estimated Number of Total Cards Sold that Did Fish	Avg. Number of Trips per Returned Cards that Did Fish	Estimated Number of Total Fishing Trips
2008*	12.5 %	24,038	4.33	104,085
2009	13.9 %	27,847	5.31	147,868
2010	14.0 %	25,033	5.08	127,168
2011	13.5%	28,870	5.36	154,743
2012	23.3%	28,527	4.48	127,801
2013	21.2%	11,437	6.21	71,024
2013-14 (season)	21.9%	26,295	3.36	88,351

2014-15 (season)	21.7%	28,530	3.91	111,552
2015-16 (season)	24.6%	24,630	3.35	82,511
2016-17 (season)	24.2%	23,318	3.46	80,680

Summary of Report Card Total Catch Estimates 2008-2017

* Because the lobster report card was implemented in the fall of 2008, CDFW only has estimates for the latter half of calendar year 2008.

** 2013 “Estimated Number of Total Lobsters Kept for All Cards Sold” includes the estimate for total number of lobsters kept on 2013 calendar year cards (147,730), PLUS the estimate for number of lobsters kept in September, October, November, and December on 2013-14 full season cards (77,225).

*** 2013-14 (season) “Estimated Number of Total Lobsters Kept for All Cards Sold” includes the estimate for total number of lobsters kept on 2013-14 full season cards (143,129), PLUS the estimate for number of lobsters kept in September, October, November, and December on 2013 calendar year cards (97,359).

Year	Number of Lobsters Reported Kept	Avg. Number of Lobsters Kept per Trip	Estimated Number of Total Lobsters Kept for All Cards Sold	Estimated Weight of All Lobsters Landed (lbs) ****	Percent of Total Landings (commercial + recreational) for Same Time Period
2008*	47,633	2.12	220,660	353,056	38%
2009	43,642	2.22	328,267	525,227	43%
2010	31,805	2.10	267,053	427,285	37%
2011	49,534	1.95	301,749	482,798	39%
2012	81,399	2.02	258,158	413,053	32%
2013	70,153	2.08	224,955**	359,928	32%
2013-14 (season)	67,722	1.62	240,488***	384,781	32%
2014-15 (season)	114,562	1.93	215,295	344,472	26%
2015-16 (season)	76,378	2.01	165,847	265,355	25%
2016-17 (season)	84,065	2.10	169,428	271,085	29%

**** The estimated weight of all lobsters landed is calculated by multiplying the estimated number of total lobsters kept for all cards sold by 1.6 lbs, which was the median weight of kept lobsters observed during a 2007 CDFW lobster creel survey.