



Spiny Lobster Report Card Program



Importance of Report Card Data

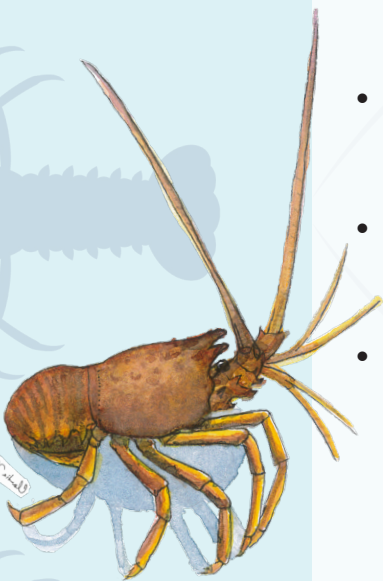
Fishing is a sport enjoyed by many Californians, who also benefit from outdoor exercise, nutritious food, intergenerational bonding, and the environmental awareness that fishing provides. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has had a long record of commercial lobster catch and effort from logbooks and landing receipts. However, more detailed catch and effort information on the recreational fishery has only become available following the introduction of the report card. Since the report card was implemented in the fall of 2008, the return rate has increased from 12% to around 50%. **Returning your report card will help CDFW more accurately estimate total catch and sustainably manage the fishery** so that these benefits can continue to be realized for many fishing seasons and generations to come.



Overview, Staying Legal, and How to Get a Report Card

Everyone fishing for lobster, regardless of age, is required to have a valid Spiny Lobster Report Card.

- Report cards are valid for a single lobster fishing season.
- **Report cards must be returned by April 30** following the close of a lobster fishing season, **even if a report card was not used or no lobster were taken.**
- [A non-return fee](#) will be charged when purchasing the next season's report card if the cardholder's previous seasonal card was not turned in by the deadline.
- [A California Sport Fishing License](#) with a Sport Ocean Enhancement validation is also required except for children under 16 years of age and adults using hoop nets from a public pier.
- You can purchase a report card and fishing license from CDFW offices (office locations listed on the web at www.wildlife.ca.gov), sporting goods stores, and tackle shops. Fishing licenses and report cards may also be purchased online at: <https://www.licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/InternetSales>. If purchased online, please allow time for the report card to be mailed to you. If you need a report card immediately, please visit a license agent or a CDFW license sales office.



How to Fill Out Your Report Card

You are required to fill out a report card when fishing for lobster. You must record the date, as well as fishing location and gear type before placing a hoop net in the water or entering the ocean to take lobster. The number of lobster kept must be recorded when changing location or gear type, or otherwise when you are done diving or hoop netting for the day. Only record one location and one gear type per row on your report card.

For each date, location and gear type, a new line of the report card must be used. In this example, the fishing occurred on December 15 at Oceanside Pier (code 31) using a hoop net (laid flat, code 1) and scuba diving (code 3). Two lobster were caught in the hoop net and one was caught by diving.



Month	Day	Location Code	Gear Code	Lobster Retained
12	15	31	1	2
12	15	31	3	3

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12	15	31	1, 3	2

Tips to Avoid the Non-Return Fee

Return Your Report Card On Time

To avoid a non-return fee, return your report card by the April 30 deadline. You may also skip one fishing season to be able to purchase a report card the following season without incurring this extra charge. If you lose your card, report it as lost prior to the reporting deadline to avoid the fee.

CDFW recommends all report card holders submit report cards online at: <https://www.licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/InternetSales>. Online reporting is the only method where the receipt is verified with a confirmation number. Online reporting is available near the end of lobster season. If you report online, you are not required to mail your report card in.

A report card can be returned by mail to:

CDFW Spiny Lobster Report Card

**3883 Ruffin Road
San Diego, CA 92123**

You may still report your catch after the reporting deadline of April 30, but it will be late. Note, report cards sent by mail and not received by CDFW will be assumed not returned, and you may not become aware of a loss until purchasing another report card for a subsequent season. Reports cards postmarked after April 30 are also considered late. If you choose to mail your report card, make sure to turn it in early and check the status of the return online.

Reporting a Lost Card

If you lose your report card, you must either report your harvest through CDFW's website at: <https://www.licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/InternetSales> or provide a written affidavit to a CDFW license sales office that contains the following information:

- A statement confirming that the originally issued report card cannot be recovered.
- A statement of the cardholder's best recollection of the catch information that was entered on the report card that was lost.
- A statement describing the factual circumstances surrounding the loss of the report card.

Please also include your first and last name, and your GO ID (your CDFW identification number) so that your lost card can be identified.