

SPINY LOBSTER REPORT CARD PROGRAM

Thank you for your interest in California lobster fishing. This publication outlines important considerations when preparing to fish for spiny lobster, including card deadlines and the new non-return fee:

- Lobster report cards are valid for the lobster fishing season, rather than the calendar year.
- The new seasonal lobster report cards must be returned by April 30 following the close of the lobster fishing season.
- A \$20 non-return fee will be charged when purchasing the next season's lobster report card if the cardholder's previous seasonal card was not turned in by the deadline.

HOW TO AVOID THE FEE

To avoid the non-return fee, lobster fishermen may return their report card by the deadline or skip one fishing season to be able to purchase a lobster report card the following season at no extra cost. If you lose your card, you must report it as lost prior to

the deadline in order to avoid the fee. See inside of brochure for instructions.

FEE JUSTIFICATION

Since the lobster report card was implemented in the fall of 2008, the return rate has ranged from 12% to 32%. These return rates are too low to allow California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) staff to make reliable estimates of recreational catch and effort. As a result, CDFW incurs additional costs to manage the fishery, such as staff time needed in the field or on the phone collecting catch and effort data, doing additional analysis to fill data gaps, and more focused enforcement time. The non-return fee is necessary to recover these costs.

STAYING LEGAL

In addition to purchasing the Spiny Lobster Report Card, you will need to purchase a California Sport Fishing License with a Sport Ocean Enhancement validation for the calendar year you intend to fish in. Any child who is under 16 years of age or adult who is hoop netting from a public pier (only two hoop nets allowed) is not required to purchase a sport fishing license.

Thanks to those of you who have turned in your past Spiny Lobster Report Cards by the deadline!



SPINY LOBSTER FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN (FMP)

CDFW initiated development of a lobster FMP in 2012. The FMP will ensure the sustainability of lobster resources by providing the information and tools necessary for CDFW to manage the fishery. For more information, visit www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/lobsterfmp.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

(formerly California Department of Fish and Game) Since its inception in 1870, the responsibilities of CDFW have evolved. As of January 1, 2013, the agency's name was changed to reflect those responsibilities – to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public.



CALTIP

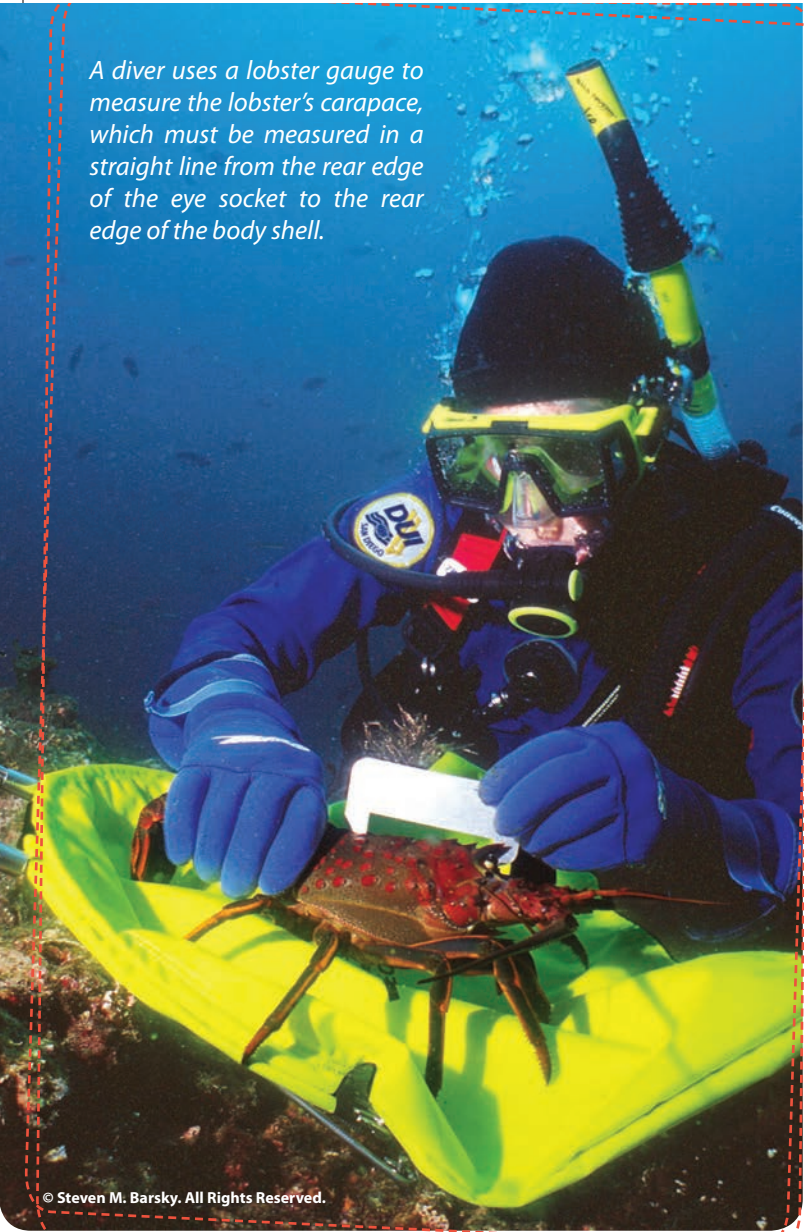
The illegal take of lobster and other fish and wildlife is commonly referred to as poaching. CDFW needs your assistance to stop poaching. Education is one way to prevent poaching. Another way is to report a violation by calling toll free 1 (888) 334-2258. Your name is not required.



Reporting Your Catch

California Recreational Spiny Lobster Report Card Program

California Department of Fish and Wildlife



A diver uses a lobster gauge to measure the lobster's carapace, which must be measured in a straight line from the rear edge of the eye socket to the rear edge of the body shell.

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SPINY LOBSTER REPORT CARD

California sport fishermen are required to fill out a Spiny Lobster Report Card when fishing for lobster. All lobster report cards must be returned to CDFW, **even if the report card was not used or no lobster were taken**. The card returns allow the Department to determine the total number of sport fishermen targeting lobster and how many they caught.

Data collected from the report cards documents changes in the fishery, whether it's a gear change or an increasing or decreasing trend in catch. Since CDFW has a long record of commercial lobster catch and effort from logbooks and landing receipts, the recreational information is needed to determine the total take of lobster in southern California.

HOW TO FILL OUT THE CARD

Fishermen must record the date, as well as fishing location and gear type before any hoop netting or diving for lobster begins. The number of lobster kept must be recorded when the fisherman is done diving or hoop netting for the day and also when changing location or gear type. **Only record one location and one gear type per row on your report card.**

CORRECT				
MONTH	DAY	LOCATION CODE	GEAR CODE	LOBSTER RETAINED
12	15	31	1	2
12	15	31	3	1
INCORRECT				
MONTH	DAY	LOCATION CODE	GEAR CODE	LOBSTER RETAINED
12	15	31	1,3	3

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.

HOW TO OBTAIN A REPORT CARD

Sport lobster fishermen can purchase a Spiny Lobster Report Card from CDFW offices (office locations listed on the web at www.dfg.ca.gov and in the regulations booklet), sporting goods stores, and tackle shops. Fishing licenses and report cards may also be purchased online at: www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/ols.

RETURNING YOUR REPORT CARD

Lobster report cards can be reported online at: www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/ols. Online reporting for seasonal cards will be available beginning at the end of lobster season, and only until the reporting deadline of April 30. If you report online, you are not required to mail your report card to CDFW.

A lobster report card can be returned by mail to:

CDFW
Lobster Report Card
3883 Ruffin Road
San Diego, CA 92123

Please note, report cards sent by mail and not received by CDFW will be assumed not returned, and the report cardholder will be required to report the card as lost.

REPORTING A LOST CARD

If you lose your report card, you are required to provide a written affidavit to CDFW 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 phone number plus your fishing license number, GO ID (your CDFW identification number) or State ID (such as driver license) so that your lost card can be identified. **Lost report cards must be reported prior to the return deadline to avoid the non-return fee** when purchasing a lobster report card the following season. You can also skip one fishing season and then buy a lobster report card for the following season at no extra cost.

IMPORTANCE OF REPORT CARD DATA

Fishing is a sport enjoyed by many Californians, who also benefit from the outdoor exercise, nutritious food, intergenerational bonding, and the environmental awareness that fishing provides. Returning your lobster report card will help us more accurately estimate total catch and sustainably manage the fishery so that these benefits can continue to be realized for many generations and fishing seasons to come.

REPORT CARD DATA

To look at CDFW's summaries of lobster report card data and the top catch locations, visit:

www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/lobsterfmp/lit.asp or
www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/invertebrate/wp_lobster.asp.

Fishermen may use hoop nets to catch lobster from boats or from shore (including man-made structures such as piers).



CDFW file photo