

Lobster

Summary

Closed Season:

April 1 – June 30 each year

Law:

It is against the law to catch, buy or sell lobsters during the Lobster Close Season. It is also against the law to catch berried lobsters (with eggs) or undersized lobsters (under 3.5 inches in carapace length) throughout the year.



Penalty:

Six months in prison.

Fact:

Possession of lobsters without declaration is strictly prohibited. Call the Fisheries Division and declare the amount you have in stock.

Support:

Tell others about the closed seasons. Patronize only restaurants that refrain from serving conch or lobster during their closed season.

Report breaches to:

- Fisheries Division, 967-1601/2081 or 948-9014/6933; 923-7571
- [National Environment & Planning Agency \(NEPA\)](#) at 754-7540 or the nearest police station.

ANNUAL LOBSTER CLOSE SEASON ADVISORY

In April, 2009, new Regulations governing the Close Season for spiny lobsters was passed into law stipulating that any person or entity that plans to have spiny lobsters/spiny lobster parts or products either for storage, sale or other purposes during the Close Season must become aware of the following provisions:

1. A **signed declaration** (official letter or completed declaration form) showing the **quantity** (in kilograms), **description** (that is whether whole lobsters or tails only, and so on) and the **address** where the spiny lobsters are being stored must be sent to the Licensing Authority by March 31st by the person in possession of such lobsters. A Fishery Inspector will visit to verify the spiny lobsters/spiny lobster parts or products being declared and issue a certificate of inspection. Subsequently a certificate of storage will be issued by Licensing Authority.
2. Spiny lobsters in storage between April 1 and 21 which have been declared to the Licensing Authority may be sold, exported or processed within this 21-day period (April 1-21).
3. After **APRIL 21**, it will be illegal for anyone to have any species of spiny lobsters/spiny lobster parts or products in their possession. Note that whether the lobster is fresh, frozen or otherwise is irrelevant and all such lobsters or products will be seized and person(s) found liable to face prosecution under the law.
4. Fishing for spiny lobsters during the Close Season is illegal and in addition, no spiny lobsters are to be held alive during the Close Season in any holding device. However spiny lobsters unintentionally captured in fishing gear must be returned to sea immediately.
5. Spiny lobsters that are found to carry eggs and or lobsters that have not reached the minimum size of 3 inches (or 7.62cm) measured from the eyes to the end of the back (excluding the tail) are illegal throughout the year and will continue to be enforced by the Police, Fishery Inspectors, Game Wardens and other law enforcement officers.
6. Spiny lobsters that are found in contravention to the relevant provisions referred to at 1 to 5 above are liable to be seized and persons found in breach may be prosecuted.