

# 2016 Monroe County Regulations for Recreational Harvest of Lobster\*

## Measuring Lobster

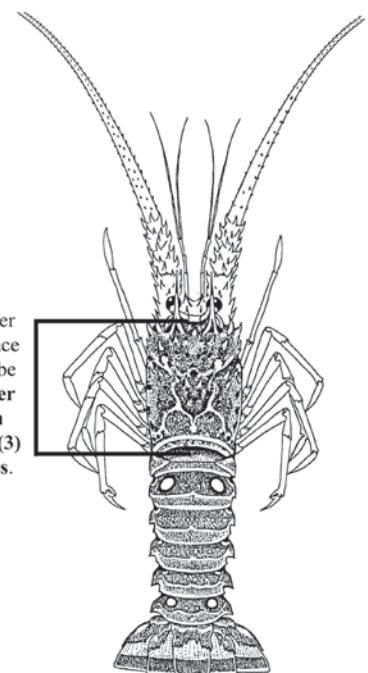
No person shall harvest or attempt to harvest spiny lobster by diving unless they possess, while in the water, a gauge made for measuring lobster.

All lobster must be measured in the water, if harvested by diving.

Lobster carapace must be greater than three (3) inches to be harvested or possessed. All undersized lobsters must be released unharmed.

All recreationally harvested lobster must remain in whole condition while at sea.

Tails can only be separated on land. When the tail is separated from the body, it must be greater than 5-1/2 inches.



Florida Spiny Lobster (Crawfish)  
*Panulirus argus*

## Facts for All Seasons:

**Possession:** Lobster must be of legal size before they are in possession. NOTE: You may not have lobster in your possession in Everglades National Park (Florida Bay).

**Bag Limits:** The Federal bag limit cannot be combined with the State bag limit

**Egg-bearing (berried) lobster regardless of species must be released unharmed.**

Stripping egg-bearing females of eggs, and possession of spiny or ridged slipper lobster tails from which eggs have been removed is prohibited. Eggs are an orange, yellow, brown, or red mass found covering the underside of the lobster's tail.

**Coral is protected** from damage and removal in State and Federal waters. Do NOT touch, hold on to, stand on, break or otherwise harm coral. It is a fragile living animal.

## Regular Season:State and Federal Waters

August 6 through March 31.

**Bag Limit:** Six (6) per recreational harvester per day.

**Diving at night** for lobster is permitted.

### Prohibited Areas:

#### • Artificial Habitats in State Waters

#### • Biscayne Bay/Card Sound Spiny Lobster Sanctuary

#### • Layton

No person shall remove by any means, whether by trap, diving, spearing or otherwise, any Florida spiny lobster from any waters within the city limits.

#### • Dry Tortugas National Park

#### • Everglades National Park (Florida Bay)

#### • Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

The following no-take areas are marked by 30" diameter round yellow boundary buoys:

#### • Sanctuary Preservation Areas (SPAs)

- Carysfort Reef
- Elbow
- Key Largo Dry Rocks
- Grecian Rocks
- French Reef
- Molasses Reef
- Conch Reef
- Hen and Chickens
- Davis Reef
- Cheeca Rocks
- Alligator Reef
- Coffins Patch
- Sombrero Key
- Looe Key
- Newfound Harbor
- Eastern Dry Rocks
- Rock Key
- Sand Key

#### • Special-use Research Only Areas

- Conch Reef
- Tennessee Reef
- Looe Key Patch Reef
- Eastern Sambo

#### • Ecological Reserves

- Western Sambo
- Tortugas (not marked, refer to GPS coordinates)

#### • John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park

During the Regular Season no person shall harvest any lobster species from or within any coral formation (patch reef) regardless of its proximity to, or exclusion from, a marked "Pennekamp Lobster Exclusion Zone."

"Pennekamp Lobster Exclusion Zones" are closed during the Regular Season to the harvest of any lobster species and are marked with white and orange spar buoys:

**Gear:** Harvesting or attempting to harvest spiny lobster using any device that will or could puncture, penetrate, or crush the exoskeleton (shell) or the flesh of the lobster, and the use of such devices is prohibited.

**"Bully-netting"** is using a circular frame attached at a right angle to the end of a pole and supporting a conical bag of webbing. Possession of bully nets is prohibited in Everglades National Park (Florida Bay).

**"Hoop-netting"** is using a frame, circular or otherwise, supporting a shallow bag of webbing and suspended by a line and bridles. Possession of hoop nets is prohibited in Everglades National Park (Florida Bay).

**"Artificial Habitats in State Waters"** is any material placed in the waters of the state that is reasonably suited to providing cover and habitat for spiny lobster. Placing artificial

#### "Pennekamp Lobster Exclusion Zones"

- Turtle Rocks
- Cannon Patch
- Basin Hills North
- Mosquito Bank North
- Basin Hills East
- Mosquito Bank South East
- Basin Hills South
- Three Sisters North
- Higdon's Reef
- Three Sisters South

#### • Local Jurisdictions

Local jurisdictions have specific restrictions on snorkeling and diving. Jurisdictions have extended the rule beyond the Lobster Sport Season.

In the local jurisdictions, there is no diving or snorkeling within:

- 300 feet of improved residential or commercial shoreline, any manmade or private canal, any public or private marina.
- Dive means to wholly or partially submerge one's body while equipped with a mask or goggles, whether or not any type of underwater breathing apparatus is used.

#### • Key Colony Beach (Ch. 5 Art. I)

Rule applies during the 4 days preceding Sport Season and continues until 10 days have elapsed after the opening of Regular Season.

#### • Islamorada (Ch. 66 Art. I)

Rule applies during the 3 days preceding Sport Season, the entirety of Sport Season and the first 5 days of Regular Season.

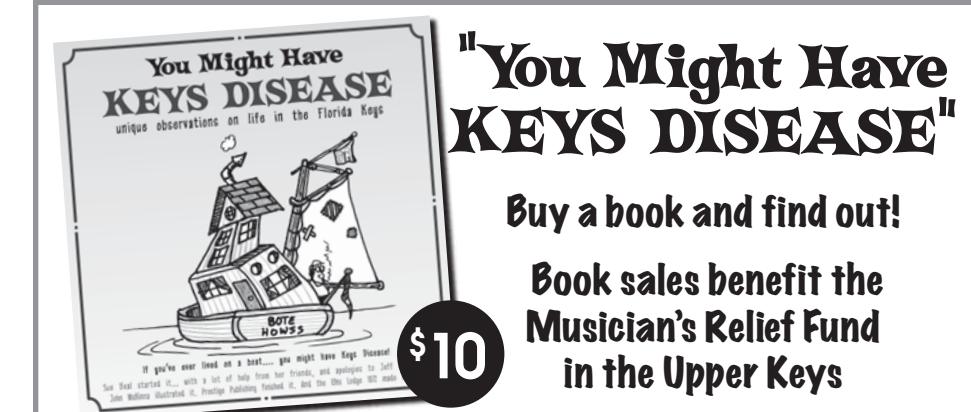
#### • Layton, Key West and Unincorporated Monroe County (Monroe County Ch. 26 Art. IV)

Rule applies during the 3 days preceding Sport Season, the entirety of Sport Season and the first 5 days of Regular Season. Exception: diving and snorkeling is allowed in front of his or her property to the center line of the canal or 100 feet of open water.

habitat or harvesting lobster from artificial habitat is prohibited. Such material may be constructed of, but is not limited to, wood, metal, fiberglass, concrete, or plastic, or any combination thereof, and may be fabricated for this specific purpose or for some other purpose. Artificial habitat does not include fishing gear allowed by FWC or artificial reefs permitted by Florida DEP or Army Corps.

**Commercial Lobster Traps:** It is a felony to molest, damage, or take lobster from traps in State or Federal waters.

**Dive Flag:** All divers and snorkelers in the water are required to prominently display a diver down flag. Vessel operators must slow to idle speed within 100 yards of a dive flag.



## "You Might Have KEYS DISEASE"

**Buy a book and find out!**

### Book sales benefit the Musician's Relief Fund in the Upper Keys

This 32-page book was created in the spirit of poking fun at our life here in the Florida Keys.

Written by Sue Beal with a little help from her friends, it was illustrated by the late John McKinna, a syndicated cartoonist.

The book was published and made available for sale so that the proceeds could help local musicians and their families.

Gilberts Resort funded the printing of the first edition, so all proceeds from the sale of this book will be used to help musicians in need.

### Books are on sale at:

These locations also accept donations, or you can send a check to the Musicians Relief Fund, B.P.O.E. Elks Lodge PO Box 255, Tavernier, FL 33070-0255

Centennial Bank, Key Largo 100280 Overseas Hwy

Centennial Bank, Islamorada 81541 Old Highway

BPOE Elks Lodge, Tavernier 92600 Overseas Hwy

Jules Underseas Lodge, Key Largo MM 103.2, 51 Shoreland Drive

## Upper Keys Homeless Prevention Program



FLORIDA KEYS OUTREACH COALITION  
Upper Keys Office 305-916-5454  
93911 Overseas Hwy.  
Tavernier, FL 33070

The Florida Keys Outreach Coalition's Upper Keys Homelessness Prevention Program is currently providing coordinated social service assistance (basic needs services, outreach, and homeless prevention services) to Upper Keys residents (individuals and families) who are currently homeless and/or at risk of losing housing.

### Services Offered:

**BASIC NEEDS SERVICES:** FL State ID's, drivers' licenses, and birth certificates, transportation assistance for work-related activities, family reunification assistance, prescription assistance, medical and dental co-pays, treatment and diagnostic testing, and clothing.

**OUTREACH/MAINSTREAM RESOURCES:** On-going outreach efforts assisting with Food Stamp (SNAP) applications, SSI/SSDI applications, assistance accessing to ACA, Medicare/Medicaid assistance and financial, housing and employment counseling.

**HOMELESS PREVENTION SERVICES:** Temporary rental and mortgage payment assistance and assistance to those living on boats to ensure habitability standards are obtained or maintained to remain housed. Call for availability.

**Eligibility:**  
If you would like us to assess your needs for eligibility, please call our Upper Keys Office at 305-916-5454 (Monday-Friday; 9am-5pm) and we would be happy to schedule an appointment to meet with you. Applicants will be asked to provide documentation to show need.

**We look forward to serving you!**

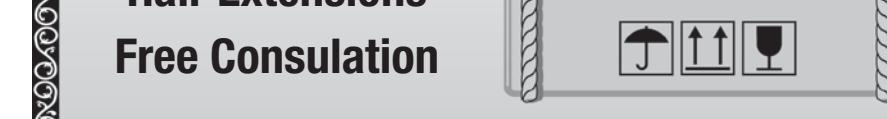
**Our Mission:** is to provide homeless individuals and families with the resources and opportunities by which to attain residential, financial and personal stability and self-sufficiency. The FKOC further seeks to address the underlying causes of homelessness and work toward its elimination in Monroe County, Florida.

## TINA HAS MOVED!

she's now at  
**Beauty Works  
Salon & Tanning  
MM 100.6**

**Plaza 101 Bayside  
100688 Overseas Hwy  
305-849-5095**

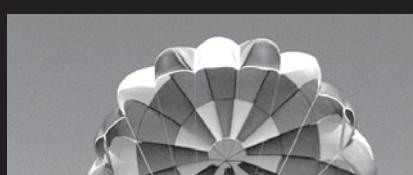
specializing in  
**Color & Highlights  
and the latest  
Haircut Trends  
offering  
Hair Extensions  
Free Consultation**



## KEYS PARASAIL & WAVE RUNNERS

Key Largo Bay Marriott Beach Resort, 103800 Overseas Hwy.  
[www.keysparasail.com](http://www.keysparasail.com)

**305-731-9472**



**Jetski & Boat Eco Tours  
Sunset Cruises  
Stand Up Paddleboards  
Boat Rentals**

## KEYS ADVENTURES

Jimmy Johnson's Big Chill, 104000 Overseas Highway  
[www.keysadventureswatersports.com](http://www.keysadventureswatersports.com)

**305-731-9472**