

# Lobster & Spiny Lobster

## V-Notched, Mutilated, Berried & Minimum Size

It is prohibited to remove from a fishery within the District a lobster or spiny lobster with a “V-notched” tail, or a “Mutilated” tail. It is also prohibited to remove from a fishery any berried lobster or spiny lobster (as the definition of berried lobster includes spiny lobster). Minimum size restrictions also apply to the removal of lobster and spiny lobster from a fishery within the District.

These prohibitions are set out in the following Permit Conditions, read in conjunction with the interpretations within the Permit Conditions:

- Diving Permit Conditions
- Potting Permit Conditions
- Netting Permit Conditions
- Category One Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions

### V-Notched Lobster & V-Notched Spiny Lobster

- **What is a ‘V’ Notched Lobster or a ‘V’ Notched Spiny Lobster?**

A “V” notched lobster” means a lobster (*Homarus gammarus*) or spiny lobster (*Palinurus elephas*) with an indentation in the shape of the letter “V” or resembling the shape of a “V” made in any one or more of the five flaps on the tail fan.

- **Why are these ‘V’ Notches applied?**



A ‘V’ - notch is a way for fishers to protect lobsters and spiny lobster.

For example, if a fisher finds a female lobster carrying eggs (known as a ‘Berried Lobster’) a ‘V’ shape can be cut into the tail as shown in the picture using special pliers or a knife, and the lobster is returned to the sea. If the lobster is caught again, and the ‘V’ marking in the tail is still evident the lobster must be returned immediately to the sea. It can take up to four years for a lobster to ‘grow out’ its ‘V’ - notch.

*Image left: A ‘V’ - notch being applied.*

While a lobster or a spiny lobster retains a ‘V’ - notch it is protected. It is illegal to remove a ‘V’ - notched lobster or spiny lobster from a fishery within the District.

A Permit Holder (or Named Representative) must not retain on board or have in their possession lobster or spiny lobster with a ‘V’ – notched tail when fishing within the District.

Any lobster or spiny lobster with a ‘V’ - notched tail must be returned to the sea immediately.



Image above: Newly 'V' - notched



Image above: 'V' - notch reducing from moulting.

## Mutilated Lobster & Mutilated Spiny Lobster

- **What is a Mutilated Lobster or a Mutilated Spiny Lobster?**



Image above: Mutilated lobster tails – tail flaps missing.

A "mutilated lobster" means a lobster (*Homarus gammarus*) or spiny lobster (*Palinurus elephas*) where any of the five flaps of the tail fan is missing or mutilated in such a manner that could hide or obliterate a V-notch.

It is illegal to remove a mutilated lobster or a mutilated spiny lobster from a fishery in the D&S IFCA District. Any mutilated lobster or mutilated spiny lobster must be returned to the sea immediately without further injury.

A Permit Holder (or Named Representative) must not retain on board or have in their possession a mutilated lobster or a mutilated spiny lobster when fishing within the District.

## Berried Lobster & Berried Spiny Lobster

- **What is a Berried Lobster or a Berried Spiny Lobster?**

A "berried lobster" means any lobster (*Homarus gammarus*) or spiny lobster (*Palinurus elephas*) which is carrying any spawn attached to the tail or other exterior part of the lobster or spiny lobster, or which is in such a condition as to show that at the time it was taken it was carrying spawn so attached.

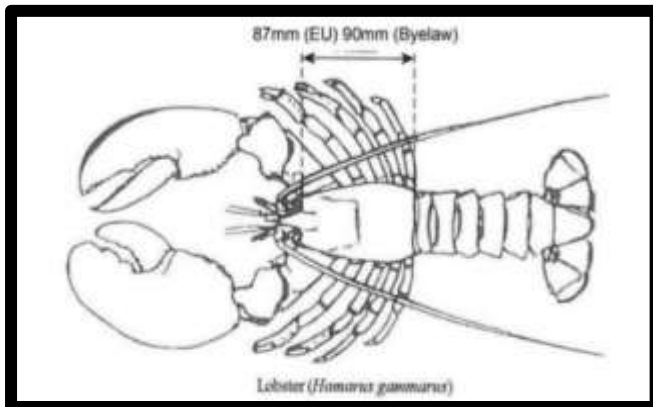


The images (left) show two lobsters that are berried. One lobster is carrying more eggs than the other.

Fishers should take care to inspect lobsters or spiny lobsters that they have caught as sometimes berried lobsters or spiny lobsters are not immediately obvious.

## Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes - Lobster & Spiny Lobster

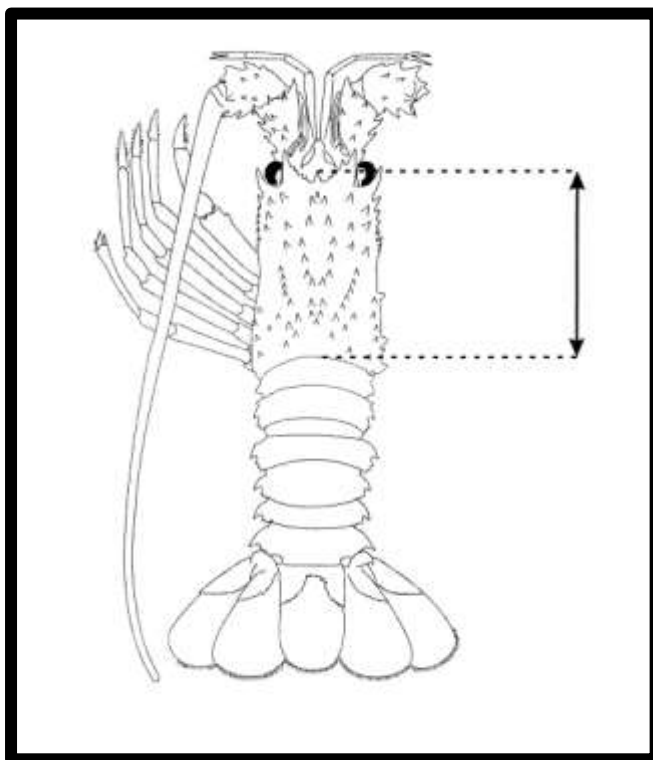
- What are the sizes?



### Lobster

A lobster (*Homarus gammarus*) is measured as the length of the carapace, parallel to the midline, from the back of either eye socket to the distal edge of the carapace and must be **90mm or more** to be removed from a fishery within the District.

A Permit Holder (or Named Representative) must not retain on board or have in their possession lobster below 90mm when fishing within the District.



### Spiny Lobster

A spiny lobster (*Palinurus elephas*) is measured as the length of the carapace from the tip of the rostrum to the midpoint of the distal edge of the carapace and must be **110mm or more** to be removed from a fishery within the District.

A Permit Holder (or Named Representative) must not retain on board or have in their possession spiny lobster below 110mm when fishing within the District.

## Other Information

This guidance has been created for D&S IFCA's District.

Please be aware that national legislation also applies.

To view all D&S IFCA Byelaw Permit Conditions and for further information please visit:

[www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk](http://www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk)

Contact Us: (Office) **01803 854648** [Office@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk](mailto:Office@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk)

Reporting Suspicious Illegal Fishing (Out of Hours) **07740 175479** [intel@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk](mailto:intel@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk)

Officers have produced a flyer that also gives details about reporting suspicious fishing activity. The flyer can be downloaded by clicking [here](#).

Any personal data that you provide will be held securely and not shared.

