

For Immediate Release:



Photo provided by Visit Florida Keys

The two-day spiny lobster mini-season begins at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 29, and continues through midnight Thursday, July 30.

Two-day lobster mini-season set for July 29-30

MARATHON, FL (July 9, 2026) – Florida's spiny lobster sport season, commonly known as lobster mini-season, is set for Wednesday and Thursday, July 29-30.

Although a state-wide event, a majority of "bug hunters," as participants are known, will converge upon the Florida Keys – and Marathon in particular – to capture their limit of the tasty crustaceans.



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9805 Overseas Highway Marathon, Florida 33050
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Lobster mini-season begins at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday and continues through midnight Thursday, although night diving is not allowed in Monroe County during mini-season.

In the Florida Keys, there is a daily limit of six lobster per person per day, which is strictly enforced by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

There is also a size limit on the carapace, which is the front half of the lobster's body. Rules state the carapace must be greater than 3 inches, measured in the water.

Among the myriad other rules and regulations regarding lobster harvesting, participants need to have a valid Florida saltwater fishing license and lobster permit.

Additionally, hunters must use a tickle stick and net or their hands to capture a lobster. Spears, hooks, or piercing devices are prohibited.

There are numerous areas in the Florida Keys where harvesting is not allowed, including John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, Dry Tortugas National Park, and no-takes zones in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

For those bringing their boats to the area for mini-season, Marathon has three public boat ramps:

- 33rd Street (near Mile Marker 49);
- Harbor Drive (near MM 53); and
- The Quay on Overseas Highway (MM 54).

There is a Monroe County public boat ramp at Little Duck Key Wayside Park, Mile Marker 40.

Florida's regular spiny lobster season begins Thursday, Aug. 6, and runs through March 31, 2027. Many of the same rules and regulations apply.



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For specific information regarding mini-season and the regular lobster season, visit <https://myfwc.com/fishing/saltwater/recreational/lobster/> and <https://visitfloridakeys.com/plan-your-trip/plan-book/events/floridas-lobster-mini-season> .

Media contact: Chris Seymour, City of Marathon Public Information Officer
Email: pio@ci.marathon.fl.us Cell: 645-206-4368
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For inquiries, contact City of Marathon, 305-743-0033