

LOBSTER SEASON 2009

STARTS: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2009

ENDS: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2010



RULES:

- **License - You must have a valid California fishing license with a blue Ocean Enhancement Stamp AND a Spiny Lobster Report Card**
 - **All persons are required to have a Spiny Lobster Report Card regardless of fishing license exemptions (ex: persons under 16, those fishing from a public pier, and/or those fishing on free fishing days are not required to have a fishing license)**
 - **You must record the month, day, location and gear code on the 1st available line prior to beginning to fish for lobster**
 - **If you change locations, you must immediately record the number of lobsters taken from that location, and then record your new location along with the month, day, and gear code on the next available line prior to beginning again**
 - **Your Spiny Lobster Report Card is only valid through December 31, 2008. If you plan to fish for lobster in 2009, you must purchase a new Spiny Lobster Report Card**
- **Size – The carapace must measure at least 3 ¼ inches. You must have a gauge with you.**
- **Limit - 7 lobsters per person at any time.**
- **Maximum of 5 hoop-nets per person.**
- **Maximum of 10 hoop-nets per boat.**
- **You are allowed to fish two (2) hoop nets per person on any public pier.**

TIPS & TRICKS:

- **Bait:** Fish carcasses work best, particularly mackerel because they are oily and smelly. You can use zip-ties to attach the carcass directly to the bottom of the net.
- **Where:** Lobsters live and hide in holes, crevices, and caves. A good spots to try for Lobster are in 15-80 feet of water, preferably near an underwater structure. Good places to try are Public piers, jetties, natural kelp reefs, break walls, artificial reefs, sunken wrecks and harbors. The sand and mud flats immediately nearby these types of structures are ideal areas to target. However, don't drop your nets on top of a wreck or rock pile. The Lobsters might eat your bait from the bottom of the net and you might snag and loose your net if it gets caught on the bottom.
- **How to use the hoop-net:** Bait your hoop net. Make sure you have floats attached to your nets. You can make your own float using a sealable container (such as a plastic milk carton) and putting an activated glow stick inside. Put your hoops out one at a time; usually spread some distance from another. By the time you have put the last one out, you can probably go check the first one. Try to get a hold of the float with the least amount of disturbance to the net below. Begin pulling the net up steadily, consistently and quickly.