

Lobster Laws

No person shall fish, have in their possession, give, receive, sell or purchase any lobster:

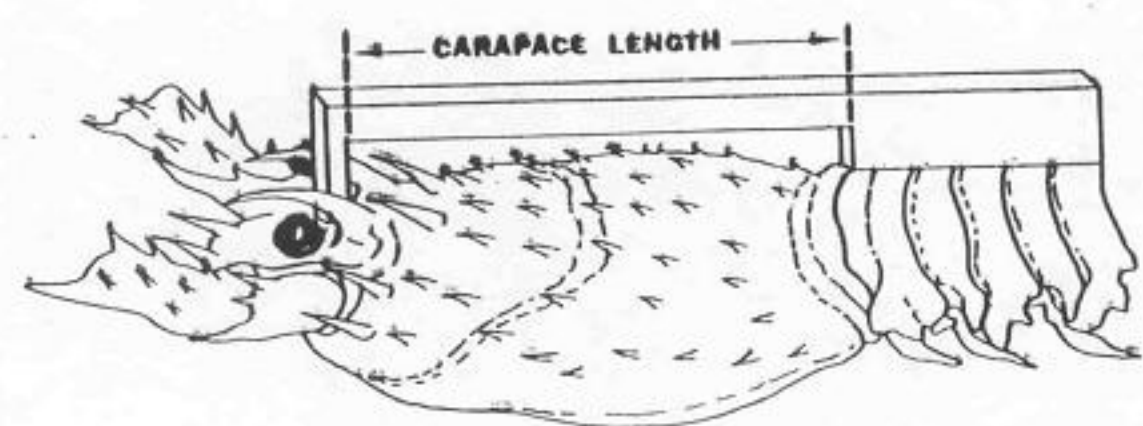
1. that is undersized (carapace less than **9.5 cm**)
2. that is carrying eggs
3. that is moulting
4. that has been speared, hooked or impaled.
5. when the lobster fishery is closed (close season) - 1st March to 1st August or as otherwise published in the *Gazette* or newspaper.

No person shall:

1. Spear, hook or attempt to spear a lobster
2. Remove eggs from a lobster or have in their possession, sell or purchase a lobster that has had the eggs removed.

The maximum penalty for each offence is **EC\$5000.00**

The correct way to measure a lobster

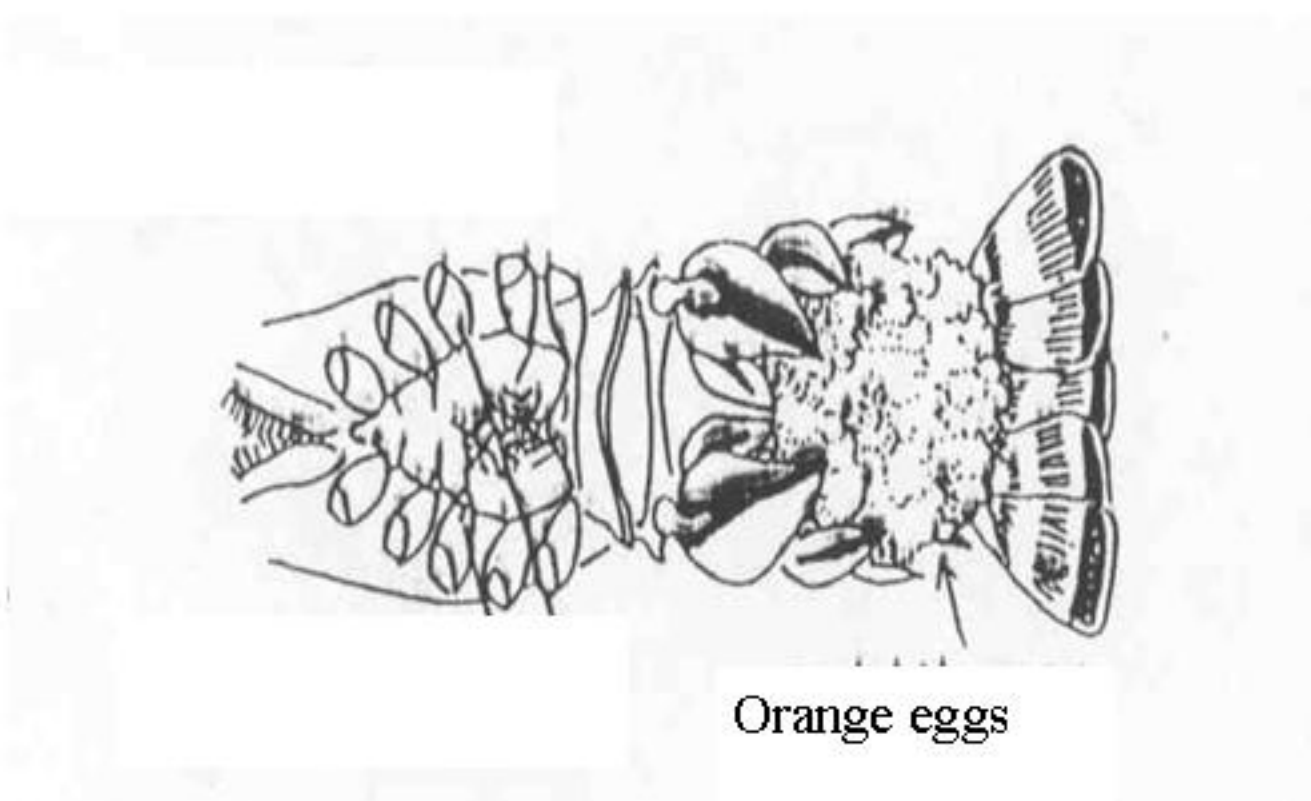


Place the lobster ruler directly behind the eye ridge. Ensure that the ruler is not placed in front of the eye ridge. This will lead to an inaccurate measurement. If the ruler is placed correctly it will hook securely on the bridge joining the rostral horns. Take the reading at the end of the carapace (see diagram above). If the measurement is less than 9.5 cm, the lobster is undersized and therefore illegal if caught, landed or sold.

DO NOT PURCHASE IT.

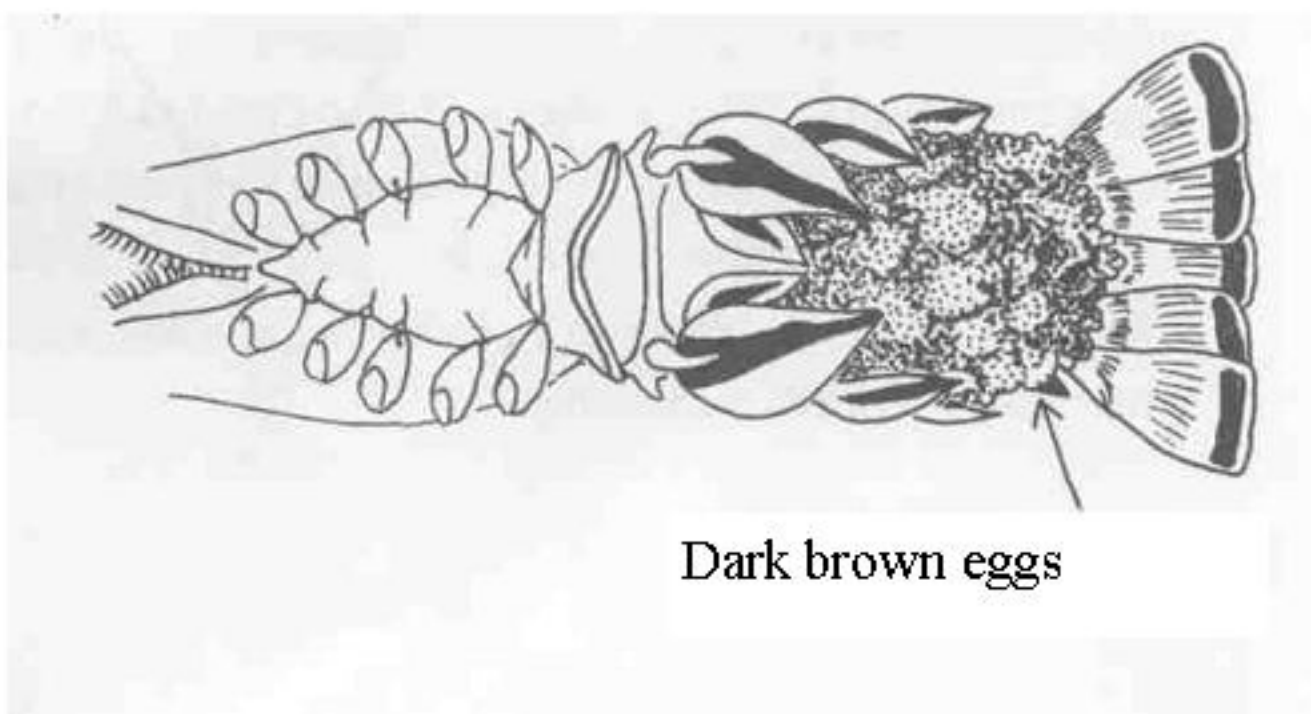
How to identify a female lobster with eggs

The female lays bright orange eggs which are carried beneath her tail. After 1-4 weeks the eggs turn brown in colour, indicating that they are ready to hatch. Since it is illegal to catch lobsters carrying eggs, persons may scrape off the eggs. However, if the eggs are removed from the mother's tail they will die. Therefore, it is essential that lobsters carrying eggs are not caught.



Orange eggs

Female lobster with orange eggs



Dark brown eggs

Female lobster with brown eggs

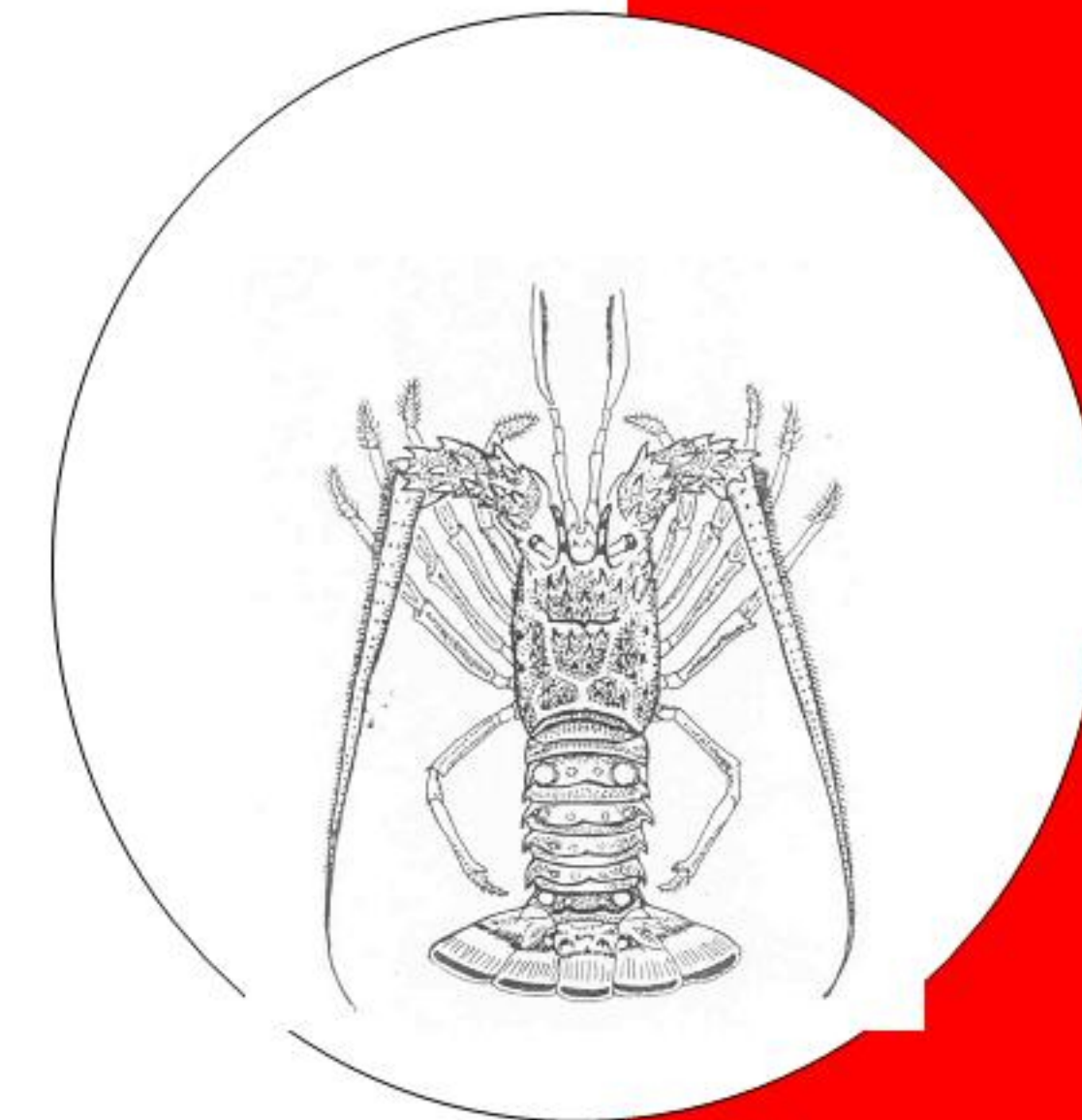
How to ensure that Your lobster is within the law

1. The lobster's carapace **must** measure at least 9.5 cm from the rostral horns to the end of the carapace.
2. The lobster must not have eggs. Eggs are either bright orange or brown and are located on the underside of the lobster. **Examine the lobster closely** to ensure that eggs have not been scraped off by someone. Evidence of scraping can also lead to a fine.
3. The lobster must not be moulting (i.e. changing its shell). **Squeeze the carapace** to make sure that it is not soft-bodied. A soft carapace is a sign of a moulting lobster.
4. **Examine the lobster** to ensure that it has not been caught by spear fishing or by using a gaff or any instrument to impale. An impaled lobster will have a hole or piercing in the body. Such fishing methods are illegal under the Fisheries Regulations. Persons are only allowed to catch lobsters with pots.
5. The Penalty for contravention of the lobster regulations is a **maximum fine of \$5000.00 per offence.**

Remember

**IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY
TO EXAMINE**

EVERY LOBSTER THAT YOU PURCHASE. !!



All about Saint Lucia's Lobsters

A guide

for

Everyone

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