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**PROCLAMATIONS, RULES AND REGULATIONS**

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**THE FISHERIES ACT**

THE FISHERIES (SPINY LOBSTER) REGULATIONS, 2026

In exercise of the power conferred upon the Minister by section 109 of the Fisheries Act, and of every other power hereunto enabling, the following Regulations are hereby made:—

- Citation.        1. These Regulations may be cited as the Fisheries (Spiny Lobster) Regulations, 2026.
- Interpretation.    2. In these Regulations—
- “authorized storage facility” means a storage facility designated by the Authority under regulation 11;
- “commercial cold storage establishment” means any premises, whether on shore or offshore, where spiny lobster is kept or stored for commercial purposes and includes a vessel;

“eating establishment” means any place where spiny lobster is prepared or sold for human consumption and includes a mobile cart or unit, a roadside stand or a container in which spiny lobster is prepared;

“middleman” means a person who buys, sells or takes spiny lobster to retailers, vendors or purveyors for commercial purposes;

“prescribed premises” means an eating establishment, hotel, an authorized storage facility or any establishment that fishes, possesses or purchases spiny lobster for commercial purposes;

“processing” means the heating, smoking, salting, marinating, dehydrating, chilling, filleting, slicing, skinning, mincing, packaging or combination thereof or any other physical or chemical treatment of spiny lobster;

“spiny lobster” means all the species of the family Palinuridae and Scyllaridae and includes the whole or part thereof (whether in or out of the shell), spiny lobster products and spiny lobster by-products;

“spiny lobster by-products” means a part, derivative or extract of a spiny lobster product that is processed in whole or in part;

“spiny lobster products” means the whole or part of the spiny lobster and includes the head and the tail.

Prohibitions regarding the sale, purchase, harvesting etc., of spiny lobster.

3.—(1) A person shall not—

- (a) possess, catch and bring ashore, disturb, molest or destroy any spiny lobster or parts thereof that is berried or undersized;
- (b) fish, harvest, catch and bring ashore or, except in accordance with regulation 7, keep spiny lobster in a kraal during the close season;
- (c) buy, sell, offer for sale or possess any spiny lobster that has—
  - (i) some or all of its eggs detached or otherwise removed or stripped; or
  - (ii) some or all of its swimmerets, pleopods, setae or fibre to which eggs are or have been attached, removed or stripped;
- (d) except in accordance with regulation 8, process, buy, sell, offer for sale or possess in whole or in part, or export any species of spiny lobster during the close season.

(2) A person shall immediately return to the fisheries waters free and alive any spiny lobster found in any trap, net, equipment or other fishing gear that is berried or undersized.

(3) A person who contravenes the provisions of this regulation commits an offence and is liable, on conviction in a Parish Court, to a fine not exceeding three million dollars or, in default of payment to a term of imprisonment not exceeding two years.

Schedule. (4) In this regulation, “undersized” means spiny lobster that does not meet the minimum size requirement for the carapace, tail or telson as specified in the Schedule.

Declaration by a person who possesses spiny lobsters. 4.—(1) A person who possess spiny lobster that was lawfully fished before the beginning of the close season and possesses that spiny lobster during the close season shall make a declaration to the Authority.

(2) The declaration under paragraph (1) shall be made, in writing or electronically, within seven days after the beginning of the close season and shall include—

- (a) the name and address of the person making the declaration;
- (b) the quantity of spiny lobster that is in the possession of the declarant;
- (c) a detailed description of the spiny lobster in the possession of the declarant specifying whether the spiny lobster is—
  - (i) the whole lobster;
  - (ii) the tail;
  - (iii) the tail meat;
  - (iv) the head;
  - (v) the head meat; or
  - (vi) any other category that may be specified by the Authority;
- (d) the location of the facility where the spiny lobster is being stored; and
- (e) any other information that the Authority may require from time to time.

(3) The Authority shall publish the names of all the persons who make a declaration in accordance with this regulation by notice in the *Gazette*.

Notification to the Authority of more than 15 kg of spiny lobster. 5.—(1) Where a person comes in possession of more than 15 kilograms of spiny lobster during the close season as a result of trade, that person shall notify the Authority within seven days of coming into possession of the spiny lobster.

- (2) The notification under paragraph (1) shall include—
- (a) the name and address of the person from whom the spiny lobster was acquired;
  - (b) the date that the person came into possession of the spiny lobster;
  - (c) the quantity of the spiny lobster that was acquired;
  - (d) a detailed description of the spiny lobster possessed, specifying whether the spiny lobster is—
    - (i) the whole lobster;
    - (ii) the tail;
    - (iii) the tail meat;
    - (iv) the head;
    - (v) the head meat;
  - (e) the location where the spiny lobster will be stored.

Seizure of lobster during close season for failing to make declaration.

6.—(1) A fishery inspector may seize any spiny lobster in whole or in part, from a fisher, middleman, the owner or operator of a prescribed premises or any other person in possession of spiny lobster, if the spiny lobster was not declared in accordance with regulation 4 or the Authority was not notified in accordance with regulation 5.

(2) The fishery inspector shall deposit spiny lobster, seized in accordance with paragraph (1), in an authorized storage facility.

Permission to keep spiny lobster in a kraal during close season.

7. A person may, in accordance with the terms of a licence, permit or authorization from the Authority, keep spiny lobster in a kraal during the close season.

Processing of spiny lobster during close season, selling, export etc.,

8.—(1) A person who makes a declaration in accordance with regulation 4 or a notification in accordance with regulation 5 may—

- (a) during the close season, process, sell, offer for sale, possess; or
- (b) export spiny lobster, in accordance with an authorization under regulation 9.

(2) It shall be lawful for a person to purchase spiny lobster from a person who makes a declaration under regulation 4 or notification under regulation 5.

Exportation of spiny lobster during close season.

9.—(1) A fisher, the owner or operator of a prescribed premises, or any other person who desires to export spiny lobster during the close season, shall apply to the Authority for authorization to export the spiny lobster.

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(2) An application under paragraph (1) shall be submitted to the Authority in writing or electronically and shall include—

- (a) the name and address of the person who intends to export the spiny lobster;
- (b) a statement that the applicant intends to export the spiny lobster that is the subject of the application;
- (c) a detailed description of the spiny lobster that the person intends to export indicating whether the spiny lobster is the whole lobster, the tail, the head, the head meat, the tail meat or any other category that may be specified by the Authority;
- (d) the name and address of the storage facility where the person intends to store the spiny lobster pending export; and
- (e) any other information that the Authority may request.

Record of  
spiny lobster  
transactions.

10.—(1) A person shall keep a record of all transactions involving the sale, purchase, processing or exportation of spiny lobster if the person—

- (a) is in charge of a prescribed premises or other establishment that possesses spiny lobster during the close season; or
- (b) comes into possession of more than 15kg of spiny lobster during the close season.

(2) The records kept under paragraph (1) shall specify—

- (a) the date of purchase of the spiny lobster;
- (b) the date of sale, export and processing of the spiny lobster;
- (c) the quantity and description of the spiny lobster;
- (d) a copy of the official receipt verifying the purchase, sale, exportation or processing of the spiny lobster under subparagraphs (a) and (b);
- (e) where the spiny lobster was obtained from a fisher, the licence number, date of issue and expiry of the licence to fish spiny lobster in respect of the fisher from whom the spiny lobster was received; and
- (f) where the spiny lobster was not obtained from a fisher, the name and address of the person or the establishment from whom the spiny lobster was received.

(3) The records required to be kept under this regulation shall be kept for a period of three years and shall be made available to a fishery inspector upon request.

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- Designation of storage facility as an authorized storage facility.
- 11.—(1) The Authority may designate a facility to be an authorized storage facility for storing spiny lobster that was seized by a fishery inspector in accordance with these Regulations.
- (2) The Authority shall cause a notice of a designation made under paragraph (1) to be published in the *Gazette*.
- Terms and conditions of a designation to store spiny lobster.
- 12.—(1) The authorized storage facility shall be subject to the terms and conditions specified in paragraph (2), in addition to any other terms and conditions that the Authority shall determine.
- (2) An authorized storage facility shall—
- (a) only accept spiny lobster that has been authorized for storage during the close season by the Authority;
  - (b) not release or deliver spiny lobster from storage spiny lobster during the close season except with the authorization of the Authority; and
  - (c) keep a record for at least seven years of all authorizations and fishery inspector approvals in respect of the storage of spiny lobster.
- (3) The record that is required to be kept under paragraph (2)(c) shall include—
- (a) the approval received from the Authority;
  - (b) the name and address of the person for whom the spiny lobster is kept;
  - (c) the quantity of spiny lobster that is to be stored;
  - (d) the date the spiny lobster was received;
  - (e) the date the spiny lobster was released, where applicable;
  - (f) the date and reason for relocation of the spiny lobster;
  - (g) the address of the place to which the spiny lobster has been relocated, if applicable;
  - (h) any other information that the Authority may require.
- Revocation of an authorization to store spiny lobster.
- 11— 13. The Authority may revoke the designation granted under regulation
- (a) if the facility is closed pursuant to the Public Health Act;
  - (b) if the Authority is satisfied that the facility fails to meet the necessary licensing requirements or commits a breach under the Fisheries Act or the Aquaculture, Inland and Marine, Products and By-Products (Inspection and Licensing) Act;

- (c) if the Authority no longer has an interest in the authorized storage facility;
- (d) the Authority is satisfied that the owner or operator of the facility no longer desires to store on behalf of the Authority; or
- (e) any other reason that the Authority may consider relevant.

Effect of revocation of the designation of an authorized storage facility.

14.—(1) Where the designation of an authorized storage facility is revoked, the facility shall not accept any seized spiny lobster for storage.

(2) Where the designation of an authorized storage facility is revoked and, at the time of revocation, the authorized storage facility has spiny lobster in storage, that spiny lobster may remain in storage at that facility under the supervision of a fishery inspector for one month from the date of revocation or such other period as the Authority may, in writing or electronically, determine.

(3) Notwithstanding paragraph (2), the fishery inspector shall transfer spiny lobster stored at an authorized storage facility to another authorized storage facility within a month from the date of revocation or such other period as the Authority may determine.

(4) The owner or operator of an authorized storage facility shall notify the Authority within 72 hours of the transfer referred to in paragraph (3).

Access to store spiny lobster in an authorized storage facility.

15.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the owner or operator of an authorized storage facility shall not permit any person access to spiny lobster held in storage at that facility during the close season.

(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply where the spiny lobster is accessed or handled by—

- (a) a fishery inspector; or
- (b) a person with an interest in safeguarding or securing the spiny lobster in circumstances that are outside the control of the owner or operator of an authorized storage facility, such circumstances including—
  - (i) earthquake, hurricane, flood or other natural disaster event; or
  - (ii) civil unrest, riot, or an act of a third party.

(3) When spiny lobster is accessed in accordance with paragraph 2(b), the owner or operator of the authorized storage facility shall notify the Authority within 72 hours of such access being given.

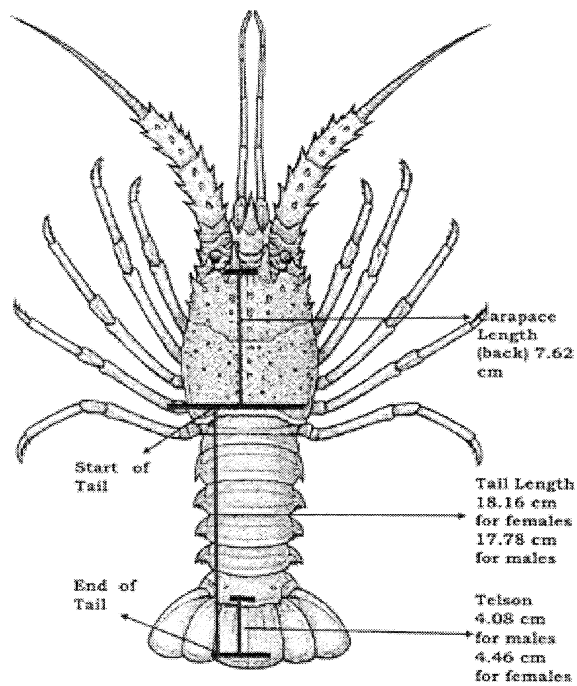
Repeal of the Fishing Industry (Spiny Lobster) Regulations, 2009. 16. The Fishing Industry (Spiny Lobster) Regulations, 2009 and regulation 14(1)(a) and (b) of the Fishing Industry Regulations 1976 are revoked.

## SCHEDULE

(Regulation 3)

*Minimum requirements for harvesting Spiny Lobster**Genus: Panulirus*

1. Measurement of the carapace: 7.62 cm (3 inches) carapace length (unsegmented body shell) measured from the anterior most edge (front) of the groove between the horns directly above the eyes, then proceeding along the mid-dorsal line (middle of the back) to the rear edge of the top part of the carapace, excluding any translucent membrane.



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SCHEDULE, *contd.*

2. Tail length: refers to the rear of the lobster after the carapace (see image of lobster), i.e. the start of the segmented part of the abdomen to the end of the telson. The minimum tail length is 18.16 cm for females and 17.78cm for males.

Tail measurement: the tail is measured along the middle of the back, from the start of the tail to the end of the tail. It is measured while being held straight and flat, with the tip fully enclosed.

*Telson Measurement*

3.—(1) In respect of the female spiny lobster, 4.46cm (1.75 inches) telson length measured lengthwise along the mid-dorsal line of the telson.

(2) In respect of the male spiny lobster, 4.08 cm (1.6 inches) telson length measured lengthwise along the mid-dorsal line of the telson.

Dated this 20th day of March, 2026.

FLOYD GREEN  
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining.

