



# Spiny Lobster Fishery Country Profile

## Anguilla

### Overview of the Fishery

- The spiny lobster fishery is small in Anguilla.
- There are only 30 boats operating in the fishery, but there are other boats operating illegally in the Anguillan waters from nearby islands.
- The primary gear is the Antillean fish pot, which consists of a steel frame over which hexagonal galvanized mesh wire is stretched in an arrow-head or chevron shaped trap with one horse-necked entrance funnel.
- A data collection program was only implemented in 2009, which reported landings of 131 tons for that year.



### Resource Status

- Anguilla has not conducted any stock assessments for spiny lobster, but it is believed that the stock is **fully exploited** in Anguillan waters.



### Economic and Social Importance

- The spiny lobster fishery is the most profitable fishery in Anguilla, and from a socio-economic standpoint, lobster fishers seem to be better off financially than those targeting finfish.
- The primary use of lobster is for the tourist industry, with lobster fishers selling their catch directly to hotels and restaurants.
- Anguilla exports very little lobster. About 1% of total catch value is exported, worth about US \$21,600.
- There are no lobster cooperatives in Anguilla.

### Management Objectives and Regulations

- In Anguilla, the current regulations specific to the Caribbean spiny lobster include:
  - Minimum size limits (carapace length >95mm; tail weight >200g or 7.05oz);
  - Prohibition on taking berried, tar-spotted or molting individuals;
  - Prohibition of the stripping of egg-bearing females;
  - Prohibition on taking lobsters by spear gun, harpoon or hook of any description.
- Lobsters must be landed whole, unless they are processed at sea by the holder of and in accordance with the terms of a Process Export License.
- Anguilla's Fisheries Legislation also makes provisions for closed seasons, which can be implemented at any time for the spiny lobster as well as the spotted spiny lobster. No official closed season is currently in place.



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