



Spiny Lobster Fishery Country Profile

Dominica

Overview of the Fishery

- The Caribbean spiny lobster fishery in Dominica is primarily a by-catch fishery with few fishers targeting the resource directly.
- Only 0.98 tons of lobster have been landed from 2007 - 2010 inclusive. Over this short time period, landings have shown an increasing trend, roughly doubling from one year to the next.
- The majority of lobsters are taken with pots set in deeper water. Trap loss is high due to strong currents on the narrow shelf. Beach seines, hand lines and spear guns are also used.
- Major fishing areas for lobster (in order of prominence) include: Fond St. Jean, Marigot, Bioche, Colihaut, Saint Sauveur and Scotts Head.

Economic and Social Importance

- Landed lobsters are used exclusively for the domestic markets, which are said to be quite limited.
- The average price for a lobster is between US \$4-6.
- No mechanism for export is currently in place.
- There are about ten fisheries cooperatives on the island, plus the umbrella organisation NAFCOOP (National Association of Fisherfolk Cooperatives)

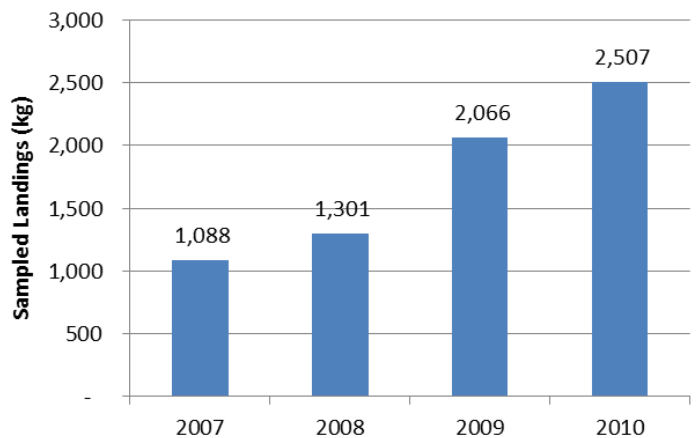
Management Objectives and Regulations

- The primary management objective for the Dominican spiny lobster fishery is to rebuild stocks in depleted areas.
- The lobster fishery is largely unregulated in Dominica as these regulations are currently not in force but rather used as a matter of policy.
- The closed season for lobster is the 30th day of April to the 1st day of September in every year. During this time it is illegal to catch, buy, sell, or possess any of the following:
 - A female lobster carrying eggs
 - Lobsters from which the eggs have been removed
 - Lobsters with soft shells (moulting)
 - Lobsters with a carapace length less than 3 inches
 - Lobsters which are undersized
 - Lobsters with body length of less than 9 inches
 - Lobsters weighing less than one and a half (1.5) pounds (680 grams)
 - Lobsters which are not caught by hand, loop, pot or trap
- Anyone found violating these regulations is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine of up to \$5000.00 and in default of payment

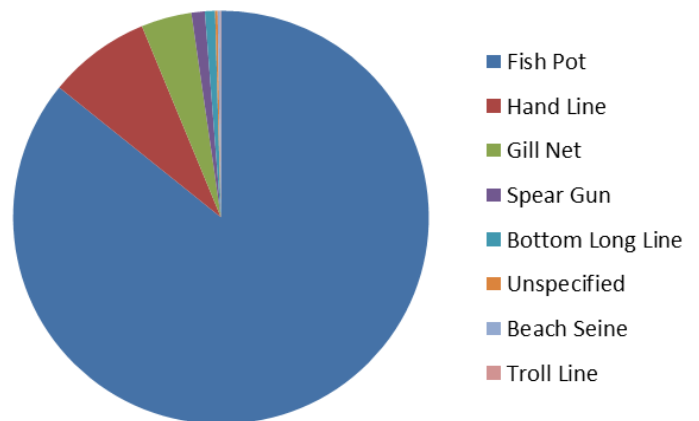
Resource Status

- There is no available data on the status of Dominica's spiny lobster stock.
- Lobster are targeted by a few fishers, but caught mainly as by-catch during other fishing operations. The stock is considered to be underdeveloped.

Lobster Landings (2007 to 2010)



Lobster Landings by Gear (2007 to 2010)



Caribbean
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Fisheries
Mechanism

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