



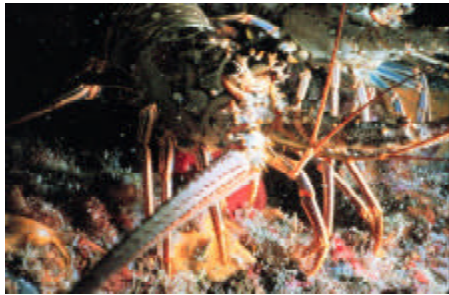
# Economic Impact of the Recreational Lobster Fishery On Monroe County, 2001



The Florida Marine Research Institute (FMRI) has conducted a recreational lobster survey for more than 10 years. The primary purpose of the survey is to develop estimates of recreational catch in an effort to support the management of spiny lobsters.

## Background

In 1992, FMRI included a socio-economic component to the survey, which gathered information



on spending by recreational spiny lobster fishermen and information on their willingness to pay for increases in catch rates. In 2001, NOAA's National Ocean Service, Special Projects Office (SPO) joined with FMRI to replicate the 1992 study. SPO entered a contract with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to provide a local group of volunteers to assist with mailing and data entry for the survey.

## Person-Days

In total there were almost 230 thousand person-days of lobster fishing in 2001. About 170 thousand (75%) of these occurred during the regular season and about 58 thousand (25%) were in the two-day season. Visitors constituted 180 thousand (79%) of total person-days, while residents had about 49 thousand (21%) participating in lobster fishing. There was not much variance between residents and visitors with regard to their relative

Person-Days			
Season	Resident	Visitor	Total
Two-day	12,306	45,962	58,268
Regular	36,966	134,161	171,127
Total	49,272	180,123	229,395

participation in the two-day versus the regular season.

## Expenditures

Visitors spent slightly more per person-day in the two-day season (\$129.41) than in the regular season (\$122.35). Residents exhibited the opposite pattern, spending more during the regular season (\$42.83) than during the two-day season (\$33.99). In total residents spent about 33% of what visitors spent per person-day.

Expenditures per Person-Day		
Season	Resident	Visitor
Two-day	\$ 33.99	\$ 129.41
Regular	\$ 42.83	\$ 122.35
Total	\$ 40.61	\$ 124.15

By way of comparison, general visitors to Monroe county spent less per person-day (\$91.57) than those diving for lobsters, however, visitors who used reefs spent more per person-day (\$153.37) than those fishing for

Comparison of Per Person-Day Expenditures		
Season	Resident	Visitor
200-2001 Reef Users	\$ 43.60	\$ 153.37
2000-2001 General Visitors	-	\$ 91.57



lobsters. For residents, reef users spent more per person-day (\$43.60) than those participating in the two-day season and just slightly more per person-day than those participating in the regular season.

In total, about \$24 million was spent on recreational lobster fishing in 2001. About \$18 million (74%) was spent during the regular season and about \$6.3 million (26%) was spent in the two-day season. Visitors spent about \$22 million (92% of the total), while residents spent about \$2 million. Resident spending during the regular season was about 79% of the total, while visitor spending during the regular season was about 73% of the total.

Total Expenditures (millions \$)			
Season	Resident <sup>1</sup>	Visitor	Total
Two-day	0.418	5.948	6.366
Regular	1.583	16.415	17.998
Total	2.001	22.363	24.364

### Market Impacts

Recreational lobster fishing contributed about \$26.4 million in output/sales to Monroe County in 2001. About \$19.5 million (74% of the total) was from the regular season spending, and about \$7 million (26% of the total) was as a result of spending during the two day season. Visitors accounted for about \$25 million of total output/sales (95%), while resident spending resulted in about \$1.4 million (5% of the total) in output/sales impact. It is important to bear in mind that resident spending does not have multiplier impacts associated with it.

Total Output/Sales (millions \$)			
Season	Resident <sup>1</sup>	Visitor	Total
Two-day	0.293	6.662	6.955
Regular	1.108	18.384	19.492
Total	1.401	25.046	26.447

1. No Multiplier Impacts

The recreational lobster fishery contributed about \$8.4 million in income to the Monroe County Economy. Of this, about 6.1 million (73% of the total) was from the regular season and about \$2.3 million was from the two-day season. Visitors accounted for about \$8 million in income (96% of the total) and residents

accounted for about \$300 thousand (4% of the total).

Total Income (millions \$)			
Season	Resident <sup>1</sup>	Visitor	Total
Two-day	0.066	2.207	2.273
Regular	0.251	5.884	6.135
Total	0.317	8.091	8.408

1. No Multiplier Impacts

In total, 469 jobs in Monroe County resulted from the recreational lobster fishery. Of these, 342 were from the regular season and 127 were from the two-day season. Spending by visitors resulted in an impact of 449 jobs, while resident spending resulted in 20 jobs.

Total Employment (# of jobs)			
Season	Resident <sup>1</sup>	Visitor	Total
Two-day	4	123	127
Regular	16	326	342
Total	20	449	469

1. No Multiplier Impacts

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