

Spiny Lobster and Prawn (Shrimp) Regulations, 1973

Article 1. - These regulations may be cited as the Spiny Lobster and Prawn (Shrimp) Regulations, 1973.

Article 2. - No person shall fish for, take, or land from any vessel any spiny lobster the carapace length of which is less than eight centimetres (3.15 inches) or the tail length of which is less than eleven and one half centimetres (4.50 inches).

Article 3. - No person shall purchase or have in his possession any spiny lobster the carapace length of which is less than eight centimetres (3.15 inches) or the tail length of which is less than eleven and one half centimetres (~~4.50 inches~~).

Article 4. - (1) No person shall fish for, or take any spiny lobster that is in the soft-shell stage.

(2) No person shall sell, purchase or have in his possession any spiny lobster which is in the soft-shell stage.

Article 5. - No person shall land from any vessel or sell or have in his possession any spiny lobster tail which:

- (a) is in such a condition that it cannot be measured; or
- (b) has the calcified bar of the tergum of the first abdominal segment fractured.

Article 6. - (1) Every person who takes any spiny lobster that is carrying external eggs shall immediately return it alive with as little injury as possible into the water from which it was taken

(2) No person shall remove the external eggs from any female lobster or from any spiny lobster tail.

(3) No person shall buy, sell or expose for sale, or have in his possession any female spiny lobster or any spiny lobster tail from which any of the external eggs have been removed.

(4) No person shall buy, sell, expose for sale or have in his possession any female spiny lobster or spiny lobster tail which is carrying external eggs.

(5) No person shall buy, sell, expose for sale or have in his possession any female spiny lobster or spiny lobster tail from which any of the peopods or swimmerets or any part thereof have been removed.

Article 7. - The Director may by notification published in the Gazette specify the size and type of lobster pot or other fishing gear that may be used for the purpose of fishing or taking of spiny lobster.

Article 8. - No person shall have in his possession, or expose for sale or sell any spiny lobster meat except on the authority of a permit issued to him in that behalf by the Director.

Article 9. - (1) A permit issued by the Director in terms of regulation 8 shall be substantially in Form A set out in the First Schedule hereto and shall be subject to the conditions specified therein.

(2) Every application for a permit under paragraph (1) shall be accompanied by an application fee of fifty rupees.

Article 10. - No person shall except on the authority of a permit issued to him by the Director in that behalf:

(a) fish for, take, or land from any vessel any spiny lobster;

(b) sell, purchase or have in his possession any spiny lobster;

the carapace length of which is in excess of eight centimetres (3.15 inches) or the tail length of which is in excess of eleven and one half centimetres (4.50 inches).

Article 11. - Every permit issued by the Director under regulation 10 shall be substantially in Form B set out in the First Schedule hereto and shall be subject to the conditions specified therein.

Article 12. - Every application for a permit under regulation 10 shall be accompanied by an application fee of two rupees.

Article 13. - (1) No person shall export or pack for export or ship for export any spiny lobster or spiny lobster meat or spiny lobster tails except on the authority of a permit issued by the Director in that behalf.

(2) Every permit issued by the Director under paragraph (1) shall be substantially in Form C set out in the First Schedule hereto and shall be subject to the conditions specified therein.

(3) Every application for a permit under paragraph (1) shall be accompanied by a fee of twenty-five rupees.

Article 14. - Every person carrying on business as an exporter of spiny lobster, spiny lobster meat or spiny lobster tails shall ensure that every container in which such spiny lobster, spiny lobster meat or spiny lobster tails, is packed for export bears the date of packing.

Article 15. - The provisions of regulations 2, 3 and 4 of those regulations shall apply to any spiny lobster:

(a) Which is exported or packed or shipped for export;

(b) out of which lobster meat is extracted or processed for export; and

(c) the tail of which is processed or packed for export.

Article 16. - Where there is any doubt as to the carapace length of any spiny lobster that may be exported under these regulations the tail length of such lobster shall be used as the standard of measurement.

Article 17. - For the purpose of ascertaining the tail length of any spiny lobster, the tail of such lobster shall be pressed flat on a board with the ventral surface downwards.

Article 18. - The minimum tail length of any spiny lobster that may be exported shall be eleven and one half centimetres (4.50 inches).

Article 19. - The tail length of any spiny lobster shall be the measurement of the tail from the anterior surface of the calcified bar of the tergum of the first abdominal segment along the median line to the posterior surface of the telson, as specified in the sketch shown in the Second Schedule hereto.

Article 20. - The Director may by notification published in the Gazette demarcate Ceylon Waters into such specified areas as he may deem necessary for the purpose of breeding and for the protection of the spiny lobster.

Article 21. - The Director may prohibit or restrict the taking or fishing of spiny lobster in any area specified in the notification under regulation 20 during such period as he may specify in such notification.

Article 22. - No person shall, notwithstanding that he may be the holder of a permit under these regulations, fish for, or take any spiny lobster in that part of the sea lying between a straight line running due West from the Southern most extremity of the Mount Lavinia Hotel and a straight line running due West of the Northern most extremity of the Galle Buck light house.

Article 23. - No person shall, without reasonable excuse notwithstanding that he may be the holder of a permit under these regulations, have in his possession whether in any fishing boat or otherwise any spiny lobster, spiny lobster meat, spiny lobster tails, or any lobster pot in that part of the sea to which regulation 22 applies.

Article 24. - (1) Every person carrying on the business of processing spiny lobster, spiny lobster tails, prawn (shrimp) or prawn (shrimp) tails for export from Sri Lanka shall:

- (a) maintain records in such form as may be required by the Director of:
 - (i) the number and weight of spiny lobster, spiny lobster tails, prawn (shrimp) or prawn (shrimp) tails received each day at the premises where he carried on such business;
 - (ii) the person or persons from whom the spiny lobster, spiny lobster tails, prawn (shrimp) or prawn (shrimp) tails were received; and

(iii) the number of containers and the weight of spiny lobster, spiny lobster tails, prawn (shrimp) or prawn (shrimp) tails packed in such containers for export in the premises where he carries on such business; and

(b) Send a copy of every bill of lading issued to him by the exporter to the Director.

(2) Every person carrying on business as aforesaid shall at any time during his ordinary hours of business, on being requested to do so by the Director or his authorized representative produce for inspection all or any of the records required to be maintained under paragraph (1).

(3) The Director or his authorized representative is empowered to open any container in which any spiny lobsters, spiny lobster tails, prawn (shrimp) prawn (shrimp) tails have been packed for export during the course of any inspection carried out under the provisions of paragraph (2) for the purpose of checking or verifying the accuracy of the records.

(4) Every entry in the records required to be maintained under these regulations shall be labelled or marked:

(a) With the serial number of each container in which spiny lobster, spiny lobster tails, prawn (shrimp) or prawn (shrimp) tails have been packed; and

(b) with the date of packing which may be a code known to the Director or his authorized representative.

(5) Every person carrying on the business of processing spiny lobsters, spiny lobster tails, prawn (shrimp) or prawn (shrimp) tails shall ensure that every container packed for export bears a label or marking clearly showing the number of spiny lobster, spiny lobster tails, prawn (shrimp) or prawn (shrimp) tails packed in such container and the batch number of such container. Any such batch number may be a code known to the Director or his authorized representative.

Article 25. - In these regulations:

"carapace" means the outer cover of the cephalothorax or fused portion of the head and thorax of the spiny lobster;

"carapace length" means the length of the carapace measured from the mid-point of the anterior border of the carapace between the base of the two rostral horns along the mid-line to the posterior border of the carapace;

"Director" shall have the same meaning as in the Ordinance;

"lobster pot" includes lobster basket or any other device used for catching spiny lobsters;

"soft-shell" means the quality of the shell of the spiny lobster after moulting before it has hardened;

"spiny lobster" means any of the following species of rock lobsters:

Panulirus homarus, Panulirus longipes,
Panulirus versicolor, Panulirus ornatus,
Panulirus pencillatus and Panulirus polyphagus;

"Ceylon waters" shall have the same meaning as in the Ordinance;

"take" shall have the same meaning as in the Ordinance;

"telson" means the terminal abdominal joint of the spiny lobster;

"tergum" means the dorsal shell of the abdomen of the spiny lobster.

FIRST SCHEDULE

FORM A

PERMIT FOR THE SALE OF SPINY LOBSTER MEAT
(REGULATIONS 8 AND 9)

of

having paid a fee of Rupees (Rs.) is hereby authorized under the Spiny Lobster and Prawn (Shrimp) Regulations 1973, to possess, expose for sale or sell any spiny lobster meat.

2. This permit shall, unless earlier cancelled be valid until.
3. This permit is subject to the following conditions:
 - (1) This permit is personal to the holder named herein and shall not be transferable.
 - (2) This permit is subject to the provisions of the aforementioned regulations.

Director of Fisheries

FORM B

SPINY LOBSTER FISHING PERMIT (REGULATIONS 10 AND 11)

of

having paid a fee of Rupees (Rs.) is hereby authorized under the Spiny Lobster and Prawn (Shrimp) Regulations 1973, to:

- (a) fish for, take, or land from any vessel any spiny lobster;
- (b) sell, purchase or have in his possession any spiny lobster;

the carapace length of which is in excess of eight centimetres or the tail length of which is in excess of eleven and one half centimetres.

2. This permit shall, unless earlier cancelled be valid until

3. This permit is subject to the following conditions:

- (i) This permit is personal to the holder named herein and shall not be transferable.
- (ii) This permit is subject to the provisions of the aforementioned regulations.

Date:

Director of Fisheries

FORM C

PERMIT FOR THE EXPORT OF SPINY LOBSTERS (REGULATION 13)

of

having paid a fee of Rupees (Rs.) is hereby authorized under the Spiny Lobster and Prawn (Shrimp) Regulations 1973, to export, pack for export or ship for export any spiny lobster or spiny lobster meat or spiny lobster tails.

2. This permit shall unless earlier cancelled be valid until:

3. This permit is subject to the following conditions:

- (a) this permit is personal to the holder herein named and shall not be transferable.
- (b) this permit is subject to the provisions of the aforementioned regulations.

Date:

Director of Fisheries