



# Spiny Lobster Fishery Country Profile

## Saint Kitts & Nevis

### Overview of the Fishery

- The Caribbean spiny lobster fishery in St. Kitts and Nevis is a small year-round fishery.
- The fishery is artisanal in nature, with most full-time fishers averaging about 2 or 3 trips per week.
- Landings have fluctuated considerably since 1999, ranging from 2.72 - 28.95 tons a year.
- On St. Kitts, the Fisheries Department estimates that 90% of lobster landed is taken by traps.
- Most fishing is on the north and east coasts of St. Kitts. Dieppe Bay is considered the main lobster landing area.
- On Nevis, an estimated 65% of lobsters caught are taken by SCUBA divers, mainly from the bank to the south of the island.
- Most fishing is done from small wooden open boats with outboard engines.

### Resource Status

- Lobster populations are considered to be **over-exploited** in nearshore areas.
- Fishers have reported increasing scarcity in traditional fishing areas.

Production and value of spiny lobster landed in St. Kitts from 1999-2006 (adapted from CRFM 2008)

Year	Production (tons)	Value (USD)
1999	16.05	142,622.08
2000	5.93	52,666.61
2001	16.90	150,177.63
2002	10.59	94,133.24
2003*	2.72	25,288.86
2004	4.22	37,466.63
2005	28.95	257,288.63
2006	14.49	128,755.43

\* Note that 2003 data is incomplete.

### Economic and Social Importance

- The spiny lobster in St. Kitts and Nevis is primarily small-scale.
- About 75% of the catch is sold to hotels and the remainder is exported.
- Most exports of lobster are to St. Maarten, Anguilla and the French Antilles.
- Lobster exports have decreased significantly over the years and now only minimal quantities are exported.
- The export of lobster from St. Kitts and Nevis remains primarily intra-regional. Approximately 19-37% of lobsters are exported to the French Islands, Montserrat and Anguilla.



Caribbean spiny lobster export and value for Nevis 1996 – 2000 (adapted from CFRAMP, 2001)

Year	Export (lbs)	Value (USD)
1996	2253.12	11,070
1997	0	0
1998	3220.95	15,830
1999	11514.74	56,670
2000	8406.23	41,371

### Management Objectives and Regulations

- The primary objective for the management of spiny lobster in St. Kitts and Nevis is to rebuild stocks in depleted areas.
- Some of the regulations specific to the spiny lobster (according to the Fisheries Act) include:
  - Minimum size limits (carapace length > 95mm);
  - Prohibition on taking berried or moulting individuals;
  - Ban on taking lobsters that are not whole;
  - Prohibition on use of spear guns;
  - Prohibition of SCUBA unless permission is granted;
  - Requirements for marking of traps.



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