



Consumer, we count on you. Be part of this campaign: Do your part!

What can we do to be legal consumers?
Do only consume lobsters within allowable sizes and not caught during fisheries closure.

- Lobsters fisheries fleet regulation,
- definition of allowable fishing gears,
- training for building and using lobster's traps called "covos" and "manzús",
- seizing illegal fishing gears,
- expanding fisheries closure time, and
- compliance and enforcement measures.

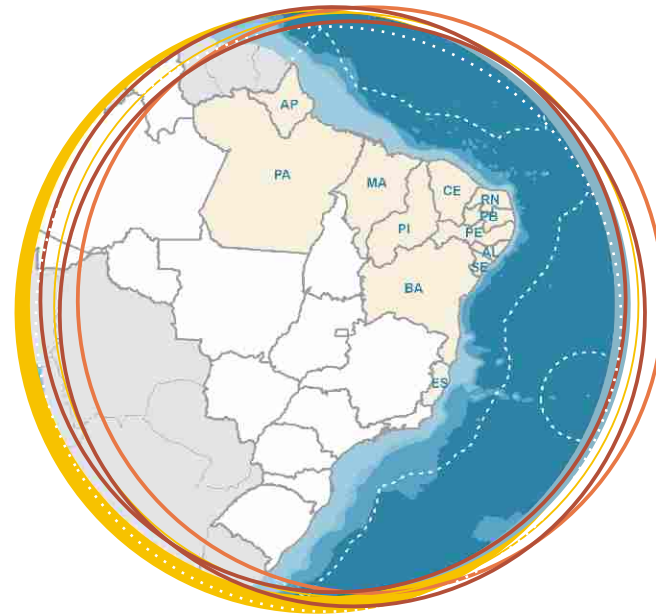
The federal government has created the National Committee for the Sustainable Management of Lobsters, which comprises the fisheries sector and the society. Some of the main measures developed by this Committee are:

Lobsters are considered an exquisite delicatessen caught on coastal areas from Espírito Santo to Amapá States. Nevertheless, they figure amongst the most threatened fisheries resources.

To overcome this situation we need to take fisheries regulating measures – that will guarantee fisheries are carried out in a sustainable way, such as the establishment of fisheries closure and minimum allowable catch sizes, among others.

In order to be efficient, these measures need to count with the cooperation of the whole society.

Be a responsible consumer!



Photos: Ângela Magalhães, Carla Marques, Carlos Eduardo Stein, Francisco Pedro da Fonseca Neto, Nilamton de Oliveira Leite Júnior and Sandra Magalhães.

What are the minimum allowable sizes?

Why is that so important?

The minimum allowable size is a guarantee that the lobsters have reached adult age and have laid eggs at least once.

To guarantee lobsters reproduction the minimum allowable size, established by Ibama legal acts, must be respected **all year round**.

The allowable catch and commercialization size for the red spiny lobster is, at least, 13 centimeters of tail, and for the green cape lobster 11 centimeters of tail. If under these sizes, lobsters catch and commercialization is not permitted.

Did you know that although a female lobster can lay between 150 hundred thousand to 300 hundred thousand eggs in one time, only 1% of the eggs become an adult lobster?

The number changes with species, size and age, and development depends on environmental conditions.



What is the lobster fisheries closure?

The fisheries closure is a time period in each year when fisheries practices are not allowed in order to protect lobsters on their reproductive phase. The lobsters' fisheries closure is established by legal acts – edited by the **Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources** (IBAMA). This measure is essential to allow protection and survival of the species.

The lobsters fisheries closure is set from December to May throughout the Brazilian coast. During this time, fisheries is prohibited. Be informed with the official institutions.

Is the consumption of lobsters allowed during this time?
Yes, provided they do not have been caught during fisheries closure. If they are sold as fresh lobster, it is a sign that it was caught at the prohibited period.

What must we observe during fisheries closure?

Check if lobsters have not been caught during fisheries closure. Do not consume fresh lobsters during this time.



Are there many lobster species in Brazil?

Yes, Brazil has five lobster species.

The most significant in national fisheries, the Caribbean Spiny Lobster (*Panulirus argus*) and Smoothtail Spiny Lobster (*l. laevicauda*) have catch regulation already in place.

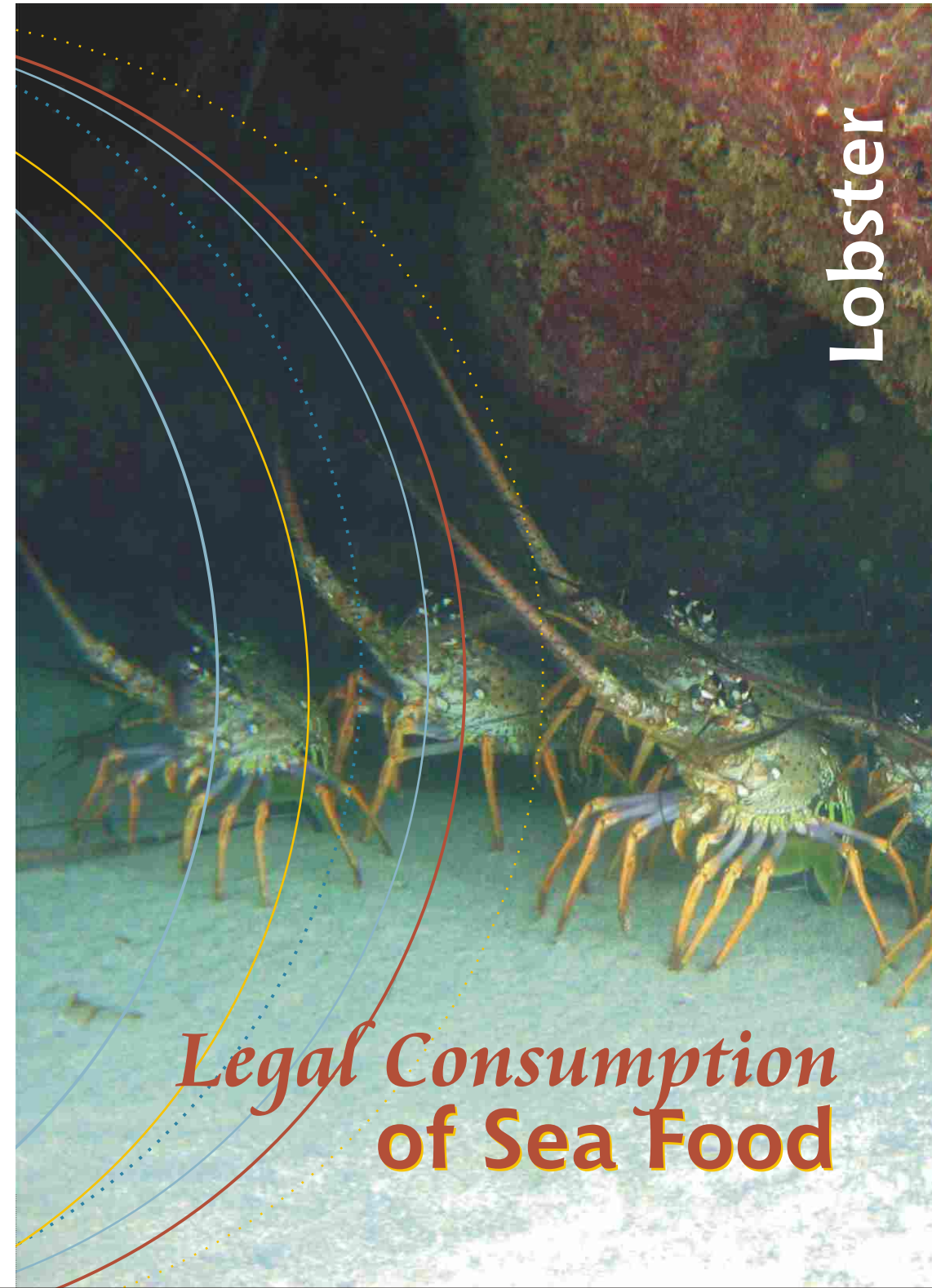
Other species include the small lobster (*Panulirus echinatus*) and the lobster "sapata" (*Scyllarides brasiliensis* and *Scyllarides deflois*), lesser exploited in the lobster fisheries and not threatened.



Legal Consumption of Sea Food

Have you ever tasted the delicious Brazilian fish with shrimp dish called "moqueca"? Or the great variety of famous lobster dishes from the Brazilian cuisine? Many of us appreciate seafood as a tasteful and healthy food.

Seafood also means fisheries resources that, despite the ocean hugeness, are not infinite. The consumption of illegal fisheries has led to an overexploitation of nearly 80% of fish stocks, beyond nature's capacity to restore itself. To continue enjoying seafood we must be responsible consumers and hence avoiding the extinction of some already threatened species.



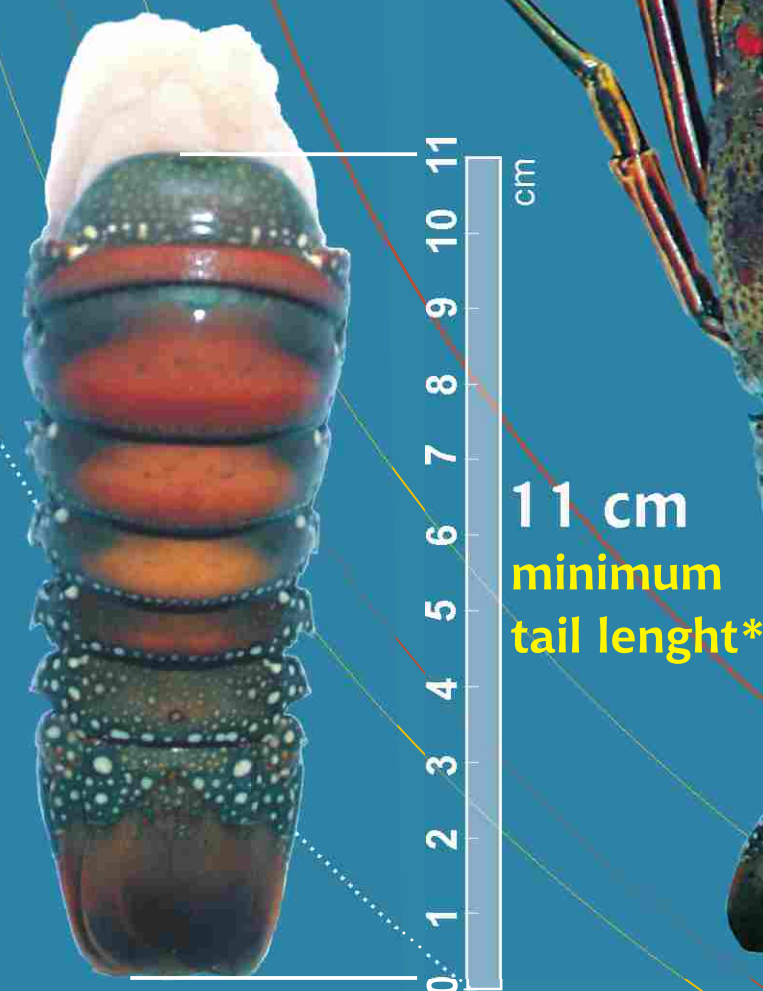
Legal Consumption of Sea Food

Lobster

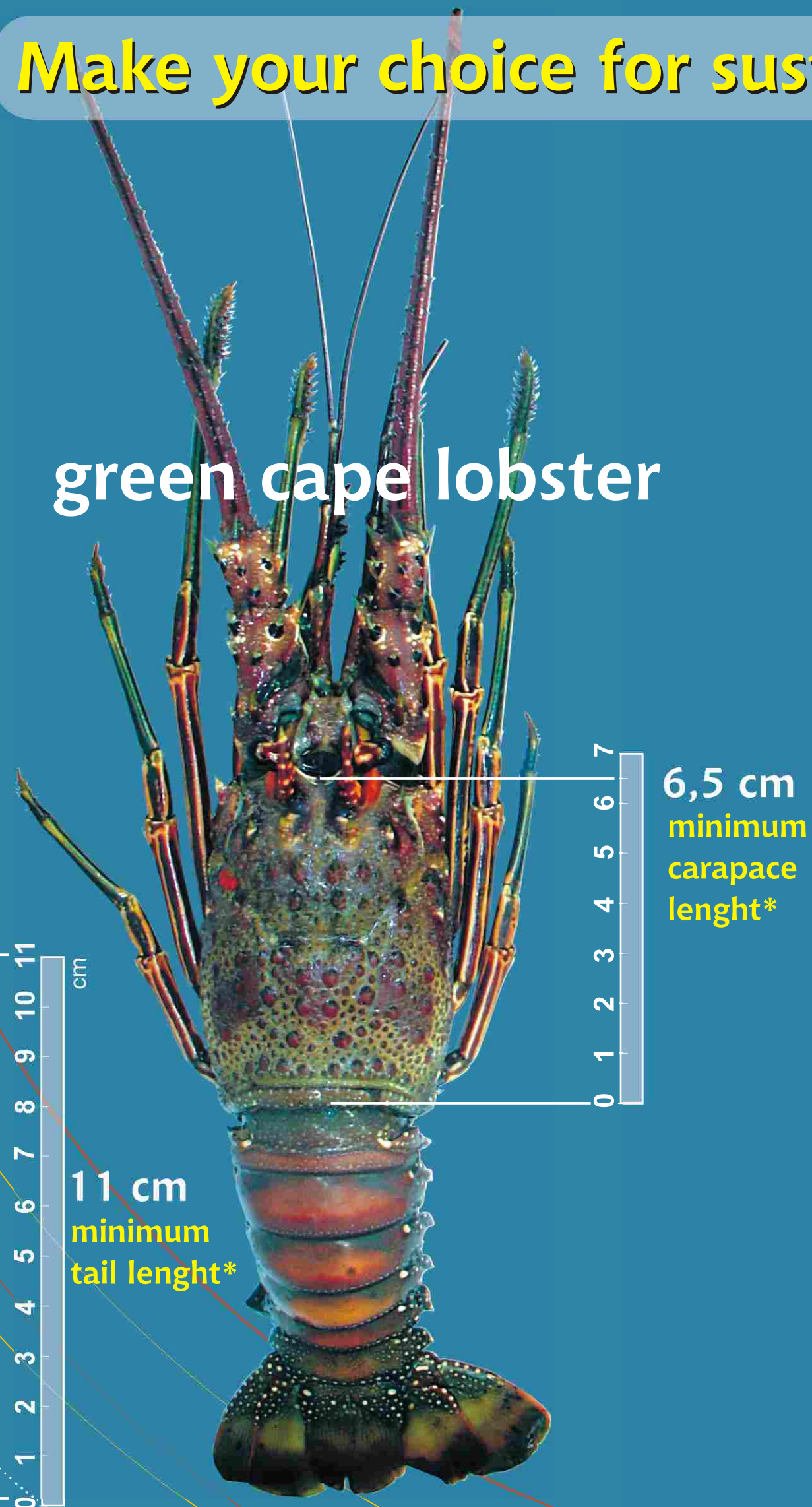
Make your choice for sustainability: buy the legal size.

green cape lobster

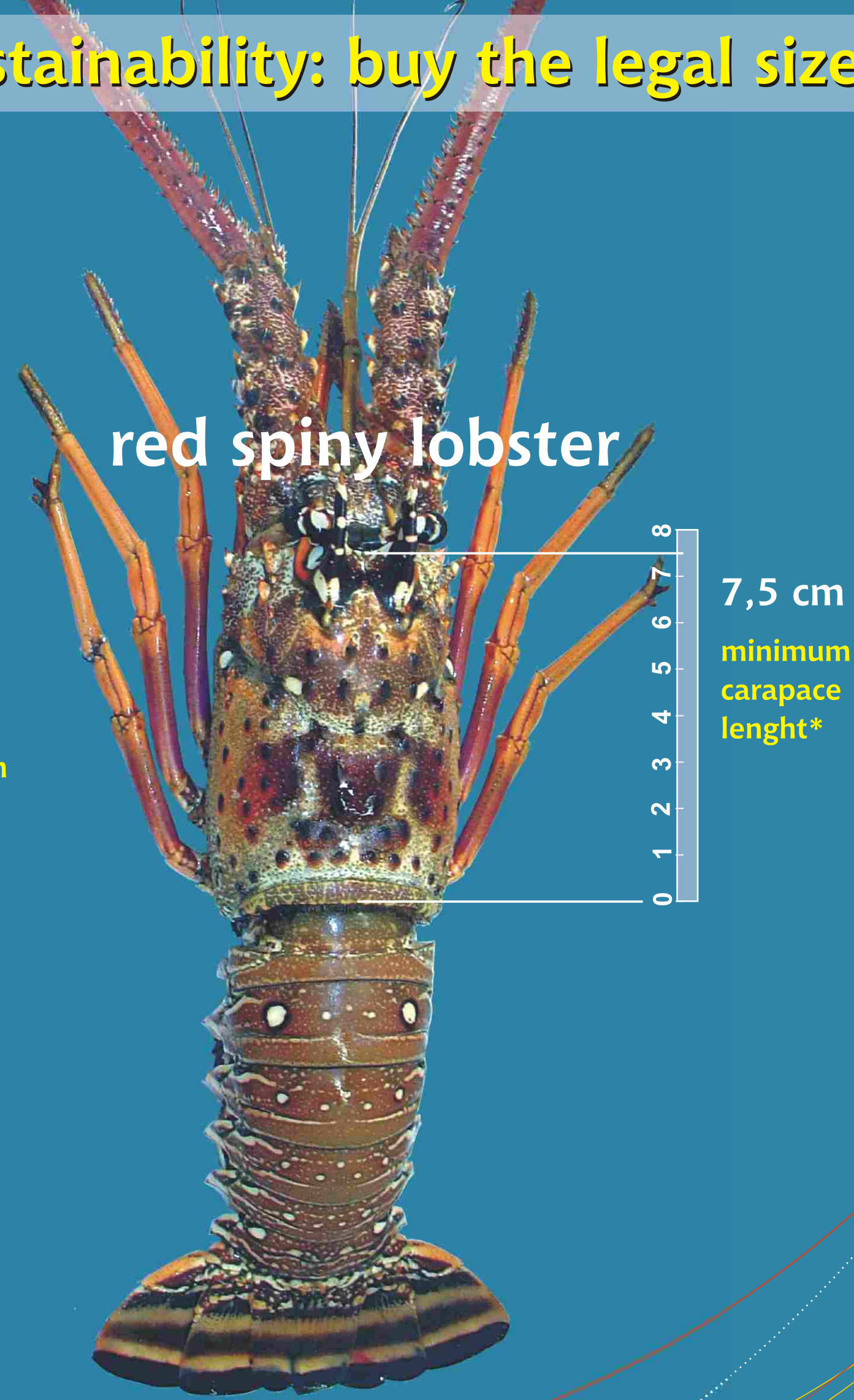
red spiny lobster



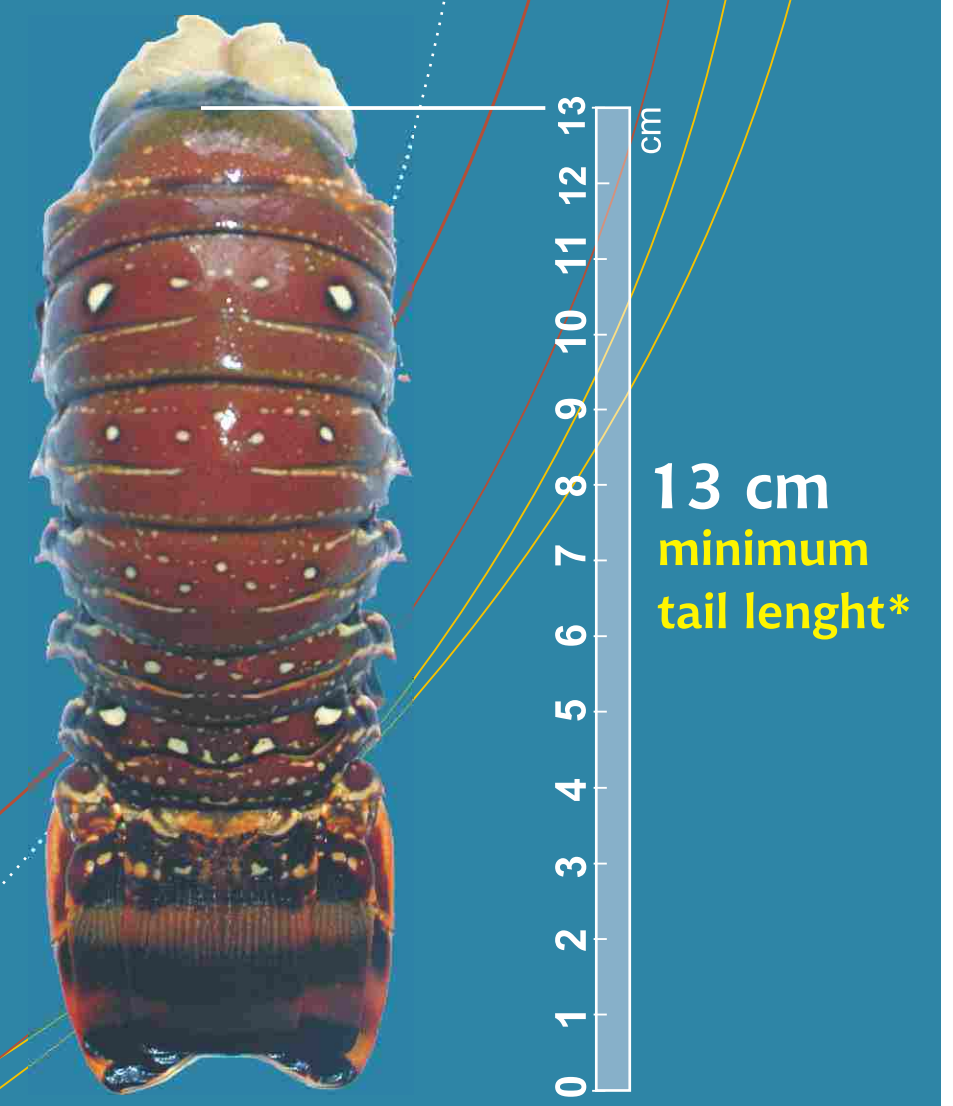
11 cm
minimum
tail length*



6,5 cm
minimum
carapace
length*



7,5 cm
minimum
carapace
length*



13 cm
minimum
tail length*

To denounce: IBAMA green line - 0800 618080

*Normative Instruction IBAMA n.138, December 6th, 2006 (pictures and measures in real scale)



Special Secretariat of
Aquiculture and Fishing

Ministry of
the Environment

