Lobsters are another group of decapod crustaceans. Like shrimps and crabs, they generally have a cephalothorax, with five pairs of walking legs and an elongated abdomen that ends as a broad tail fan. Clawed lobsters have their first pair of walking legs (pereiopods) modified into claws while spiny and slipper lobsters lack such claws. Lobster size ranges from few centimetres to 60 cm but 1 m long (20 kg) individuals were recorded. This is explained by the fact that lobsters grow all their lives and some can live up to a 100 years. Lobsters are usually either predators, feeding on molluscs and sea urchins, or scavengers feeding on dead carcases or detritus.

There are few hundreds of lobster species around the world. They are almost exclusively marine and are found on rocky, sandy or muddy substrates, where they live in crevices or burrows. They live mainly in habitats ranging from the surface, down to around 200–300 m depths, where they crawl slowly on the bottom in search for food. The broad tail fan allows them to escape potential dangers by swimming quickly backwards.

About 150 species of lobsters are important as seafood in the world today, and in the Mediterranean seven species are of economic importance. Total lobster landings between 2000 and 2007 in the Mediterranean and Black Sea (FAO area 37) amounted to about 5 000 tonnes/year. Total landings for the area covered by the guide are about 300 tonnes/year (2000–2007). These numbers are considered to be slightly underestimated as some countries lack proper fishery statistics and do not report their catches accurately.

The broad tail fan allows them to escape potential dangers by swimming quickly backwards.

There are few hundreds of lobster species around the world. They are almost exclusively marine and are found on rocky, sandy or muddy substrates, where they live in crevices or burrows. They live mainly in habitats ranging from the surface, down to around 200–300 m depths, where they crawl slowly on the bottom in search for food. The broad tail fan allows them to escape potential dangers by swimming quickly backwards.

About 150 species of lobsters are important as seafood in the world today, and in the Mediterranean seven species are of economic importance. Total lobster landings between 2000 and 2007 in the Mediterranean and Black Sea (FAO area 37) amounted to about 5 000 tonnes/year. Total landings for the area covered by the guide are about 300 tonnes/year (2000–2007). These numbers are considered to be slightly underestimated as some countries lack proper fishery statistics and do not report their catches accurately.

About 150 species of lobsters are important as seafood in the world today, and in the Mediterranean seven species are of economic importance. Total lobster landings between 2000 and 2007 in the Mediterranean and Black Sea (FAO area 37) amounted to about 5 000 tonnes/year. Total landings for the area covered by the guide are about 300 tonnes/year (2000–2007). These numbers are considered to be slightly underestimated as some countries lack proper fishery statistics and do not report their catches accurately.
TECHNICAL TERMS AND MEASUREMENTS

general body shape (dorsal view)

الشكل العام للجسم (منظر ظهري)

schematic illustration of a cheliped

شكل تخطيطي لرجل ملقطية
SCYLLARIDAE
Three species reported from the Mediterranean (FAO Fishing Area 37). The regular presence of two additional exotic species needs confirmation.

PALINURIDAE
Three species reported from the Mediterranean (FAO Fishing Area 37). The regular presence of one additional exotic species needs confirmation.

NEPHROPIDAE
Two species reported from the Mediterranean (FAO Fishing Area 37).
**Nephropidae**

**Homarus gammarus** (Linnaeus, 1758)

**FAO names:** En – European lobster; Fr – Homard européen; Sp – Bogavante;

**Size:** From 23 to 50 cm TL (60 cm TL).

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, over hard bottoms. Found usually from the surface down to 150 m depth. Sedentary and highly territorial. Active at night.

Feeds mainly on benthic invertebrates such as crabs, molluscs, echinoderms and polychaete worms.

**Importance to fisheries:** Bycatch species. Caught occasionally to rarely with entangling nets, traps and sometimes bottom trawls and dredges.

**Distribution:** Western and central Mediterranean, occasional to rare from Morocco to Libya, rare in Turkey. The species is absent from eastern part of the area. Northeastern Atlantic.

---

**الجراد البحر**

**الحجم:** الطول الكلي من 23-50 سم والأقصى 60 سم.

الموطئ وعلم الحياة: مجاور للقاع على قيام صلبة. يتواجد عادة على أعماق بين السطح و 150 مترًا. مُقيم ومَحَلّي بجدارة. ينشط ليلاً.

تغذى أساساً على اللافقاريات القاعية كالسرطانات والرخويات وشوكيات الجلد والديدان العديدة الأهلاب.

**الانتشار:** غربي وأوسط البحر المتوسط عشرة إلى نادر في الشمال الشمالي أو المنطقة الفخاخ وأحياناً شباك الجرف القاعي والمناكش.

**النوع:** غربي وأوسط البحر المتوسط

عُرِض في شرقي المنطقة.

ينتشر في شمال شرقي الأطلسي.

---

**الخصائص:**

- **Body:** ملقطان ضخمان ناعما السطح (Massive pincers with a smooth surface).
- **Rostrum:** متقار قوي مُسَلَّح بأربع إلى خمس أشواك (Strong rostrum armed with 4-5 spines).
- **Abdomen:** بطن ناعم (Smooth abdomen).
- **Eyes:** زوجان من الأشواك خلف العينين (2 pairs of spines behind eyes).
Nephrops norvegicus (Linnaeus, 1758)

FAO names: En – Norway lobster; Fr – Langoustine; Sp – Cigala;

Size: From 10 to 19 cm TL (24 cm TL).

Habitat and biology: Demersal, over soft bottoms. Found usually between 20 and 800 m depth.

Importance to fisheries: Bycatch species. Caught occasionally to rarely with bottom trawls and traps.

Distribution: Western and central Mediterranean, occasional to rare from Morocco to Libya, rare in Turkey. The species is absent from eastern part of the area. Northeastern Atlantic.

جراد البحر

حجم: الطول الكلي 10–19 سم والأقصى 24 سم.
الموقع وعلم الحياة: مجاور للقاع على قيعان رخوة.
الأهمية في الصيد: مصيد ثانوي. عرضي إلى نادر في شباك الجرف القاعي والفِخاخ.
التوزّع: غربي وأوّل البحر المتوسط، عرضي إلى نادر من المغرب إلى ليبيا، نادر في تركيا ولا وجود له في شرقي المنطقة. ينتشر في شمال شرقي الأطلسي.
Size: From 20 to 40 cm TL (50 cm TL).

Habitat and biology: Demersal, over hard and sometimes soft bottoms. Found usually between 10 and 160 m depth. Active at night. Feeds mainly on molluscs, crustaceans, worms and sea urchins.

Importance to fisheries: Bycatch species. Targeted in Tunisia. Caught occasionally to rarely with entangling nets, bottom trawls, traps, and with scuba diving.

Distribution: Mediterranean, occasional to very rare in the area. Northeastern Atlantic.

Palinurus elephas (Fabricius, 1787)

الكركنديات المُشَوَّكة

أ- كوركند أحمر

الحجم: الطول الكلي 20–40 سم والأقصى 50 سم.

الموقع والعلم الحياة: مجاور للقاع على قيعان صلبة وأحيانًا رخوة، يتوافق عادة على أعماق بين 10 و160 مترًا. ينشط ليلاً. يتغذى أساساً على الرخويات والقشريات والمخلوقات البحرية.

الأهمية في الصيد: مصيد ثانوي. مُستَهدف في تونس.

توزيع: البحر المتوسط، عرضي إلى شديد الندرة في المنطقة. ينتشر في شمال شرقي الأطلسي.
**Size:** From 20 to 40 cm TL (50 cm TL).

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, over hard and soft bottoms. Found usually between 180 and 600 m depth. Active at night. Feeds mainly on dead fishes, and invertebrates (molluscs, crustaceans, polychaetes and echinoderms).

**Importance to fisheries:** Bycatch species. Caught commonly to occasionally with entangling nets, bottom trawls and traps.

**Distribution:** Western Mediterranean, occasional from Morocco to Tunisia, absent from eastern part of area. Northeastern and neighbouring Atlantic.
**SCYLLARIDAE**

*Scyllarides latus* (Latreille, 1802)

**FAO names:** En – Mediterranean slipper lobster; Fr – Grande cigale; Sp – Cigarra;

### Size:
From 5 to 35 cm TL (45 cm TL).

### Habitat and biology:
Demersal, over hard and soft bottoms. Found usually between 5 and 100 m depth. Feeds mainly on molluscs, particularly limpets and bivalves.

### Importance to fisheries:
Targeted in the eastern part of area and caught as bycatch in the western part. Caught commonly to occasionally with entangling nets and by scuba diving.

### Distribution:
Mediterranean, common to occasional in the area. Southeastern and neighbouring Atlantic.

---

الحجم: الطول الكلي 5–35 سم والأقصى 45 سم.

الموقع وعلم الحياة: مهاجر لقاع على قاع صلب ورخوي. يتواجد عادة على أعماق بين 5 و 100 متر. يتناول أساسًا على الرخويات ولاسيما البطليوس والثنائيات المشرقة.

الأهمية في الصيد: مَسْتَهْدَف في الصيد في شرقي المنطقة في حين أنه مصيد ثانوي في غربي المنطقة. ينتشر شائع في الشباك المشدعة أو السطح، وأجهزة الغطس.

التوزع: البحر المتوسط، شائع إلى عرضي في المنطقة. ينتشر في مياه الأطلسي المجاورة والجنوب الشرقية منه.