

Distribution and fishing of the Lobsters *Palinurus vulgaris* and *Homarus vulgaris* in Greek Seas

by

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There are two species of lobsters in the Greek seas which have commercial value.

1. *Palinurus vulgaris* (Latreille, 1804), commonly spiny lobster, or astacos.
2. *Homarus vulgaris* (M. Edwards, 1851), commonly caravithastacos, or astacocaravitha, or caravithomana.

The fishermen deal at seasons with lobster fishing, and usually they catch them during the fishing of different fishes.

The lobsters usually live in depths from 20 to 100 fathoms, and they are found almost everywhere in the Aegean and Ionian seas, where the bottom is rocky or stony with holes and openings and where it is partially covered with seaweed, sand, mud, calcareous algae (lithophyte) and calcareous sponges.

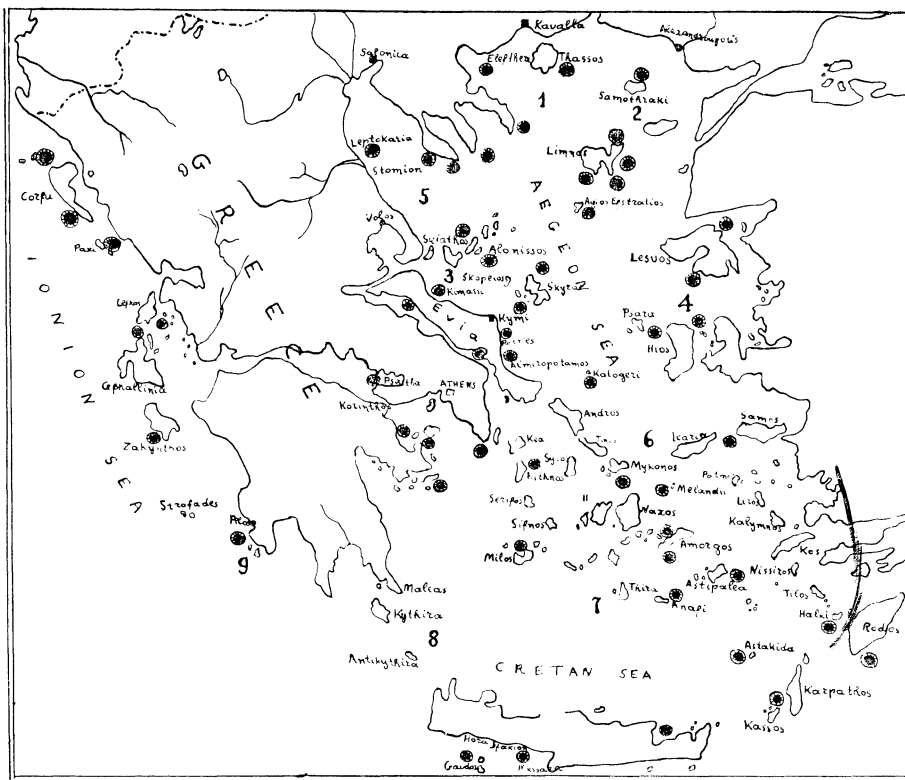


FIG. 1. — ● = Areas fishing of the lobsters.

The depth of the fishing generally in all the sea areas depends on the season, the weather, the morphology of the bottom, the temperature and the salinity.

The species *Palinurus vulgaris* grows up to 40 cm. in length and weight up to 3 Kilograms.

The species *Homarus vulgaris* grows up to 50 cm. in length and weight up to 4 Kilograms.

According to the law the fishermen are permitted to catch lobsters of a minimum body length of 20 cm.

Sometimes these two species of lobsters are caught in larger size, especially in areas where the fishing is not systematic.

The fishing tools used are : gill nets, set gill nets, long lines fyke- nets and landingnets.

The lobster catch is greatest from July to October.

Areas of lobsters fishing are noted on the map.