

Think Like a Lobster

1 + 2 = LOBSTER

Studies have shown that lobsters, when not migrating, are creatures of habit. Typically they travel only a few hundred yards from their lair on their nightly forage for food. If there's broken hard bottom that provides daytime cover within an easy walking distance of lush turtlegrass meadows, you've found the Park Avenue of the deep for lobsters.

>LOBSTER MIND-MELD TIP #3:

Search for lobster as if you were one, looking for a combination of feeding grounds and shelter. Additionally, look for structures which have sand bottom, as bugs prefer "sand under foot." You would think that having a sturdy exoskeleton would mean that these creatures wouldn't be so temperamental. However, they actually have highly sensitive receptors on the ends of their legs. When you find all three of these elements together, you're in the right zone.



Spiny lobsters tend to favor structure with sand bottom. Find a food source nearby, and you've found a super area.

WHO'S YOUR HOMIES?

Once you've found a few ledges, heads or cracks that appear likely to hold lobsters, take note of who else lives there. Grouper, spadefish, gray angelfish, and especially porkfish commonly live near lobster. Their presence may lead you to your next cherished GPS number. Free-divers should consider drifting through these likely areas, always on the lookout for these species.

It's an effective and relaxing way to cover a lot of bottom.

>LOBSTER MIND-MELD #4: If you hop overboard and drift upon a gray angelfish or school of porkfish, follow them! There is a 90 percent chance that they will lead you straight to a fortress of bugs, or at least structure that might hold them next season.

Porkfish are a definite indicator that you're in the right neighborhood. Above, same holds for certain angelfish species.

