Length or Size Measurements

Recommended measurements of body length for various target species.

Species	Diagram	What/How to Measure
Fish	Maximum body length	Maximum body length is the length from the anterior-most part of the fish to the tip of the longest caudal fin ray (when the lobes of the caudal fin are compressed dorsoventrally (Anderson and Gutreuter, 1983).
Crab	Carapace width	Carapace width is the lateral distance across the carapace (from tip of spine to tip of spine (U.S. EPA, 1990c).
Bivalve	Height	Height is the distance from the umbo to the anterior (ventral) shell margin (Galtsoff, 1964).
Shrimp and Crayfish	Body length Carapace	Body length is the distance from the tip of the
5.3,	Length Rostrum Telson	rostrum to the tip of the telson (Texas Water Commission, 1990). Carapace length is distance from top of rostrum to the posterior margin of the carapace.

Spiney Lobster	Carapace Tail length length	Carapace length is the distance from the anterior- most edge of the groove between the horns directly above the eyes, to the rear edge of the top part of the carapace as measured along the middorsal line of the back (Laws of Florida Chapter 46-24.003). Tail length is the distance measured lengthwise along the top middorsal line of the entire tail to rear-most extremity (this measurement shall be conducted with the tail in a flat straight position with the tip of the tail closed) (Laws of Florida Chapter 46-24.003).
Clawed Lobster	Carapace length	Carapace length is the distance from the rear of the eye socket to the posterior margin of the carapace (New York Environmental Conservation Law 13-0329.5.a and Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 130).