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# San Diego City Attorney Jan I. Goldsmith

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### ***LOBSTER POACHER SENTENCED TO JAIL***

*Defendant caught with 46 lobsters sentenced to 120 days*

**San Diego, CA:** Jason Bryan Chavez pleaded guilty last week to poaching undersized lobsters from ocean waters off South Mission Beach. San Diego Police officers discovered 46 lobsters hidden in the trunk of Chavez's car after Chavez was observed acting suspiciously after 2:00 a.m. in a locked parking area near the jetty. This incident was Chavez's second conviction for poaching lobsters and fourth Fish and Game Code violation.

As part of his sentence, Chavez was ordered to serve 120 days in custody and placed on probation. 30 of the 120 days were suspended on the condition that Chavez successfully completes probation.

Chavez was arrested on May 18, 2009 at around 4:30 a.m. A San Diego Police Officer observed Chavez going from his car to the water with an empty backpack and repeatedly returning to his car with a full backpack. Dispatch was notified and Chavez's car was stopped and searched. All 46 lobsters were confiscated and then returned to the ocean by San Diego Lifeguards.

Poaching, which is the illegal taking of fish and wildlife, severely impacts wildlife resources by depleting numbers and threatening species survival. San Diego Deputy City Attorney Michael Hudson, who prosecuted the case, said that he hoped the punishment received by Chavez would send a message that poaching wildlife will not be tolerated in San Diego.

To report a poacher, citizens are asked to call the California Fish and Game Toll-Free Hotline at: 888-334-2258.

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