

LOBSTEROPERATION!

LOBSTER

(Hand raised, swearing in) Yes. I understand the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea is calling upon me to testify precisely what I am, where I am from, and what I have witnessed... and I affirm that the testimony I am about to give will be the truth... the whole truth... and nothing but the... truth. *(Weird, do humans just lie most of the time?)*

I am a lobster. *(Obvs)*

Though you have heard it asserted in various French and Brazilian arguments-
strangely - I must now specify that I am NOT, in fact,
a fish,
or an oyster,
or a bird,
and certainly not a kangaroo.

I am neither Brazilian nor French-
though the man who named me was. Interesting guy, Latreille; Roman Catholic
priest imprisoned in the French Revolution, named a beetle species that eats
dead humans which he discovered in said prison and thus won his freedom and
a new career in science-
Can you already see the French penchant for just naming and claiming
things?

(Off the judge's cough) Sorry, right! Where was I?

Ah yes: Lobster.

Spiny, to be specific-

means no claws. I saw you staring.

Palinuridae Latreille Achelata Decapoda Malacostraca Crustacea Arthropoda Animalia
III...ty millionth- big family.

Wow! I rarely get to use my full name. Floor aquarists are jumpy critters and I
barely get halfway through before they scuttle or dart or ink away.

(Falling back into apologizing for existing) So, if it's easier, you can just
call me Pali.

(Catching that) Yeauand, y'know, my therapist says I need to start speaking up for
myself, SO! I have to say I'm quite put out to be called to this tribunal this very moment
because, as you non-aquatics clearly don't care, now is actually prime sea urchin
season, and I will gladly lose sleep to gain them before one of those divers comes
mucking around all grabby hands!

(But this is waaaaaay stranger..) But I understand my very identity has become the
fulcrum of your decision of war or peace? So in taking this stand to properly represent
myself, I hope to persuade Brazil and France not to devolve into a war that will do far
less harm to you than to the shelf I cherish.

...And the sea urchins.