



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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REMINDER OF SEASONAL BOUNDARY SHIFTS BEGINNING APRIL 1 FOR ATLANTIC AND GULF GROUPS OF KING MACKEREL OFF THE FLORIDA COAST

NOAA Fisheries Service reminds fishermen the boundary between the Atlantic and Gulf groups of king mackerel off Florida shifts, beginning April 1. This change also affects daily commercial trip limits.

The area north of 29° 25' N. lat. (a line directly east of the Flagler/Volusia County, Florida, boundary) is considered to contain Atlantic group king mackerel year round, with a 3,500-pound trip limit.

From November 1 through March 31, fish harvested southward of the Flagler/Volusia County boundary to 25° 20.4' N. lat. (a line directly east from the Miami-Dade/Monroe County, Florida, boundary) are considered to be Gulf group king mackerel. The trip limit for the commercial fishery in this Florida east coast subzone during this time period is 50 fish per day, until February 1, when trip limits may increase to 75 fish per day, depending on the amount of fish landed toward the quota.

During the same November 1 through March 31 time period, fish harvested south and west from the Miami-Dade/Monroe County, Florida boundary to 26° 19.8' N. lat. (a line directly west from the Lee/ Collier County, Florida, boundary) on the west coast of Florida are also considered to be Gulf group king mackerel. Commercial trip limits for this southern subzone are 1,250 pounds per day for hook-and-line fishermen. These trip limits are reduced to 500 pounds per day when 75 percent of the commercial quota for this subzone is reached.

Beginning April 1, the boundary between Atlantic and Gulf groups of king mackerel shifts south and west from the Flagler/Volusia County boundary on the Florida east coast to the Monroe/Collier County boundary on the Florida west coast. At this time, fish harvested along east coast of Florida, including all of Monroe County, are considered to be Atlantic group king mackerel. With this boundary shift, the southern subzone for Gulf group king mackerel is reduced to the area off Collier County, Florida, between 25° 48' N. lat. and 26° 19.8' N. lat.

Beginning April 1 through October 31, the commercial trip limit for the Florida east coast off Volusia County becomes 3,500 pounds per day; the same as the trip limit north of the Flagler/Volusia County boundary.

Beginning April 1 through October 31, the commercial trip limit for the area southward from 28° 47.8' N. lat. (the Volusia/Brevard County boundary) to the Miami-Dade/Monroe County boundary becomes 75 fish per day.

Beginning April 1 through October 31, the trip limit off Monroe County becomes 1,250 pounds.

From now until June 30, 2007, or until the quotas are met, the trip limits for the southern and northern zones on Florida's west coast are reduced to 500 pounds.

From now until June 30, 2007, the fishery is closed from Alabama west to Texas.

GULF GROUP KING MACKEREL: FLORIDA SUBZONES AND SEASONAL BOUNDARIES

(Nov 1 - March 31)



GULF GROUP KING MACKEREL: FLORIDA SUBZONES AND SEASONAL BOUNDARIES

(April 1 - Oct 31)

