



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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REMINDER OF SEASONAL BOUNDARY SHIFTS BEGINNING APRIL 1, 2009, 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 shifts, beginning April 1, 2009, from 29° 25' N. latitude (a line directly east of the Flagler/Volusia County line on the Florida east coast) to 25° 48' N. latitude (a line directly west of the Monroe/Collier County line on the Florida west coast). This change also affects daily commercial trip limits.

The area north of the Flagler/Volusia County line is considered to contain Atlantic group king mackerel year-round. During April-October, the Atlantic zone extends south to the Monroe/Collier County line. Landings reached 76 percent of the quota for the Atlantic group for the 2008-2009 fishing year. The new fishing year began March 1, 2009.

Gulf group king mackerel are divided into two zones. The area west of the Florida/Alabama state line is considered the Western zone for Gulf group king mackerel year-round. Landings in this zone have reached 95 percent of the quota. The area east of the Florida/Alabama state line is considered the Eastern zone. The Eastern zone is divided into West Coast and East Coast subzones. The West Coast is further divided into Northern and Southern subzones at a line directly west from the Lee/Collier County line. The Northern subzone extends to the Florida/Alabama state line and remains the same year-round. Seventy percent of the Northern subzone quota has been landed. The boundary of the Southern subzone shifts seasonally. The East Coast subzone only exists during November-March.

April 1–October 31 (see map on next page)

Beginning April 1, the boundary between Atlantic and Gulf groups of king mackerel shifts south and west to the Monroe/Collier County line on the Florida west coast. During this time, fish harvested along the east coast of Florida, including all of Monroe County, are considered to be Atlantic group king mackerel and are subject to the Atlantic group quota.

After the boundary shift, 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. The commercial trip limit for the area southward from the Volusia/Brevard County line the Miami-Dade/Monroe County line becomes 75 fish per day. The trip limit off Monroe County remains 1,250 pounds.

With this boundary shift, the Southern subzone for Gulf group king mackerel is reduced to the area off Collier County.

November 1–March 31 (see map on next page)

During this time period, fish harvested southward of the Flagler/Volusia County line to the Miami-Dade/Monroe County line are considered to be Gulf group king mackerel. This East Coast subzone closed March 6, 2009; however, the area will reopen to fishing as part of the Atlantic group when the boundary shifts April 1.

From November 1 to March 31, the Southern subzone includes Collier and Monroe Counties. The quota for hook-and-line fishermen in the Southern subzone was met and that subzone closed on February 27, 2009. Waters off Monroe County will reopen to fishing on April 1 when fish in waters off that county become part of the Atlantic group. Waters off Collier County will remain closed until July 1, 2009.

How can we improve these fishery bulletins?

If you have any suggestions on how we may improve future fishery bulletins, please contact:

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If you would like to receive these fishery bulletins via e-mail as soon as they are published, please e-mail us at:

SERO.Communications.Comments@noaa.gov

You will still receive a hard copy of these bulletins through the mail.

This bulletin provides only a summary of the information regarding the existing regulations. Any discrepancies between this bulletin and the regulations

as published in the *Federal Register* will be resolved in favor of the *Federal Register*.



| Commercial Hook-and- Line Quotas for King Mackerel (pounds) | |
|---|-----------|
| Gulf Group | |
| Western Zone | 1,010,000 |
| Eastern Zone | |
| Florida West Coast Subzone Northern | 168,750 |
| Florida West Coast Subzone Southern | 520,312 |
| Florida East Coast Subzone | 1,040,625 |
| | |
| Atlantic Group (includes gillnets north of Cape Lookout, NC) | 3,710,000 |