



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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## **GULF GROUP KING MACKEREL FISHERY TO REOPEN IN FEDERAL WATERS OF THE FLORIDA EAST COAST SUBZONE MARCH 3, 2010**

The commercial fishery for king mackerel in the east coast subzone will **reopen, effective 12:01 a.m. (local time) March 3, 2010, through 12:01 a.m. (local time) March 8, 2010.** NOAA Fisheries Service has determined the 2009/2010 commercial quota of 1,040,625 pounds of king mackerel from this zone has not yet been met.

The commercial king mackerel fishery in this subzone closed February 4, 2010, because NOAA Fisheries Service projected landings would reach the quota by that time. However, an updated report shows that less fish were landed than expected. Based on daily landings rates and the pounds remaining on the quota, NOAA Fisheries Service has determined the fishery in this subzone can reopen for 5 days. March 3 was chosen as the opening day based on feedback from the fishing industry and weather concerns.

The operator of a vessel with a valid king mackerel permit may not fish for or retain king mackerel prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, March 3, 2010, and must have landed and bartered, traded, or sold such king mackerel prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, March 8, 2010. The fishery will then remain closed until 12:01 a.m., April 1, 2010, the end of the fishing season.

During the closed period, no person aboard a vessel for which a commercial permit for king mackerel has been issued may fish for or retain king mackerel in or from federal waters of the closed subzone. There is one exception, however, for a person aboard a charter vessel or headboat. A person aboard a vessel that has a valid charter/headboat permit for coastal migratory pelagic fish and a commercial king mackerel permit may continue to retain king mackerel in or from the closed subzone under the 2-fish daily bag limit, provided the

vessel is operating as a charter vessel or headboat. Charter vessels or headboats that hold a commercial king mackerel permit are considered to be operating as a charter vessel or headboat when they carry a passenger who pays a fee or when more than three persons are aboard, including operator and crew.

In accordance with federal and Florida state law, during the closed period no king mackerel caught in the closed subzone may be purchased, bartered, traded, or sold. This includes recreational and tournament-caught fish. The prohibition of sale, however, does not apply to trade in king mackerel that were harvested, landed ashore and bartered, traded, or sold before the closure and held in cold storage by a dealer or processor.

### **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, e-mail [SERO.Communications.Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:SERO.Communications.Comments@noaa.gov) and include: (1) "Request for Electronic Fishery Bulletins" in the subject line and (2) your preferred e-mail address in the body of the e-mail. 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*.

**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)

