



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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Western Gulf of Mexico Closing to King Mackerel Commercial Fishing

NOAA Fisheries Service will close the Western Zone of the Gulf of Mexico to commercial fishing for king mackerel **effective 12:00 noon (local time) August 22, 2012**. The commercial quota of 1,180,480 pounds for this zone is projected to be reached by this date. The Western Zone is from the U.S./Mexico border to the Alabama/Florida boundary. Gulf states (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama) are expected to close adjoining state waters at the same time.

During the closure, no commercial fisherman may fish for or keep king mackerel in or from the closed zone. There is an exception for people aboard a vessel that has a charter/headboat permit for coastal migratory pelagic fish and a commercial king mackerel permit. Those people may keep the 2-fish per person daily king mackerel bag limit from the closed zone, if the vessel is operating as a charter vessel or headboat. Vessels 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 people are aboard, including operator and crew.

During the closure, no king mackerel caught in the closed zone may be bought, sold, or traded. This includes recreational and tournament-caught fish. King mackerel that were traded or sold before the closure and held in cold storage by a dealer or processor may still be sold.

This summary is not a substitute for the actual regulations. We encourage you to read the full text of the regulations, available at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/>.

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