



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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New Requirements for Sale of King Mackerel, Spanish Mackerel, and Cobia in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic

A rule effective August 7, 2014, establishes a new universal Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) and South Atlantic dealer permit that is required to purchase federally managed species. For the first time, dealers from Texas to New York who purchase king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, or cobia harvested from federal waters will be required to have a federal dealer permit. Federally permitted dealers must submit electronic purchase forms once per week, with one exception; dealers who purchase king mackerel landed by the gillnet sector in the Gulf West Coast Florida Southern Subzone must submit forms daily.

The rule also states that federally permitted vessels operating from Texas to New York can only sell federally managed species to a dealer who has a valid Gulf and South Atlantic dealer permit, if they harvested those fish in either federal waters or adjoining state waters. This includes sale of king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia, whether those species were harvested on a commercial or recreational trip.

New regulations effective July 16, 2014, require fishermen to have the appropriate federal commercial vessel permit to sell king and Spanish mackerel harvested from federal waters from Texas to New York. In the Gulf of Mexico, the sale of king and Spanish mackerel caught under the bag limit on a for-hire trip on a vessel that has both a Gulf for-hire and the appropriate commercial vessel permit is allowed. In the Atlantic region, the sale of king and Spanish mackerel caught under the bag limit on a for-hire trip is prohibited.

Further information about the new requirements may be obtained from the NOAA Fisheries Web site at http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/gulf_sa/cm/index.html.

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*.