



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

## FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Karla Gore, or [Karla.Gore@noaa.gov](mailto:Karla.Gore@noaa.gov)  
727/824-5305, FAX 727/824-5308  
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

July 31, 2014  
FB14-056

## NOAA Fisheries Publishes Proposed Rule To Modify Catch Limits for Spanish Mackerel In the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic

NOAA Fisheries is seeking public comment on a proposed rule to implement Framework Amendment 1 to the Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Region. The proposed rule for Framework Amendment 1 published in the *Federal Register* (79 FR 44369) on July 31, 2014, and the comment period ends on September 2, 2014.

Recent stock assessments for Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel indicate the stocks are healthy, and catch levels can be increased.

If implemented, the proposed rule would increase the combined commercial and recreational catch limit for Spanish mackerel in the Gulf of Mexico from 5.15 million pounds to 12.7 million pounds in 2014-2015, and then decrease to 11.8 million pounds in 2015-2016, and 11.3 million pounds in 2016-2017.

In the South Atlantic, the proposed rule would increase the catch limit for Spanish mackerel from 5.69 million pounds to 6.063 million pounds; with 3.330 million pounds (55%) allocated to the commercial sector and 2.727 million pounds (45%) allocated to the recreational sector.

### Addresses

Framework Amendment 1 may be obtained from:

- The NOAA Fisheries Web site  
[http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable\\_fisheries/gulf\\_sa/cmp/2014/framework\\_am1/index.html](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/gulf_sa/cmp/2014/framework_am1/index.html)
- The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Web site at <http://www.safmc.net>.

You may submit comments by the following methods:

- **Electronic Submission:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-A-NMFS-2014-0075> click the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.
- **Mail:** NOAA Fisheries  
Southeast Regional Office  
Sustainable Fisheries Division  
c/o Karla Gore  
263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

NOAA Fisheries will accept anonymous comments. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only. Comments received through means not specified in this bulletin may not be considered.

### More Information

For more information on Mackerel Framework Amendment 1, please click on this link to the Frequently Asked Questions found at:

[http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable\\_fisheries/gulf\\_sa/cmp/2014/framework\\_am1/index.html](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/gulf_sa/cmp/2014/framework_am1/index.html).