



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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KING MACKEREL TRIP LIMIT REDUCED TO 500 POUNDS PER DAY IN NORTHERN FLORIDA WEST COAST SUBZONE FOR COMMERCIAL HOOK-AND-LINE VESSELS

The daily vessel trip limit is reduced to 500 pounds beginning 12:01 a.m., October 30, 2003, for commercial hook-and-line vessels fishing for Gulf group king mackerel in the northern Florida west coast subzone. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) reduced the trip limit after determining that 126,563 pounds, or 75 percent of the 168,750-pound quota, for this fishery segment had been taken.

The 500-pound trip limit is a daily landing/possession limit that applies to commercial vessels fishing for king mackerel in the northern Florida west coast subzone. The northern subzone is that part of the Florida west coast subzone that is between 26°19.8' N. lat. (a line directly west from the Lee/Collier County, FL boundary) and 87°31'06' W. long. (a line directly south from the Alabama/Florida boundary).

The 500-pound daily trip limit will remain in effect until the 168,750-pound quota is reached or through the end of the fishing year, June 30, 2004, whichever occurs first. When commercial landings for this fishery segment reach the quota level, the fishery will be closed for the remainder of the 2003/2004 fishing year. The closure will be effective upon filing the notification with the Office of the Federal Register.

A vessel fishing under commercial trip limits and quotas must possess a commercial Federal king mackerel permit. Quotas, trip limits (see reverse side of this bulletin), and permits implemented under the Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic (FMP) are necessary to protect and rebuild the Gulf group king mackerel resource.

GULF GROUP KING MACKEREL: FLORIDA SUBZONES AND SEASONAL BOUNDARIES

See page for maps.

**GULF GROUP KING MACKEREL: STATUS OF QUOTAS AND DAILY TRIP/LANDING LIMITS
FOR COMMERCIAL FISHERIES FOR THE 2003/2004 FISHING YEAR**

ZONE/SUBZONE	QUOTA (POUNDS, lb)	DAILY VESSEL TRIP LIMITS	DURATION OF TRIP LIMITS		STATUS	
					BEGINNING	CURRENT
EASTERN ZONE (Florida)	2,250,000					
East Coast Subzone ¹	1,040,625	50 Fish 50/75 Fish ²	Nov 1, 2003 Feb 1, 2004	until until	780,469 lb 1,040,625 lb	Opens: Nov 1, 2003 Opens: 50 fish/day
West Coast Subzones	1,209,375					
<u>Northern</u>						
Hook and Line	168,750	1,250 lb 500 lb	Jul 1, 2003 Oct 30, 2003	until until	126,563 lb 168,750 lb	Opened: Jul 1, 2003 Open: 500 lb/day
<u>Southern</u>						
Hook and Line	520,312	1,250 lb 500 lb	Jul 1, 2003 390,234 lb	until until	390,234 lb 520,312 lb	Opened: Jul 1, 2003 Open: 1,250 lb/day
Gillnet	520,312	0 lb 25,000 lb	Feb 4, 2003 Jan 20, 2003	until until	Jan 20, 2004 520,312 lb	Opens: Jan 20, 2004 ³ Closed: Feb 4, 2003
WESTERN ZONE (Texas - Alabama)	1,010,00	3,000 lb 0 lb	Jul 1, 2003 Sep 24, 2003	until until	1,010,000 lb Jul 1, 2004	Opened: Jul 1, 2003 Closed: Sep 24, 2003
Hook and Line						

¹ The Florida east coast subzone, located between the Flagler/Volusia and Miami-Dade/Monroe County boundaries, exists only from November 1 through March 31, when the Gulf migratory group of king mackerel extends into that area. From April 1 through October 31, king mackerel landed in that area belong to the Atlantic migratory group.

² Trip limit would increase from 50 to 75 fish/day on February 1, 2004, if less than 75 percent or 780,469 pounds of the Florida east coast subzone quota is harvested prior to February 1, 2004.

³ Fishery is closed until 6:00 a.m., January 20, 2004.

To report violations of commercial trip limits or closures, contact NMFS Law Enforcement Division at **727/570-5344** or **1-800/853-1964**. NOAA Fisheries is an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Additional information on southeastern fisheries may be found on the Web sites of the Gulf of Mexico (<http://www.gulfcouncil.org>) or South Atlantic (<http://www.safmc.nmfs.gov>) Fishery Management Council; they may be contacted by e-mail at gulf.council@noaa.gov, or safmc@noaa.gov respectively