



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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March 23, 2016  
FB16-022

## Closure of the Southern Florida West Coast Subzone to King Mackerel Hook-and-Line Fishing

King mackerel commercial hook-and-line fishing in the southern Florida west coast subzone is **closed, effective 12:01 a.m. (local time) March 27, 2016**, through 6 a.m. (local time) June 30, 2016. NOAA Fisheries has determined landings have reached the 551,448-pound commercial quota.

From November 1 through March 31, the southern subzone is that part of federal waters off Collier and Monroe Counties, Florida. Beginning April 1, the southern subzone is reduced to the area off Collier County, Florida.

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 subzone may be purchased, bartered, traded, or sold. The prohibition on sale or purchase does not apply to trade in king mackerel that were harvested, landed ashore, and sold before 12:01 p.m., March 27, 2016, and were held in cold storage by a dealer or processor.

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/>.

