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SOUTHEAST FISHERY BULLETIN
(Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic)

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Sue Gerhart
727-824-5305

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Atlantic Group Spanish Mackerel Trip Limit Reduced for Commercial Vessels Fishing in the Southern Zone (Florida)

The daily vessel trip limit for commercial vessels fishing for Atlantic group Spanish mackerel in federal waters of the southern zone is adjusted to 1,500 pounds, effective 6 a.m. local time, February 20, 2015.

Atlantic group Spanish mackerel are divided into northern and southern zones for management purposes. The southern zone extends from a line directly east from the Georgia/Florida boundary to a line directly east from the Miami-Dade/Monroe County, Florida, boundary. The commercial quota for Atlantic group Spanish mackerel is 3.33 million pounds. In the southern zone, seasonally variable trip limits are based on an adjusted quota of 3.05 million pounds.

Since December 1, 2014, the trip limit has been unlimited on weekdays and 1,500 pounds per day on weekends. After 75 percent of the adjusted quota of Atlantic group Spanish mackerel has been reached, a 1,500-pound per day vessel trip limit applies through the end of the fishing year or until 100 percent of the adjusted quota is met, after which the trip limit will be reduced to 500 pounds.

NOAA Fisheries has determined 75 percent of the adjusted quota for Atlantic group Spanish mackerel has been landed. Accordingly, the 1,500-pound per day commercial trip limit applies to Spanish mackerel in the southern zone effective 6 a.m., local time, February 20, 2015, through February 28, 2015, unless changed by further notification in the Federal Register.

About Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional Fishery Management Councils established by the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. The Council prepares fishery management plans, which are designed to manage fishery resources within the 200-mile limit of the Gulf of Mexico.



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[Charlene Ponce](#)

Public Information Officer
888-833-1844 ext. 229

