



April 1, 2013

Below is a recent Southeast Fishery Bulletin announcing Boundary Shifts, Commercial Quotas, and Trip Limits for King Mackerel.

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Reminder of Boundary Shifts and Commercial Quotas and Trip Limits for King Mackerel

King mackerel are divided into two migratory groups: the Gulf and Atlantic groups. The groups are divided into zones and subzones, and each group, zone, and subzone may have a separate quota and trip limit. The boundary between the Gulf and Atlantic groups shifts south on April 1 and north on November 1 of each year. In addition, new quotas are effective for the Gulf for the 2013/2014 fishing season beginning July 1, 2013. Please see maps and charts below.

Atlantic Group King Mackerel Zones

Northern Zone

The Northern zone is the area from the Flagler/Volusia County line on Florida's east coast north to the intersection point of New York, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. This zone has the same area year-round and a 3,500-pound per day trip limit.

Southern Zone

From April through October, the Southern zone for Atlantic group king mackerel is from the Flagler/Volusia County line on Florida's east coast to the Monroe/Collier County line on Florida's west coast, which is the boundary between the Gulf and Atlantic groups during that period.

From November through March, the Atlantic group Southern zone does not exist because this area becomes part of the Gulf group when the boundary between Gulf and Atlantic groups shifts east and north to the Flagler/Volusia County line on November 1 (see below). The fishing year for Atlantic group king mackerel begins March 1, but the east coast of Florida remains part of the Gulf group until April 1, when the boundary shifts back to the Monroe/Collier County line.

During April through October, the trip limit off Volusia County is 3,500 pounds per day - the same as the trip limit for the Northern zone. The trip limit for the area south of the Volusia/Brevard County line to the Miami-Dade/Monroe County line is 75 fish per day. The trip limit off Monroe County is 1,250 pounds per day.

Gulf Group King Mackerel Zones and Subzones

Western Zone

The Western zone includes waters off Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama and remains the same area year-round. This zone has a trip limit of 3,000 pounds per day. This zone closed August 22, 2012, and will reopen July 1, 2013.

Eastern Zone/Florida West Coast

The Eastern zone includes waters off Florida's west and east coasts. The west coast is divided into Northern and Southern subzones.

The Northern subzone extends north and west from the Lee/Collier County line to the Florida/Alabama state line and remains the same area year-round. This subzone closed October 5, 2012, and will reopen July 1, 2013.

From November 1 to March 31, the Southern subzone extends south and east from the Lee/Collier County line to the Miami-Dade/Monroe County line. With the April boundary shift between the Gulf and Atlantic groups to the Monroe/Collier County line, the Southern subzone for the Gulf group is reduced to the area off Collier County, and Monroe County becomes part of the Atlantic group. The quota for the Gulf group Southern subzone is divided equally between the hook-and-line and gillnet sectors. The hook-and-line sector closed March 17, 2013, and will reopen July 1, 2013. The gillnet sector has not closed.

Both the Northern and Southern subzones have a hook-and-line trip limit of 1,250 pounds per day until 75 percent of the quota is reached. After that, the trip limit is 500 pounds per day until the end of the fishing season or the quota is met. The gillnet sector in the Southern subzone has a trip limit of 25,000 pounds per day.

Eastern Zone/Florida East Coast (Mixing Zone)

From November 1 through March 31, fish harvested south of the Flagler/Volusia County line to the Miami-Dade/Monroe County line are considered to be Gulf group king mackerel. The trip limit for this Florida East Coast subzone during this time period is 50 fish per day, until February 1, when the trip limit may increase to 75 fish per day, if 75 percent of the quota has not been reached. This subzone has not closed. The area will shift to become part of the Atlantic group when the boundary shifts April 1, 2013.



Boundaries	Coordinates	
Intersection point of New York, Connecticut, and Rhode Island	41°18'16.249" N lat. / 71°54'28.477" W long.	
Flagler/Volusia County line	29°25' N lat.	Winter Council boundary
Volusia/Brevard County line	28°47.8' N. lat.	
Miami-Dade/Monroe County line	25°20.4' N. lat.	
Monroe/Collier County line	25°48' N lat.	Summer Council boundary
Lee/Collier County line	26°19.8' N. lat.	
Florida/Alabama state line	87°31.1' W. long.	

2012/2013 Commercial Quotas for King Mackerel (pounds whole weight)	
Gulf Group (Beginning July 1, 2013)	
Western Zone	1,071,360
Eastern Zone	
Florida West Coast Subzone Northern	178,848
Florida West Coast Subzone Southern (hook-and-line)	551,448
Florida West Coast Subzone Southern (gillnet)	551,448
Florida East Coast Subzone	1102,896
Atlantic Group (includes gillnets north of Cape Lookout, NC)	3,880,000

This announcement is forwarded as a courtesy of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

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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