

**Table 2.5.3. Annual Recreational King Mackerel Regulatory Summary**

Year	Fishing Year		Size Limit	Bag Limit		Closures	
	Atlantic	Gulf		Atlantic	Gulf	Atlantic	Gulf
1983-1984 <sup>1</sup>			--	--	--	--	--
1984-1985 <sup>1</sup>			--	--	--	--	--
1985-1986 <sup>2</sup>							
1986-1987	4/1 - 3/31	7/1 - 6/30	--	Private = 2/person/trip; Charterboat = greater of 2/person incl capt&crew or 3/person excl capt&crew		--	--
1987-1988	4/1 - 3/31	7/1 - 6/30	--	3/person/trip	"		Closed 12/16/87
1988-1989	4/1 - 3/31	7/1 - 6/30	--	2/person/trip FL & 3 GA to SC	"	Closed 10/17/88	Closed 12/17/88
1989-1990	4/1 - 3/31	7/1 - 6/30	--	2/person/trip FL & 3 GA to SC	"		
1990-1991 <sup>3</sup>	4/1 - 3/31	7/1 - 6/30	12 in FL or 14 in TL	2 FL; 3 GA-NY	Same as above <sup>4</sup>		Closed 12/20/90
1991-1992	4/1 - 3/31	7/1 - 6/30	12 in FL or 14 in TL	5 FL-NY	"		Closed 01/13/92
1992-1993	4/1 - 3/31	7/1 - 6/30	20 in FL	2 FL; 5 GA-NY	2 / person including captain & crew		--
1993	Calendar Year		20 in FL	"	"		--
1994	Calendar Year		20 in FL	"	"		--
1995	Calendar Year		20 in FL	2 FL; 3 GA-NY	"		--
1996	Calendar Year		20 in FL	"	"		--
1997	Calendar Year		20 in FL	"	2 per person, 0 capt&crew as of 6-97		--
1998	Calendar Year		20 in FL	"	2 per person, 2 capt&crew as of 2-98		--
1999	Calendar Year		24 in FL	"	2 per person, 0 capt&crew as of 9-99		--
2000	Calendar Year		24 in FL	"	2 per person, 2 capt&crew as of 6-00		--
2001	Calendar Year		24 in FL	"	"		--
2002	Calendar Year		24 in FL	"	"		--
2003	Calendar Year		24 in FL	"	"		--
2004	Calendar Year		24 in FL	"	"		--
2005	Calendar Year		24 in FL	"	"		--
2006	Calendar Year		24 in FL	"	"		--
2007	Calendar Year		24 in FL	"	"		--
2008	Calendar Year		24 in FL	"	"		--
2009	Calendar Year		24 in FL	"	"		--
2010	Calendar Year		24 in FL	"	"		--
2011	Calendar Year		24 in FL	"	"		--
2012	Calendar Year		24 in FL	"	"		--

<sup>1</sup>One stock<sup>2</sup>Two management groups (Atlantic & Gulf migratory) from this point forward

The following summary describes only those management actions that likely affect king mackerel fisheries and harvest.

*Original FMP:*

The Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic (FMP) and Environmental Assessment (EA), approved in 1982 and implemented by regulations effective in February of 1983, treated king and Spanish mackerel each as one U.S. stock. Allocations were established for recreational and commercial fisheries, and the commercial allocation was divided between net and hook-and-line fishermen.

*FMP Amendments affecting king mackerel:*

Description of Action	FMP/Amendment	Effective Date
Provided a framework procedure for pre-season adjustment of total allowable catch (TAC), revised the estimate of king mackerel maximum sustainable yield (MSY) downward, recognized separate Atlantic and Gulf migratory groups of king mackerel, and established fishing permits and bag limits for king mackerel. Eliminated commercial allocations among gear users except purse seines, which were allowed 6% of the commercial allocation of TAC. Divided the Gulf commercial allocation for king mackerel into Eastern and Western Zones for the purpose of regional allocation, with 69% of the remaining allocation provided to the Eastern Zone and 31% to the Western Zone.	Amendment 1	1985
Required charterboat permits. TAC for overfished stocks must be set below the upper range of acceptable biological catch (ABC). Prohibited using purse seines on overfished stocks.	Amendment 2	1987
Prohibited drift gillnets for coastal pelagic species and purse seines for the overfished migratory groups of mackerels.	Amendment 3	1990
Extended the management area for Atlantic migratory groups of mackerels through the Mid-Atlantic Council's jurisdiction. Revised the definition of "overfishing". Provided that the South Atlantic	Amendment 5	1990

<p>Council will be responsible for pre-season adjustments of TACs and bag limits for the Atlantic migratory groups of mackerels while the Gulf Council will be responsible for Gulf migratory groups. Continued to manage the two recognized Gulf migratory groups of king mackerel as one until management measures appropriate to the eastern and western migratory groups can be determined. Re-defined recreational bag limits as daily limits, and deleted a provision specifying that bag limit catch of mackerel may be sold. Provided guidelines for corporate commercial vessel permits. Specified that Gulf migratory group king mackerel may be taken only by hook-and-line and run-around gillnets. Established a minimum size of 12" FL or 14" TL for king mackerel and included a definition of "conflict" to provide guidance to the Secretary.</p>		
<p>Provided for rebuilding overfished stocks of mackerels within specific periods, and provided for biennial assessments and seasonal adjustments. Allowed for Gulf migratory group king mackerel stock identification and allocation when appropriate. Changed commercial permit requirements to allow qualification in one of three preceding years. Discontinued the reversion of the bag limit to zero when the recreational quota is filled. Modified the recreational fishing year to the calendar year, changed the minimum size limit for king mackerel to 20" FL, and changed all size limit measures to fork length only</p>	Amendment 6	1992
<p>Equally divided the Gulf commercial allocation in the Eastern Zone at the Dade-Monroe County line in Florida. The sub-allocation for the area from Monroe County through Western Florida is equally divided between commercial hook-and-line and net gear users.</p>	Amendment 7	1994
<p>Allowed only hook-and-line and run-around gillnets for the Gulf migratory group king mackerel fishery; however, catch by permitted, multi-species vessels and bycatch allowances for purse seines were maintained. Established the Councils' intent to evaluate the impacts</p>	Amendment 8	1998

<p>of permanent jurisdictional boundaries between the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils and development of separate FMPs for coastal pelagic species in these areas. Established a moratorium on commercial king mackerel permits until no later than October 15, 2000, with a qualification date for initial participation of October 16, 1995. Increased the income requirement for a king or Spanish mackerel permit to 25% of earned income or \$10,000 from commercial sale of catch or charter or head boat fishing in one of the three previous calendar years, but allowed for a one-year grace period to qualify under permits that are transferred. Legalized retention of up to five cut-off (damaged) king mackerel on vessels with commercial trip limits. Set an optimum yield (OY) target at 30% static spawning potential ratio (SPR) for the Gulf and 40% static SPR for the Atlantic. Provided the SAFMC with authority to set gear restrictions for Gulf migratory group king mackerel in the North Area of the Eastern Zone (Dade/Monroe to Volusia/Flagler County lines).</p>		
<p>Reallocated the percentage of the commercial allocation of TAC for the North Area (Florida east coast) and South/West Area (Florida west coast) of the Eastern Zone to 46.15% North and 53.85% South/West and retained the recreational and commercial allocations of TAC at 68% recreational and 32% commercial. Subdivided the commercial hook-and-line king mackerel allocation for the Gulf migratory group, Eastern Zone, South/West Area (Florida west coast) by establishing two subzones with a dividing line between the two subzones at the Collier/Lee County line. Established regional allocations for the west coast of Florida based on the two subzones with 7.5% of the Eastern Zone allocation of TAC being allowed from Subzone 2 and the remaining 92.5% being allocated as follows:</p> <p>50% - Florida east coast</p> <p>50% - Florida west coast that is further subdivided:</p>	Amendment 9	2000

<p>50% - Net Fishery</p> <p>50% - Hook-and-Line Fishery</p> <p>Established a trip limit of 3,000 lb per vessel per trip for the Western Zone. Established a moratorium on the issuance of commercial king mackerel gillnet endorsements and allow re-issuance of gillnet endorsements to only those vessels that: 1) had a commercial mackerel permit with a gillnet endorsement on or before the moratorium control date of October 16, 1995 (Amendment 8), and 2) had landings of king mackerel using a gillnet in one of the two fishing years, 1995-1996 or 1996-1997, as verified by the NMFS or trip tickets from Florida. Allowed transfer of gillnet endorsements to immediate family members (son, daughter, father, mother, or spouse) only, and prohibited the use of gillnets or any other net gear for the harvest of Gulf migratory group king mackerel north of an east/west line at the Collier/Lee County line. Increased the minimum size limit for Gulf migratory group king mackerel from 20" to 24" FL.</p>		
Incorporated the essential fish habitat (EFH) provision for SAFMC.	Amendment 10	2000
Included proposals for mackerel in the SAFMC's Comprehensive Amendment Addressing Sustainable Fishery Act Definitions and other Provisions in Fishery Management Plans of the South Atlantic Region.	Amendment 11	1999
Extended the commercial king mackerel permit moratorium from its current expiration date of October 15, 2000, to October 15, 2005, or until replaced with a license limitation, limited access, and/or individual fishing quota or individual transferable quota system, whichever occurs first.	Amendment 12	2000
Established two marine reserves in the EEZ of the Gulf in the vicinity of the Dry Tortugas, Florida known as Tortugas North and Tortugas South in which fishing for coastal migratory pelagic species is prohibited.	Amendment 13	2002

Established a three-year moratorium on the issuance of charter vessel and head boat Gulf migratory group king mackerel permits in the Gulf unless sooner replaced by a comprehensive effort limitation system. The control date for eligibility was established as March 29, 2001. Included provisions for eligibility, application, appeals, and transferability.	Amendment 14	2002
Established an indefinite limited access program for the commercial king mackerel fishery in the EEZ under the jurisdiction of the Gulf, South Atlantic, and Mid-Atlantic Councils. Changed the fishing season to March 1 through February 28/29 for the Atlantic groups of king and Spanish mackerel. Beginning the fishing year on March 1 ensures the mackerel fisheries in the Atlantic are open when other fisheries are closed.	Amendment 15	2005
Established a limited access system on for-hire reef fish and CMP permits. Permits are renewable and transferable in the same manner as currently prescribed for such permits. There will be a periodic review at least every 10 years on the effectiveness of the limited access system.	Amendment 17	2006
Established annual catch limits and accountability measures for Gulf and Atlantic migratory groups for cobia, king mackerel, and Spanish mackerel.	Amendment 18	2012