

FLORIDA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
 UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
 FOR SEA GRANT COLLEGE OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA



MARINE ADVISORY PROGRAM

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Sea Grant Extension Program
 3188 PGA Boulevard, Room 101
 Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410
 (305) 626-6900 Ext. 211

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MARINE NEWS OF THE SOUTHEASTNEWS RELEASE

CHARLESTON, S.C. - Reductions in total allowable catches of king mackerel were approved by the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils at their recent joint meeting in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

After reviewing comments from 15 public hearings, reports from their scientific committees, advisory panel recommendations, and the report of the Stock Assessment Group, the Councils approved a reduction of 18% in the total allowable catch (TAC) of Atlantic group king mackerel, from 11.812 million pounds to 9.69 million pounds, to take effect at the beginning of the fishing year, April 1986. New quotas beginning April 1 for the Atlantic group king mackerel will be:

Total Allowable Catch	:	9.68 million pounds
Recreational Allocation	:	6.09 million pounds
Commercial Allocation	:	3.59 million pounds

When a quota has been reached, that sector of the fishery will be closed for the remainder of the fishing season. Bag limits for private and charter vessels will be 3 fish per person per trip (including captain and crew on charter vessels). Tournaments will be under the bag limit. It is the intent of the Councils that charter vessels must fish under the bag limit when actually under charter but may fish under the commercial quota if they have a permit when fishing commercially.

Anyone intending to fish for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel under the commercial quota will have to apply for a permit and must certify that at least 10% of their earned income during the preceding calendar year was derived from the sale of seafood products. Permit applications should be obtained from the National Marine Fisheries Service in February and March before the fishing season begins in April.

For the Gulf migratory group of king mackerel, the two Councils agreed to lower the total allowable catch from the present level of 14.2 million pounds to 5.2 million pounds, a 63% reduction from the present TAC and a 22% reduction from the average total catch for the preceding three years.

These new allocations for the Gulf migratory group of king mackerel should be implemented within 30 to 45 days by notice in the Federal Register (including a 15 day comment period) and will be in effect for the present fishing year:

Total Allowable Catch	:	5.20 million pounds
Recreational Allocation	:	3.54 million pounds
Commercial Allocation	:	1.66 million pounds
Eastern Zone	:	1.08 million pounds
Western Zone	:	0.48 million pounds
Purse Seine	:	0.10 million pounds

The Gulf migratory group of king mackerel is found throughout the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, and off the east coast of Florida in the winter. The commercial catch is divided into an eastern and western zone for allocation purposes, with the Florida/Alabama line dividing the zones. When a quota is reached that sector will be closed for the remainder of the fishing year, which began July 1.

The recreational bag limit will be the same that is in effect at the present time: 2 fish per person per trip including captain and crew or 3 fish per person per trip excluding captain and crew when fishing from a charter vessel, and 2 fish per person per trip when fishing from private vessels. Permits will still be required of commercial Gulf migratory group king mackerel fishermen, who must send in their application for a permit by November 29 to fish federal waters during the remainder of this season. Permits may be obtained from NMFS, 9450 Koger Boulevard, St. Petersburg, Florida 33702.

Action on Spanish mackerel was deferred until next March when additional scientific information will become available. A 12 inch fork length size limit remains in effect in federal waters.

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, one of eight regional councils established by the Magnuson Act, is charged with developing and monitoring management plans for the fisheries from the state waters of North and South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida's east coast out to the 200 mile limit.

SOURCE: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, November 5, 1985

NEWS RELEASE

TALLAHASSEE: The Governor and Cabinet have approved recommendations made by the Marine Fisheries Commission to provide initial measures for managing Spanish mackerel, and to amend an emergency action taken earlier on oyster harvesting.

The new rule for Spanish mackerel, effective November 28, will prohibit power roller gill net rigs from being used to harvest Spanish mackerel off Dade and Palm Beach counties (Broward county is already closed to net fishing). The rule will also reduce the number of small fish caught with gill nets by requiring a minimum mesh size of 3½ inches stretched mesh during the primary fishing season on the east coast of Florida. This includes the period November 28 through March 15 this year, and November 15 through March 15 each year thereafter. The rule is intended to prevent commercial gill net harvesting of Spanish mackerel smaller than 1.5 pounds (or about 19 inches total length) in these areas and times. The rule allows a 15 percent by weight tolerance on Spanish mackerel caught in other nets while fishing for different species, and the minimum net mesh size applies to only the monofilament portion of the net until October 1, 1990, at which time the entire net rigging will be included.

The Commission is now reviewing additional proposed draft measures for Spanish mackerel, including possible weekend closures to commercial netting, delaying the start of the commercial fishing season, setting a ten fish per person daily bag limit for sport fishermen, and establishing year around minimum net mesh sizes statewide. These proposals, intended to rebuild depleted populations by reducing catch 45 percent, will be reviewed by the Commission in Orlando on November 15, and a final public hearing on proposed additional measures for Spanish mackerel is scheduled for December 13, also in Orlando.

The Cabinet also voted to amend the emergency rule passed October 1 that established bag limits for oyster harvesting in some northwest Florida counties to prevent overfishing during the time Apalachicola Bay is closed. The Cabinet's action, effective immediately, removes Escambia and Santa Rosa counties from the emergency rule. The Commission determined that there would be no adverse affect to the resource in these counties by removing them from the bag limit rule.

The emergency rule, which will remain in effect through December 29, establishes a daily bag limit of five (5) bushels of oysters harvested per boat per day in Okaloosa and Walton counties, and daily bag limit of twenty (20) bushels of oysters harvested per boat per day in Wakulla, Dixie, and Levy counties. The Commission has scheduled a final public hearing November 15 on a normal rule to extend these closures until Apalachicola Bay is reopened.

SOURCE: Marine Fisheries Commission, November 6, 1985

SPANISH MACKEREL REVISITED

In the Report to the Commission, U.S. Commission of Fish and Fisheries, Hugh M. Smith wrote of the Spanish mackerel, "At one time this fish was common in (Biscayne) Bay, which was a familiar resort, but it is now scarce, and is said to have become so since the extensive seine fishery by Gloucester vessels began along the keys about five years ago." The report was published in 1896.

SOURCE: Donald P. de Sylva, Professor
Division of Biology and Living Resources
University of Miami

PERMITS REQUIRED FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING FOR KING MACKEREL FROM THE GULF OF MEXICO MIGRATORY GROUP

Owners and operators of commercial vessels fishing for king mackerel from the Gulf of Mexico migratory group have through November 29, 1985 to submit applications for permits, announced Jack T. Brawner, Regional Director, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). These permits are valid through June 30, 1986.

This corrects a previous announcement that applications must be received by the Fishery Operations Branch, NMFS, 9450 Koger Boulevard, St. Petersburg, Florida 33702 by October 31, 1985. The cut-off date of November 29 applies only to 1985 because the regulations requiring permits for these vessels did not become effective until after the start of the fishing year (July 1) for the Gulf migratory group of king mackerel. In future years applications must be received by the Regional Office within 60 days prior to July 1.

Under the regulations, only those vessels for which an owner or operator has obtained a permit are exempt from the bag and possession limits applicable to king mackerel from the Gulf migratory group. The owner or operator must certify that at least 10 percent of his or her earned income was derived from commercial fishing during the preceeding calendar year 1984. He or she must further certify that the vessel will not be a charter vessel in the Gulf migratory group area.

Bag and possession limits for Gulf migratory group king mackerel for unpermitted vessels are 3 per person per trip, excluding the vessel captain and crew, or 2 per person per trip, including captain and crew, whichever is greater, when fishing from a charter vessel. When fishing from other vessels, the limits are 2 per person per trip.

The Fisheries Service is an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

For additional information contact: William N. Lindall, Jr., Chief, Fishery Operations Branch, National Marine Fisheries Service, 9450 Koger Boulevard, St. Petersburg, FL 33702, 813-893-3722.

SOURCE: National Marine Fisheries Service/News, NR85-18

SFA RETAIL SECTION FORMED

Southeastern Fisheries Association's Board of Directors have approved the formation of a Retail Section of the Association to address some of the major concerns of this sector of the industry. The retail markets are the direct link between the harvesters, wholesalers and the consumer and can play an important role in developing a consumer constituency among the nation's voters. Dues for membership in the Retail Section will be only \$200 per year. Wholesale dealers may join the section in addition to their regular dues but cannot join in lieu of the wholesale dealer dues. Ernie Mirabella has been selected as the first Chairman of the Section and will be seated at the semi-annual meeting.

SOURCE: Hot Lines, November, 1985

SEAFOOD HARVEST TAX PROPOSED

Representative Peter Dunbar, Republican Pinellas County, has filed House Bill 61 which, among other things, calls for a seafood harvest tax on seafood produced in the state of Florida. There is no specific amount called for in the present bill but amounts ranging from 1% to 7% of gross value have been discussed.

SOURCE: Hot Lines, November, 1985

SUBMERGED LANDS

The Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Lands will be conducting a series of workshops on rule making that will affect Chapter 16Q-21, Florida Administrative Code, Sovereignty Submerged Lands Management.

Boca Raton Community Center
150 Northwest Crawford Road

7:00 M
Decme 5th

The rules are being revised to incorporate a one-time lease fee, a wet slip per dwelling unit ratio and other siting standards for docking facilities in response to direction from the Governor and Cabinet. Persons who wish to attend can obtain a copy of the agenda, draft rule sections and issue paper by writing to Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of State Lands Management, Room 203B, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32303 or calling Bill Howell at 904-488-2297.

FASCINATING CRITTER THE LAND CRAB

Choosing to live most of its adult life away from salt water, returning only to drink and breed, the Great Land Crab (Cardisoma guanhumi) often turns up in places where they are not welcome such as around waterfront homes and beachfront recreational areas.

A sudden invasion of the land crab in your area is not particularly unusual. It is only one of the interesting characteristics associated with these crabs that don't live in the water. The female carries the eggs beneath her body and hatches them in shallow inshore waters. Tiny larvae are then swept out to sea and carried far before they appear, sometimes in large numbers, as settling crabs on a distant shore.

Adults burrow into soft, marshy areas near ponds, lakes, and canals in South Florida where water tables are high. Burrows are often several feet deep, or to a depth that will allow water to collect at the bottoms to provide the crab with water to drink and to bathe its gills which must be moist to function.

Since land crabs are vegetarians and appreciate a diet of tender leaves, fruits, berries and flowers, they often choose to live near humans where they may find lawns, vegetables, or young plant shoots to munch on. Of course this makes them pests to home gardeners and truck farmers in southern Florida counties. But they do have some small redeeming value, too. They are edible, at least the claw and leg meat is. Since they eat cultivated plants, pesticides may accumulate in the internal organs and it is for this reason that only the claw and leg meat should be eaten.

This semi-terrestrial, blue-grey crab may measure six inches across the back. The claws are as long or longer with one claw larger than the other. Although land crabs are agile and swift, they pose no danger to humans unless captured and handled. Be careful, the larger claw can deliver a painful pinch.

In order to control the land crab, set live traps at night baited with peanut butter. Nets can also be used. Then remove the captured crabs from the area or eat them. Chemical control is not recommended because it is dangerous to humans and the environment.

SOURCE: Coastlines from Florida Sea Grant College, by Tom Leahy and Billie Lowry

WHO ARE FLORIDA'S SPORT FISHERMEN?

Florida's pleasant climate and wealth of natural marine resources make it a mecca for seekers of year-round outdoor recreation. For residents and visitors alike, much of this recreation centers around fishing, both fresh and saltwater, and this fishing takes many forms from large party boats to public piers, from

small private boats to jetties and outcroppings along the coast. Whatever the mode, wherever the place, there is something fascinating to the average individual about putting a line in the water or throwing a cast net off a bridge in an effort to catch a fish.

But just who are these fishermen? Where and how do they fish? And what do their activities contribute to the economy of the state? A recently published Florida Sea Grant College Report, "The Economic Impact and Valuation of Salt-water Recreational Fishing in Florida", answers those questions.

The report is the result of an extensive survey by researchers in the Economics Department at Florida State University and covers twelve months of saltwater recreational fishing from July 1980 to June 1981. The survey sample includes adult residents and tourists, 18 years of age and older.

According to the report, the typical resident angler is approximately 40 years old, male, caucasian, and has an average household income of \$19,130 per year. Tourist anglers, on the other hand, are even more predominately male and are from 5 to 18 years older than the average resident saltwater fisherman.

Nearly half the resident fishermen prefer to fish from a private boat with another 30 percent relying on piers, jetties, and bridges. Among tourists, the percentages are reversed with nearly 50 percent fishing from piers, jetties, and bridges and about 25 percent from private boats. Fishing from surf and shore was the next choice for both groups with approximately 18 percent using this mode, followed by smaller percentages using charter and party boats.

As for the estimated numbers of resident and tourist fishermen, the report shows an estimated 2,177,217 resident fishermen and 3,047,322 tourists. Among the five geographic areas within the state the Southeast Atlantic region had the largest number of resident anglers -- 772,912 and approximately the same number of tourist fishermen -- 783,162. However, the Northeast Atlantic region had the largest number of tourist fishermen with 1,020,853.

The survey showed that the greatest proportion of tourists live east of the Mississippi, with the greatest number from the states of Georgia, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, followed by Alabama, Michigan, Tennessee, North Carolina and New Jersey. Food, drink, and lodging were the biggest expenditures with expenses for charter and party boats, boat fuel, boat motor maintenance, ground transportation, natural bait and boat storage also claiming a large portion of their dollars. The multiplier effect created by these expenditures results in a significant impact on Florida's economy.

The 130-page report (SG-47) is available at a cost of \$3.15 including sales tax from the Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program, G022 McCarty Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611.

SOURCE: Coastlines from Florida Sea Grant College, by Tom Leahy and Billie Lowry

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Frank J. Lawlor
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