

Cobia

PROPOSED FINAL RULE LANGUAGE Agenda Item 22B

Final Rule Hearing: December 7, 2017

CHAPTER 68B-19: COBIA

68B-19.002 Definitions.

(1) “Atlantic Region” means all Florida Waters lying outside of the Gulf Region.

(2) “Cobia,” also known as ling, means a fish of the species *Rachycentron canadum*, or any part thereof.

(3) “Gulf Region” means all Florida Waters lying north of the Monroe-Collier county line (25°48.216’ North Latitude).

Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History—New 6-13-85, Amended 1-1-90, 8-31-98, Formerly 46-19.002, Amended 3-22-01, 9-1-13, _____.

68B-19.003 Size Limit; Landed in Whole Condition Requirement.**

(1)-(2)No change

Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History—New 9-1-13.

68B-19.004 Bag and Vessel Limits.

(1) Recreational Bag Limit – A recreational harvester may not harvest or land from Florida Waters, or possess in or on Florida Waters, more than 1 cobia per day.

(2) Commercial Bag Limit –

(a) Atlantic Region – A commercial harvester may not harvest or land from the Atlantic Region Florida Waters, or possess in or on waters of the Atlantic Region Florida Waters, more than 2 cobia per day.

(b) Gulf Region – A commercial harvester may not harvest or land from the Gulf Region, or possess in or on the waters of the Gulf Region, more than 1 cobia per day.

(3) General Vessel Limit –

(a) Atlantic Region – The persons aboard a vessel in or on waters of the Atlantic Region Florida Waters may not collectively possess more than 6 cobia, regardless of the number of licensed or license exempt persons onboard. This provision will not be construed to authorize harvest or possession of cobia in excess of the applicable bag limits.

(b) Gulf region – The persons aboard a vessel in or on waters of the Gulf Region may not collectively possess more than 2 cobia, regardless of the number of persons onboard. This provision will not be construed to authorize harvest or possession of cobia in excess of the applicable bag limits.

Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History—New 1-1-90, Formerly 46-19.004, Amended 3-22-01, 9-1-13, _____.

** Staff are recommending the Commission not implement the previously proposed 38-inch minimum size limit for cobia harvested from waters of the Gulf Region. If approved, there would be no change to the current statewide minimum size limit of 33 inches fork length.