

# MEMORANDUM



**To:** Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners

**From:** Melissa Recks, Section Leader, Division of Marine Fisheries Management

**Date:** June 25, 2015

**Subject:** Barracuda Draft Rule

---

## **Purpose:**

To consider a draft rule amendment modifying the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Division 68B, Florida Administrative Code (FAC). The proposed draft rules would create a new chapter for great barracuda, Chapter 68B-60, FAC, and establish size, recreational bag, and commercial trip limits to address local population concerns in south Florida.

## **Summary:**

Over the last several years, stakeholders have expressed concern about the population status of great barracuda in south Florida, in particular from Martin to Monroe Counties. Stakeholder consensus and some of the available data suggests that there has been a localized decline in the Keys and southeast Florida. Staff recommends creation of a new rule chapter for barracuda that would include (1) a recreational bag limit of two fish per person, (2) a commercial daily trip limit of 20 fish per person, and (3) a harvest slot limit of 15 to 36 inches fork length. Staff is recommending that these new rules apply only in south Florida (Collier to Martin counties) where localized declines are likely to have occurred.

## **Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends adopting draft rules that will establish the following:

- Recreational bag limit = 2 fish per person per day
- Commercial trip limit = 20 fish per person per day
- Slot limit = 15 to 36 inches fork length
- Apply above conservation measures regionally

## **Staff Contact and/or Presenter**

Melissa Recks, Section Leader, Division of Marine Fisheries Management