

**68B-30.003 Commercial Harvest Limits; Recreational Bag Limit; Gear Specifications**

(1) Commercial Harvest Limits. Persons holding a Florida resident, nonresident, or alien saltwater products license with a restricted species endorsement and a federal commercial permit to harvest king mackerel from the Atlantic Migratory Group, may harvest king mackerel from the Atlantic fishery upon the following conditions:

~~(a) The king mackerel so harvested may not be possessed in, on, or above state waters outside the Atlantic fishery; and~~

(a) The season for harvest of king mackerel from the Atlantic fishery has not been closed pursuant to Rule 68B-30.004, F.A.C.; and

(b) The following commercial daily vessel harvest limits shall apply in the indicated counties. During the specified periods, no more than the applicable commercial daily vessel harvest limit shall be possessed aboard any vessel subject to this subsection.

1. – 4. No change.

(2) – (4) No change.

(5) Transit provisions – A vessel that has onboard king mackerel harvested from an open area in either state or federal waters may transit through and land king mackerel in state waters that are closed to the harvest of king mackerel pursuant to Rule 68B-30.004, F.A.C., under the following conditions:

(a) The king mackerel have been legally harvested from state or federal waters pursuant to Chapter 68B-12 and 68B-30, F.A.C., or pursuant to Part 622 CFR for king mackerel.

(b) The king mackerel have been harvested pursuant to a Florida saltwater products license and restricted species endorsement (Section 379.362, F.S.) and a federal king mackerel permit (Part 622 CFR).

(c) The transport of king mackerel through the closed state waters is direct, continuous and expeditious from the area open to harvest to the place where the vessel is regularly docked, moored, or otherwise stored or to the place of the licensed wholesale dealer where the catch is to be sold, and

(d) All fishing gear must be stowed during transit through the closed area. For the purpose of this section appropriately stowed means a rod and reel must be stowed securely. Terminal gear (i.e., hooks, leaders, sinkers, flashers, or baits) must be disconnected and stowed separately from the fishing apparatus. Sinkers must be disconnected from the down rigger and stowed separately. Gillnets must be rolled, folded, or otherwise properly and securely stowed in sealed containers or compartments so as to make their immediate use as fishing implements impracticable.

*Specific Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History–New 3-15-87, Amended 11-1-88, 1-1-97, 1-1-98, Formerly 46-30.003, Amended 12-21-00, Amended - - .*

**68B-30.004 Commercial Seasons Closures.**

(1) ~~The king mackerel fishing season for harvesters subject to either bag limit established in Rule 68B 30.003, F.A.C., in the Atlantic fishery shall be April 1 of each year through March 31 of the following year, unless the season is closed earlier pursuant to subsection (2).~~

(2) If at any time federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) waters adjacent to the Atlantic fishery are closed to commercial harvest of king mackerel, corresponding state waters shall also be closed to commercial harvest of king mackerel, beginning from the date of such closure until federal waters are reopened to commercial harvest of king mackerel. the commercial season for harvest of king mackerel in federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) waters adjacent to the Atlantic fishery is closed prior to the end of the season specified in subsection (1), the season for harvest of king mackerel under the special bag limit established in subsection 68B-30.003(1), F.A.C., in the Atlantic fishery shall also close, Notice of the closure shall be upon notice given by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, in the manner provided in Section 120.81(5), Florida Statutes. In case of such early season closure, all harvesters shall be subject to the bag limit for other harvesters established in subsection 68B-30.003(2), F.A.C. Once the season for harvest of king mackerel under the special bag limit closes, harvest under that bag limit shall not resume until the season is reopened on the following April 1.

*Specific Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History–New 3-15-87, Amended 11-1-88, Formerly 46-*

30.004, Amended - - .

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