

§ 622.381

that a vessel fishing under a quota for Spanish mackerel specified in § 622.384(c) may possess undersized Spanish mackerel in quantities not exceeding 5 percent, by weight, of the Spanish mackerel on board.

[78 FR 22952, Apr. 17, 2013, as amended at 82 FR 36347, Aug. 4, 2017; 84 FR 4736, Feb. 19, 2019; 85 FR 10331, Feb. 24, 2020; 87 FR 63966, Oct. 21, 2022]

§ 622.381 Landing fish intact.

(a) *Intact fish requirement.* Cobia in or from the Gulf and in the South Atlantic EEZ south of a line extending due east from the Florida/Georgia border, and king mackerel and Spanish mackerel in or from the Gulf, Mid-Atlantic, or South Atlantic EEZ, except as specified for king mackerel and Spanish mackerel in paragraph (b) of this section, must be maintained with head and fins intact. Such fish may be eviscerated, gilled, and scaled, but must otherwise be maintained in a whole condition. The operator of a vessel that fishes in the EEZ is responsible for ensuring that fish on that vessel in the EEZ are maintained intact and, if taken from the EEZ, are maintained intact through offloading ashore, as specified in this section.

(b) *Damaged king or Spanish mackerel.*
(1) *Commercial.* Damaged king or Spanish mackerel in the Gulf, Mid-Atlantic, and South Atlantic EEZ that comply with the minimum size limits in § 622.380(b) and (c), respectively, and the trip limits in § 622.385(a) and (b), respectively, may be possessed in the Gulf, Mid-Atlantic, or South Atlantic EEZ on, and offloaded ashore from, a vessel that is operating under the respective trip limits. Such damaged fish also may be sold. A maximum of five additional damaged king mackerel, not subject to the size limits or trip limits, may be possessed or offloaded ashore but may not be sold or purchased and are not counted against the trip limit. For the purposes of this paragraph (b)(1), damaged fish, refers to king or Spanish mackerel that are damaged only through natural predation.

(2) *Recreational.* Damaged king or Spanish mackerel in the Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic EEZ that comply with the minimum size limits § 622.380(b) and (c), respectively, and the

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recreational bag and possession limits in § 622.382(a), may be possessed in the Mid-Atlantic or South Atlantic EEZ on, and offloaded ashore from, a vessel that is operating under the respective bag and possession limits. For the purposes of this paragraph (b)(2), damaged fish, refers to king or Spanish mackerel that are damaged only through natural predation.

[88 FR 29847, May 9, 2023]

§ 622.382 Bag and possession limits.

Section 622.11(a) provides the general applicability for bag and possession limits.

(a) *King mackerel and Spanish mackerel—(1) Bag limits.* (i) Atlantic migratory group king mackerel—3.

(ii) Gulf migratory group king mackerel—3.

(iii) Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel—15.

(iv) Gulf migratory group Spanish mackerel—15.

(v) Coastal migratory pelagic fish within certain South Atlantic SMZs—§ 622.11(a) notwithstanding, all harvest and possession of coastal migratory pelagic fish within the South Atlantic SMZs specified in § 622.182(a)(1)(i) through (xi) and (a)(1)(xxii) through (xxxix) is limited to the bag limits specified in paragraphs (a)(1)(i) through (iv) of this section.

(2) *Possession limits—(i) Possession limits for vessels with a valid Federal charter vessel/headboat permit for Atlantic coastal migratory pelagic fish.* A person who is on a trip that spans more than 24 hours may possess no more than two daily bag limits, provided such trip is on a vessel that is operating as a charter vessel or headboat, the vessel has two licensed operators aboard, and each passenger is issued and has in possession a receipt issued on behalf of the vessel that verifies the length of the trip.

(ii) *Possession limits for vessels with a valid Federal charter vessel/headboat permit for Gulf coastal migratory pelagic fish.* A person who is on a trip that spans more than 30 hours may possess, at any time during the trip, no more than two daily bag limits of Gulf king and Spanish mackerel, provided such trip is on a vessel that is operating as a charter vessel or headboat, the vessel

has two licensed operators aboard, each passenger is issued and has in possession a receipt issued on behalf of the vessel that verifies the date and time of departure and length of the trip, and the entire trip occurs on days when the harvest and possession of the applicable coastal migratory pelagic species are allowed.

(b) *Gulf migratory group cobia*—(1) *Bag limits*. The following applies to persons who fish for cobia in the Gulf zone or Florida east coast zone, and do not sell their catch.

(i) One fish per person per day, not to exceed 2 fish per vessel per trip.

(ii) [Reserved]

(2) [Reserved]

[78 FR 22952, Apr. 17, 2013, as amended at 82 FR 17397, Apr. 11, 2017; 82 FR 36347, Aug. 4, 2017; 84 FR 4736, Feb. 19, 2019; 86 FR 11155, Feb. 24, 2021; 87 FR 23150, Apr. 19, 2022; 87 FR 56237, Sept. 13, 2022; 87 FR 63966, Oct. 21, 2022; 88 FR 29847, May 9, 2023]

§ 622.383 [Reserved]

§ 622.384 Quotas.

See § 622.8 for general provisions regarding quota applicability and closure and reopening procedures. See § 622.369 for the descriptions of the zones. This section provides quotas and specific quota closure restrictions for coastal migratory pelagic fish. All weights are in round and eviscerated weight combined, unless specified otherwise.

(a) King and Spanish mackerel quotas apply to persons who fish under commercial vessel permits for king or Spanish mackerel, as required under § 622.370(a)(1) or (3). A fish is counted against the quota for the area where it is caught, not where it is landed.

(b) *King mackerel*—(1) *Gulf migratory group*. The Gulf migratory group is divided into zones. The description of the zones is specified in § 622.369(a). Quotas for the western, northern, and southern zones are as follows:

(i) *Western zone*. The quota is 1,199,360 lb (544,021 kg) for the 2021–2022 fishing year, 1,244,160 lb (564,341 kg) for the 2022–2023 fishing year, and 1,278,720 lb (580,018 kg) for the 2023–2024 fishing year and subsequent fishing years.

(ii) *Northern zone*. The quota is 539,712 lb (244,809 kg) for the 2021–2022 fishing year, 559,872 lb (253,954 kg) for the 2022–

2023 fishing year, and 575,424 lb (261,008 kg) for the 2023–2024 fishing year and subsequent fishing years.

(iii) *Southern zone*. (A) The hook-and-line quota is 629,664 lb (285,611 kg) for the 2021–2022 fishing year, 653,184 lb (296,279 kg) for the 2022–2023 fishing year, and 671,328 lb (304,509 kg) for the 2023–2024 and subsequent fishing years.

(B) The run-around gillnet quota is 629,664 lb (285,611 kg) for the 2021–2022 fishing year, 653,184 lb (296,279 kg) for the 2022–2023 fishing year, and 671,328 lb (304,509 kg) for the 2023–2024 and subsequent fishing years.

(2) *Atlantic migratory group*. The Atlantic migratory group is divided into northern and southern zones. The descriptions of the zones are specified in § 622.369(a). Quotas for the northern and southern zones are as follows:

(i) *Northern zone*. The quota is 2,663,507 lb (1,208,146 kg) for the 2022–2023 fishing year, 2,306,207 lb (1,046,078 kg) for the 2023–2024 fishing year, 2,062,594 lb (935,577 kg) for the 2024–2025 fishing year, 1,892,064 lb (858,226 kg) for the 2025–2026 fishing year, and 1,770,258 lb (802,976 kg) for the 2026–2027 and subsequent fishing years. No more than 0.40 million lb (0.18 million kg) may be harvested by purse seine gear.

(ii) *Southern zone*. The quota is 8,896,853 lb (4,035,545 kg) for the 2022–2023 fishing year, 7,703,373 lb (3,494,191 kg) for the 2023–2024 fishing year, 6,889,636 lb (3,125,086 kg) for the 2024–2025 fishing year, 6,320,021 lb (2,866,713 kg) for the 2025–2026 fishing year, and 5,913,152 lb (2,682,161 kg) for the 2026–2027 and subsequent fishing years.

(A) For the period March 1 through September 30, each year, the seasonal quota is 5,338,112 lb (2,421,327 kg) for the 2022–2023 fishing year, 4,622,024 lb (2,096,515 kg) for the 2023–2024 fishing year, 4,133,782 lb (1,875,052 kg) for the 2024–2025 fishing year, 3,792,012 lb (1,720,028 kg) for the 2025–2026 fishing year, and 3,547,891 lb (1,609,296 kg) for the 2026–2027 fishing year and subsequent fishing years.

(B) For the period October 1 through the end of February each year, the seasonal quota is 3,558,741 lb (1,614,218 kg) for the 2022–2023 fishing year, 3,081,349 lb (1,397,676 kg) for the 2023–2024 fishing year, 2,755,854 lb (1,250,034 kg) for the 2024–2025 fishing year, 2,528,008 lb