

# **DRAFT** Atlantic King Mackerel Commercial Trip Limits Options

## Decision Document

### Background

The new regulations for king mackerel established in CMP Amendment 26 became effective on May 11, 2017, including updated commercial trip limits for the Atlantic Southern zone.

Each Atlantic Southern Zone season has a quota and specified trip limits:

- SC/NC line to the Flagler/Volusia county line: 3,500 lbs year-round
- Flagler/Volusia county line to Miami-Dade/Monroe county line:
  - Season 1 (March 1- September 30): 50 fish for March 1-31; 75 fish for April 1- September 30
  - Season 2 (October 1 – end of February): 50 fish until February 1, then will increase to 75 fish if <70% of the Season 2 quota has been landed.

Some fishermen on the Florida east coast have expressed concern about the new trip limits, especially the 50-fish limit for March 1-31 from the Flagler/Volusia line to the Miami-Dade/Monroe line. Additionally, at their April 2017 meeting, the Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel recommended that the Council review the March trip limit or consider a different trip limit for north of the Volusia/Brevard line.

Council staff will review potential options for a framework amendment to adjust the trip limits. A framework amendment would not require action by the Gulf Council.

### Potential Action in this amendment

- **Action 1:** Modify commercial trip limits for king mackerel harvest in the Atlantic Southern Zone.

## Objectives for this meeting

- Review options to adjust the Atlantic king mackerel trip limits in the Atlantic Southern Zone.
- Direct staff to start work on the framework amendment, and approve alternatives to be included for analysis.

## Expected amendment timing

September 2017	Council reviews options and directs staff to start work on a framework amendment
December 2017	Council reviews the draft amendment, selects preferred alternative(s), modifies the document as necessary, and approves for public hearings
January 2018	Public hearings
March 2018	Council takes final action on framework amendment
April 2018	Framework amendment transmitted for Secretarial Review
Late 2018	Implementation

## Proposed Action and Alternatives

### Action 1. Modify the recreational bag limit for pickled herring

**Alternative 1 (No Action):** The commercial trip limits for Atlantic king mackerel:

North of Flagler/Volusia line: 3,500 lbs year-round

South of Flagler/Volusia line:

Season 1 (Mar - Sept)

Mar 1-Mar 31: 50 fish

Apr 1: 75 fish until 75% of the Season 1 quota is met, and then the trip limit is 50 fish until Sept 30

Season 2 (Oct-Feb): 50 fish

Starting Feb 1 through the end of Feb, if less than 70% of the Season 2 quota has been met, the trip limit increases to 75 fish.

**Alternative 2:** Adjust the commercial trip limits for Atlantic king mackerel in the Atlantic Southern Zone for Season 1:

*Season 1*

March 1- March 30

North of Flagler/Volusia line: 3,500 lbs

South of Flagler/Volusia line: 50 fish

April 1 – September 30

North of Volusia/Brevard line: 3,500 lbs

South of Volusia/Brevard line: 75 fish until 75% of the Season 1 quota is met, and then the trip limit is 50 fish until Sept 30

**Alternative 3:** Adjust the commercial trip limits for Atlantic king mackerel in the Atlantic Southern Zone for Season 1:

*Season 1*

North of Volusia/Brevard line: 3,500 lbs

South of Volusia/Brevard line:

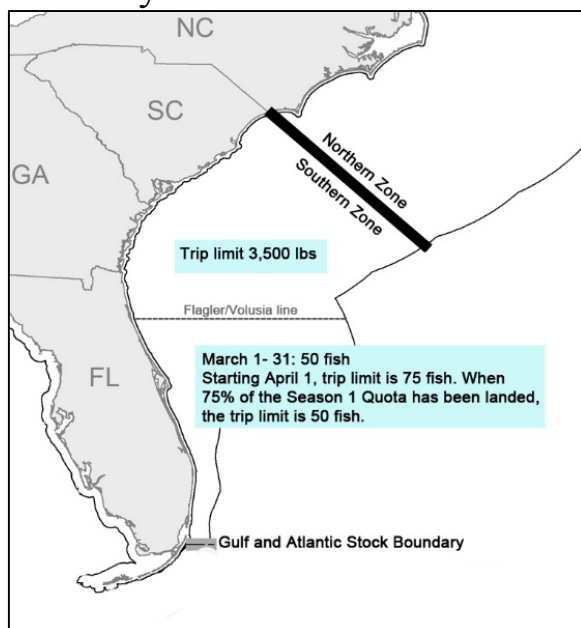
March 1- March 30: 50 fish

April 1 – September 30: 75 fish until 75% of the Season 1 quota is met, and then the trip limit is 50 fish until September 30

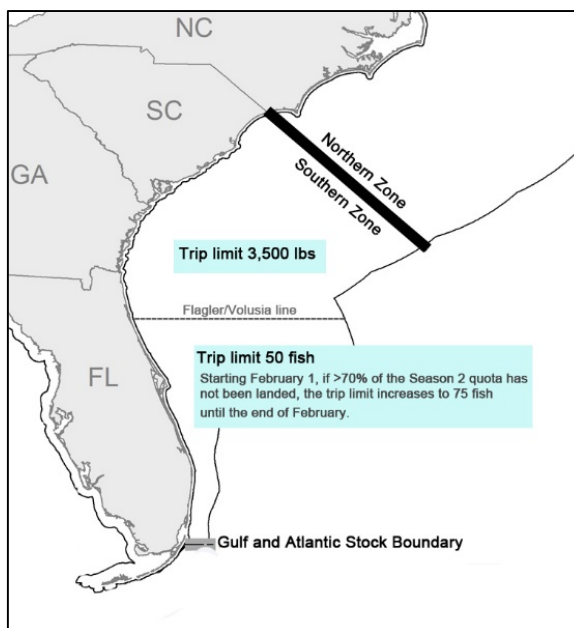
**See Maps on following pages**

Alternative 1 (No Action). Trip limits established in CMP Amendment 26.

March 1 – September 30  
February



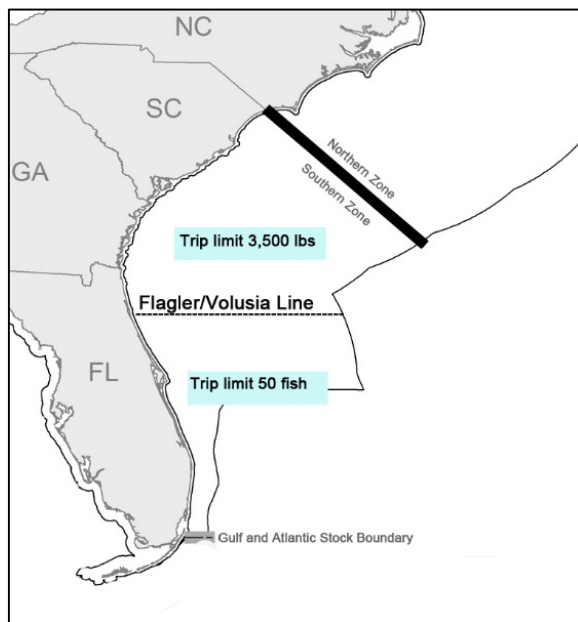
October 1 – end of



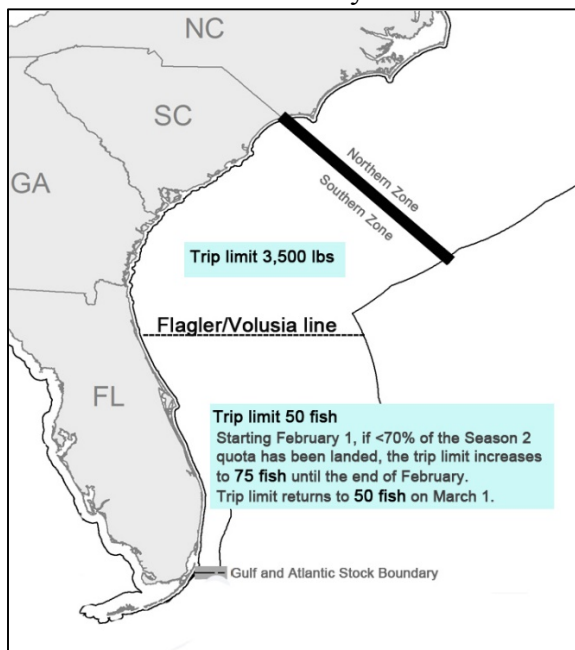
Season 1= March 1 through Sept 30  
Season 2= Oct 1 through end of February

Potential Alternative 2. Moves the boundary to Volusia/Brevard starting April 1

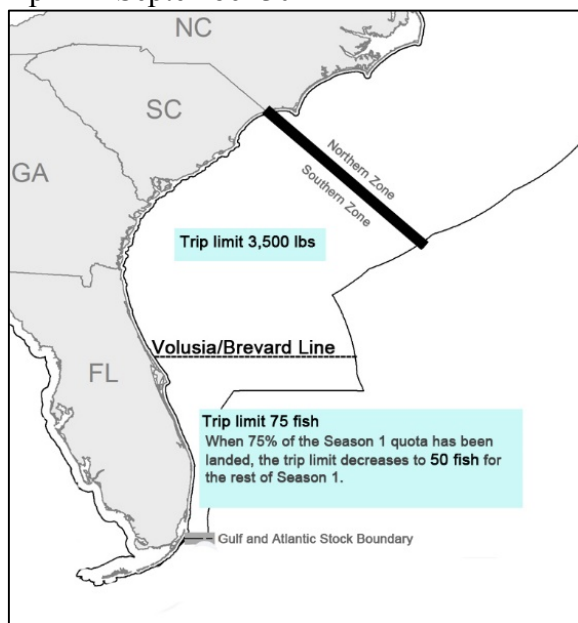
Season 1  
March 1- March 31



Season 2  
October 1- end of February

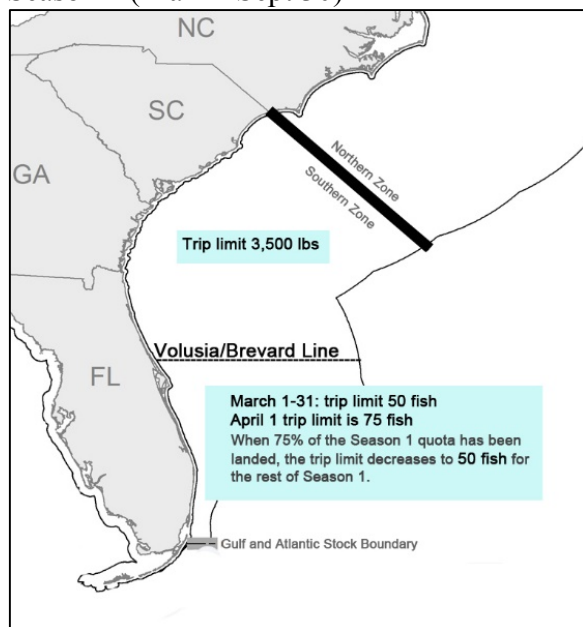


April 1- September 30

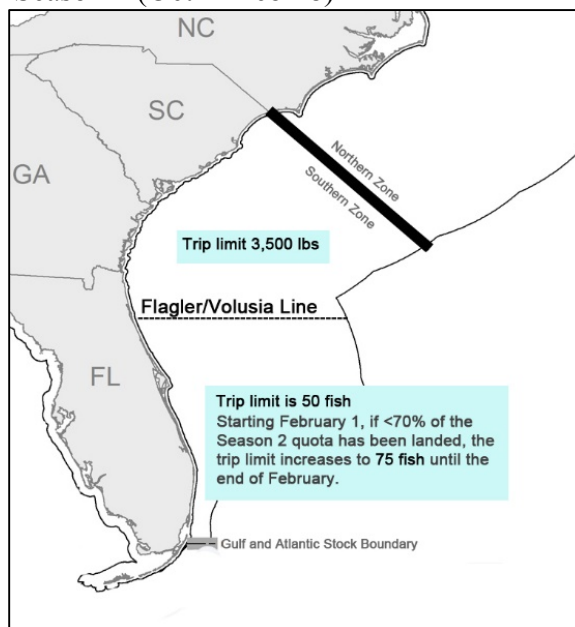


Potential Alternative 3. Moves the boundary to Volusia/Brevard for all of Season 1

Season 1 (Mar 1- Sept 30)



Season 2 (Oct 1- Feb 28)



### Committee Action:

- 1) MODIFY THE ALTERNATIVES AND ADD ALTERNATIVES/SUB-ALTERNATIVES, AS NECESSARY.
- 2) ACCEPT ALTERNATIVES 1 THROUGH X.