

Coastal Migratory Pelagics Framework Amendment 6 (King Mackerel Trip Limits)



Options Paper

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.

At the December 2017 the Council approved an action and alternatives that would address commercial trip limits for Atlantic king mackerel. There was concern about moving forward with the Amendment given how recently Amendment 26 was implemented. The Committee indicated

a desire to hear from fishermen after they had operated under the new trip limits established in Amendment 26 before moving forward. To achieve this, the Council approved Framework Amendment 6 for scoping at the March 2018 meeting.

Actions in this amendment

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

Objectives for this meeting

- Provide guidance to staff.

Expected amendment timing

✓ September 2017	Council reviews options and directs staff to start work on a framework amendment.
✓ December 2017	Council approves framework amendment for scoping.
March 2018	Scoping at the March 2018 Meeting
March 2018	Council reviews scoping comments and actions/alternatives to be analyzed.
June 2018	Council reviews the draft amendment, selects preferred alternative(s), modifies the document as necessary; and approves for public hearings.
July 2018	Public hearings
September 2018	Council takes final action on CMP Framework Amendment 6.
October 2018	CMP Framework Amendment 6 transmitted for Secretarial Review.
Late 2018	Implementation

Purpose and need statement

Purpose for Actions

The purpose is to modify the commercial trip limit for Atlantic king mackerel in the Atlantic Southern Zone.

Need for Actions

The need is to provide anglers with a trip limit sufficient to support fishing activity while constraining harvest to the ACL and providing for year-round access.

Proposed Actions and Alternatives

Action 1. Modify the commercial trip limit for Atlantic king mackerel:

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

- Season 1
 - March 1 – March 31
 - North of the Flagler/Volusia line: 3,500 lbs
 - South of the Flagler/Volusia line: 50 fish
 - April 1 – September 30
 - North of the Flagler/Volusia line: 3,500 lbs
 - South of the Flagler/Volusia line: 75 fish until 75% of the Season 1 quota is met, and then the trip limit is 50 fish until Sept 30
- Season 2
 - October 1 – End of February
 - North of the Flagler/Volusia line: 3,500 lbs
 - South of the Flagler/Volusia line: 50 fish
 - Starting February 1 through the end of February, 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 31
 - 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
 - March 1- March 31
 - North of Flagler/Volusia line: 3,500 lbs
 - South of Flagler/Volusia line: 75 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 4: Adjust the commercial trip limits for Atlantic king mackerel in the Atlantic Southern Zone for Season 1:

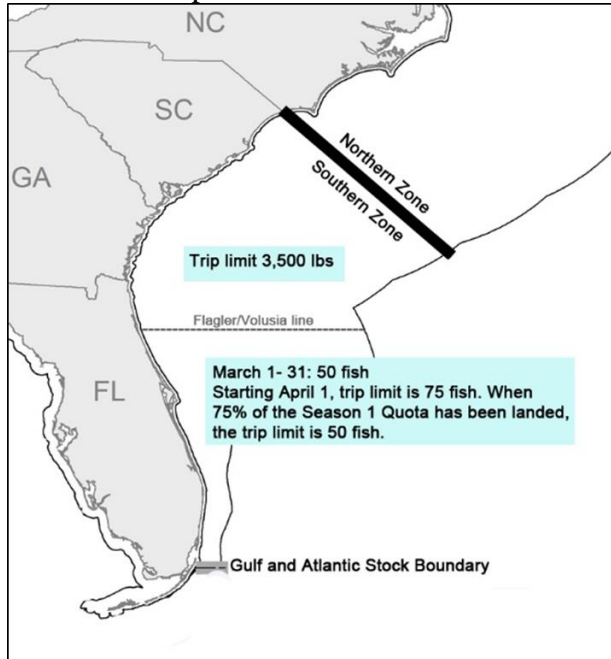
- Season 1 (Mar – Sept)
 - North of Volusia/Brevard line: 3,500 lbs
 - South of Volusia/Brevard line:
 - March 1- March 30: 50 fish
 - April 1 – September 30: 75 fish until 75% of the Season 1 quota is met, and then the trip limit is 50 fish until September 30

The following figures illustrate the commercial trip limit modifications for each alternative:

Alternative 1 (No Action):

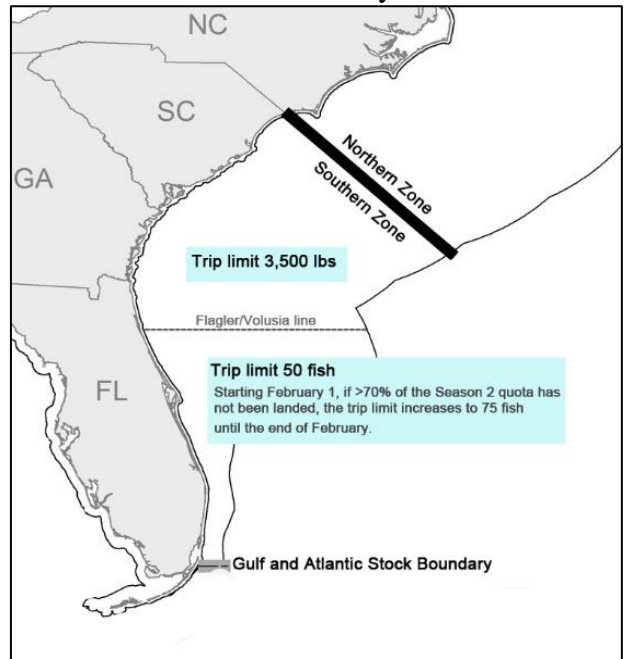
Season 1

March 1st – September 30th



Season 2

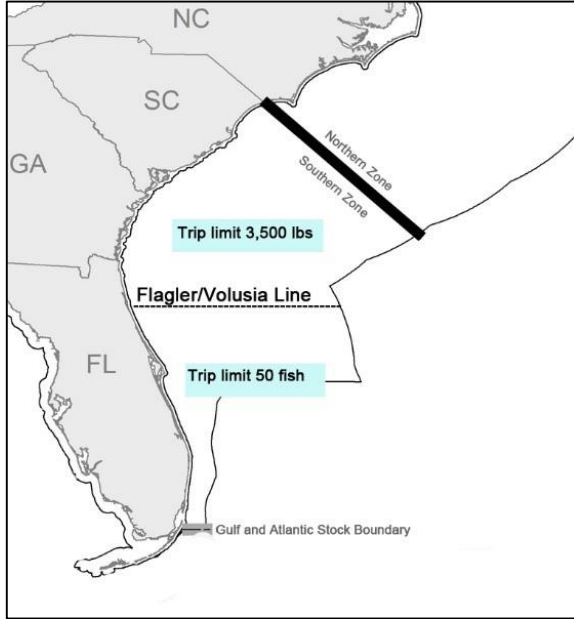
October 1st – End of February



Alternative 2:

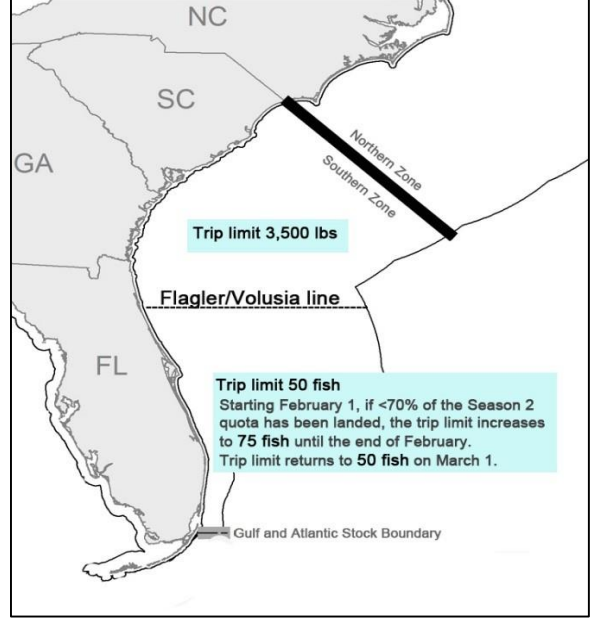
Season 1

March 1- March 31

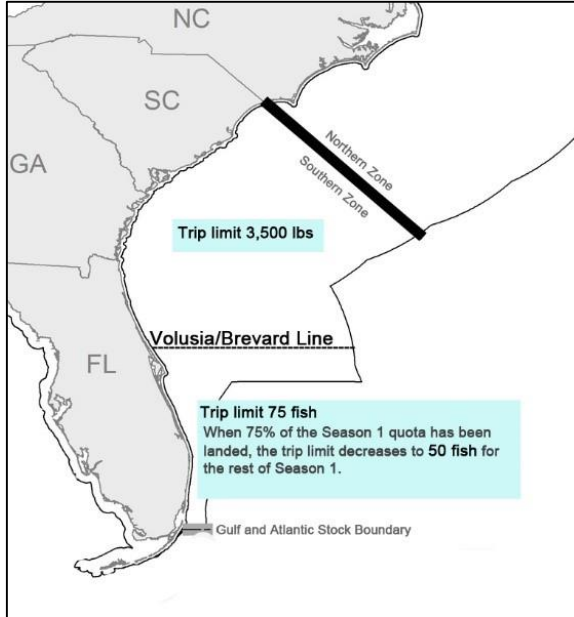


Season 2

October 1- end of February

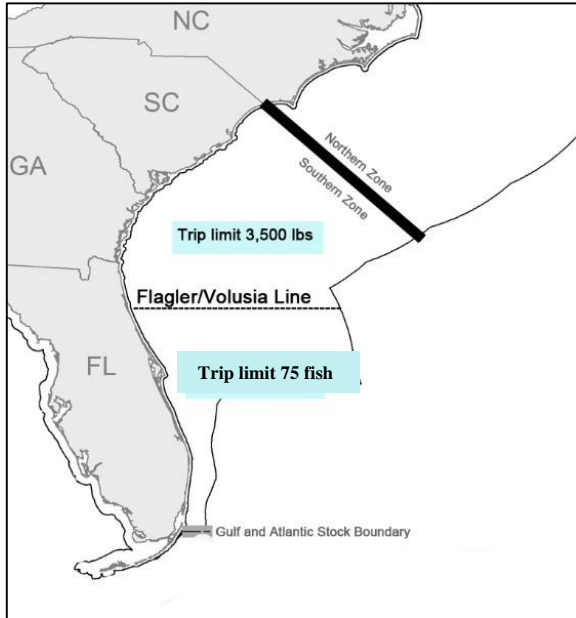


April 1- September 30

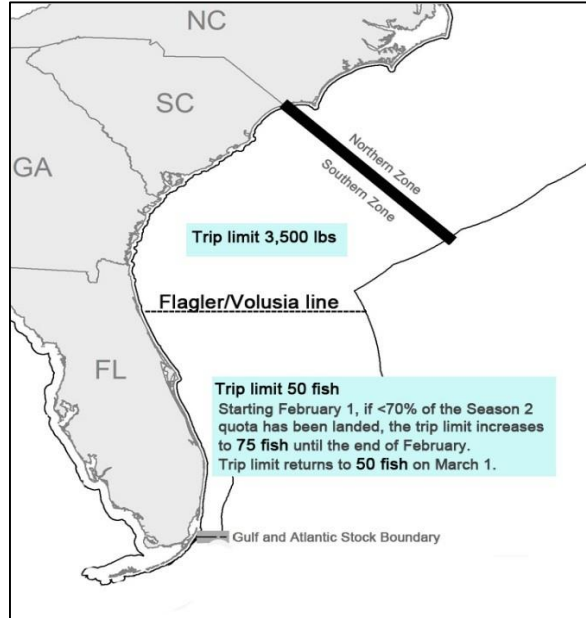


Alternative 3:

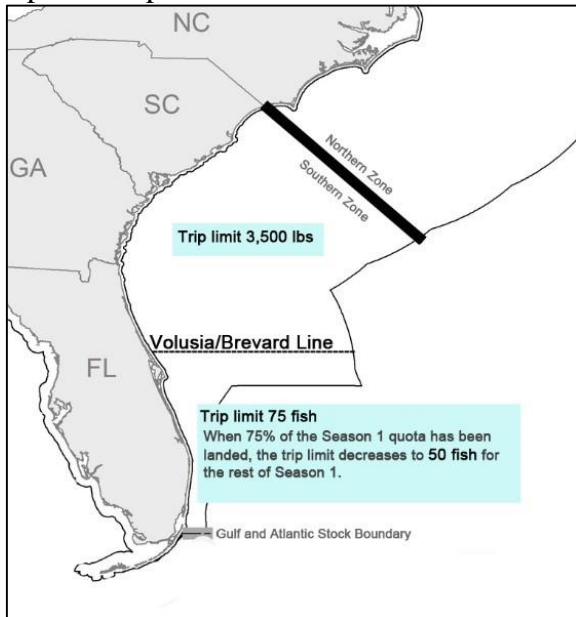
Season 1
 March 1- March 31



Season 2
 October 1- end of February

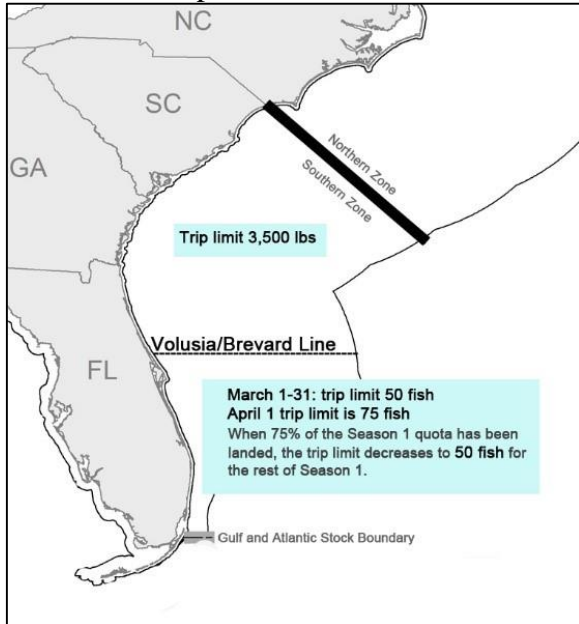


April 1- September 30

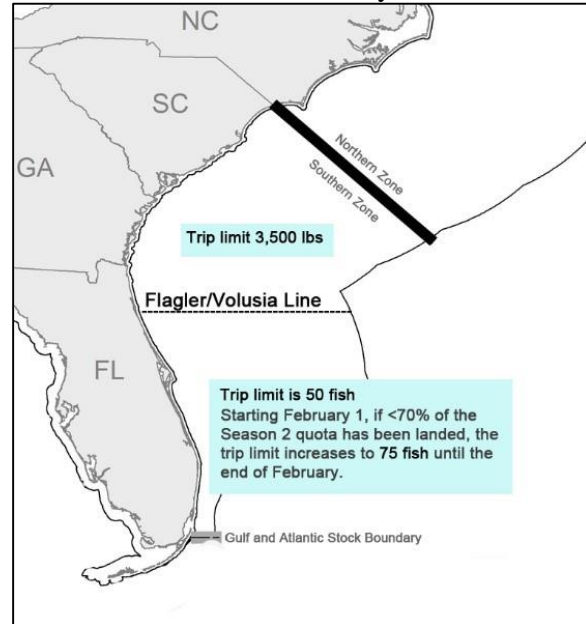


Alternative 4:

Season 1
March 1st – September 30th



Season 2
October 1st – End of February



Committee Action:

PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO STAFF

Draft Motions:

DRAFT MOTION: DIRECT STAFF TO BRING A DRAFT DOCUMENT TO THE JUNE 2018 COUNCIL MEETING