

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Daily Take and Possession Limits of King and Spanish Mackerel and Cobia (LAC 76:VII.327)

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of intent to amend a Rule (LAC 76:VII.327) by modifying the recreational bag and possession limit of king mackerel from two fish to three fish per person per day. Proposed changes further modify existing king commercial harvest regulations by establishing in rule the commercial season for the harvest of king mackerel to begin on July 1 of each year and provide authority to the Secretary of the Department to modify the commercial season should it be modified in the adjacent waters of the EEZ. Authority for amendment of this Rule is included in the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., and through the authority granted in R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:320.2, 56:326.1, and 56:326.3 to the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Title 76 WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

§327. Daily Take and Possession Limits of King and Spanish Mackerel and Cobia

A

B. The recreational bag limit for the possession of king mackerel (*Scomberomorus cavalla*) whether caught within or without the territorial waters of Louisiana shall be ~~two~~three fish per person, per day.

C -E 4...

5. The season for the commercial harvest of king mackerel shall open on July 1 of each year and remain open until the allotted portion of the commercial king mackerel quota for the western Gulf of Mexico has been harvested or is projected to be harvested.

6. The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized, upon notification of the Chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, to open, close, re-open, or re-close the commercial season for the harvest of king mackerel when informed of such a season modification in the adjacent waters of the EEZ by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:325.1 and R.S. 56:326.3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 15:868 (October 1989), amended LR 17:207 (February 1991), LR 19:513 (April 1993), LR 26:2633 (November 2000), LR 26:2833 (December 2000), LR 43:_____.

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final Rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Family Impact Statement

In accordance with Act No. 1183 of 1999, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries/Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issue its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of Intent. This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S. 49:972(B).

Poverty Impact Statement

The proposed rulemaking will have no impact on poverty as described in R.S.49:973

Provider Impact Statement

This Rule has no known impact on providers as described in HCR 170 of 2014.

Public Comments

Interested persons may submit comments relative to the proposed Rule to Jason Adriance, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000, or via e-mail to jadriance@wlf.la.gov prior to Thursday, September 7, 2017.

Chad J. Courville
Chairman

Date: July 6, 2017