§ 622.378 Seasonal closures of the Gulf group king mackerel gillnet fishery.

(a) The gillnet fishery for Gulf group king mackerel in or from the Gulf EEZ is closed each fishing year from July 1 until 6 a.m. on the day after the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal holiday. The gillnet fishery also is closed during all subsequent weekends and observed Federal holidays, except for the first weekend following the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday which will remain open to the gillnet fishery provided a notification of closure of that fishery has not been filed under §622.8(b). Weekend closures are effective from 6 a.m. Saturday to 6 a.m. Monday. Holiday closures are effective from 6 a.m. on the observed Federal holiday to 6 a.m. the following day. All times are eastern standard time. During these closures, a person aboard a vessel using or possessing a gillnet with a stretched-mesh size of 4.75 inches (12.1 cm) or larger in the southern Florida west coast subzone may not fish for or possess Gulf group king mackerel.

(b) [Reserved]
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) Cut-off (damaged) king or Spanish mackerel 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 cut-off fish also may be sold. A maximum of five additional cut-off (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.

§ 622.382 Bag and possession limits.

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

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

(A) Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic, other than off Florida—3.

(B) Off Florida—2, which is the daily bag limit specified by Florida for its waters (Rule 68B–12.004(1), Florida Administrative Code, in effect as of July 15, 1996 (incorporated by reference, see §622.413). If Florida changes its limit, the bag limit specified in this paragraph (a)(1)(i)(B) will be changed to conform to Florida’s limit, provided such limit does not exceed 5.

(ii) Gulf migratory group king mackerel—2.

(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 §622.162(a)(1)(i) through (xii), (a)(1)(xx), and (a)(1)(xxxi) through (xxxix) is limited to the bag limits specified in paragraphs (a)(1)(i) through (iv) of this section.

(2) Possession limits. 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.

(b) [Reserved]

§ 622.383 Limited harvest species.

(a) General. (1) The harvest and possession restrictions of this section apply without regard to whether the species is harvested by a vessel operating under a commercial vessel permit. The operator of a vessel that fishes in the EEZ is responsible for the limit applicable to that vessel.

(2) A person who fishes in the EEZ may not combine a harvest limitation specified in this section with a harvest limitation applicable to state waters. A species subject to a harvest limitation specified in this section taken in the EEZ may not be transferred at sea, regardless of where such transfer takes place, and such species may not be transferred in the EEZ.

(b) Cobia. No person may possess more than two cobia per day in or from the Gulf, Mid-Atlantic, or South Atlantic EEZ, regardless of the number of trips or duration of a trip.

§ 622.384 Quotas.

See §622.8 for general provisions regarding quota applicability and closure and reopening procedures. This section provides quotas and specific quota closure restrictions for coastal migratory pelagic fish.

(a) Specific quota applicability. 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). Cobia quotas apply to persons who fish for cobia and sell their catch. A fish is counted against the quota for the area where it is caught.

(b) Quotas for migratory groups of king mackerel—(1) Gulf migratory group. For the 2012 to 2013 fishing year, the quota for the Gulf migratory group of king

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