

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Fishing and Boating Services
Spanish Mackerel Commercial Catch Limit — Effective 10/7/2025

WHAT THIS NOTICE DOES

The Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources announces a change to the commercial catch limit for Spanish mackerel effective October 7, 2025.

NEW CATCH LIMIT

Not more than 500 pounds of Spanish mackerel may be landed per vessel per day or trip, whichever is longer, regardless of the number of licensees on board the vessel.

WHY THIS IS NECESSARY

Commercial landings have reached the commercial quota for the Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel northern zone. The northern zone for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel includes federal waters from North Carolina through New York. The commercial harvest of the Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel northern zone in federal waters closes October 7, 2025. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Fishery Management Plan for Spanish Mackerel allows states to implement a bycatch in state waters. This step must be taken to prevent the quota from being further exceeded, while allowing a minimal bycatch amount of Spanish mackerel to be landed to avoid dead discards.

WHO THIS NOTICE AFFECTS

This closure applies to all individuals who catch Spanish mackerel commercially.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This notice is effective at 12:01 a.m. October 7, 2025, and will remain in effect through and including February 28, 2026.

AUTHORITY

Code of Maryland Regulations 08.02.05.14C

Josh Kurtz
Secretary of Natural Resources