

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**The Maryland Department of Natural Resources**  
**Fishing and Boating Services**  
*Spanish Mackerel Commercial Fishery Season and Catch Limit — Effective 8/5/2024*

**WHAT THIS NOTICE DOES**

The Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources announces:

1. A change to the commercial catch limit for Spanish mackerel; and
2. A change to the commercial season for Spanish mackerel.

**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.

**COMMERCIAL SEASON**

The commercial season for Spanish mackerel will close at 12:01 a.m. November 16, 2024. The season will reopen at 12:01 a.m. January 1, 2025, with no additional restrictions.

**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 closed July 28, 2024. 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. August 5, 2024, and will remain in effect through and including December 31, 2024.

**AUTHORITY**

Code of Maryland Regulations 08.02.05.14C

Josh Kurtz  
Secretary of Natural Resources