



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*Marine Resources Commission
380 Fenwick Road
Building 96
Fort Monroe, VA 23651*

David L. Bulova
Secretary of Natural
and Historic Resources

Joseph D. Grist
Commissioner

August 25, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: SPANISH MACKEREL BUYERS AND HARVESTERS

FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

SUBJECT: COMMERCIAL SPANISH MACKEREL – STATE WATERS PER TRIP
POSSESSION LIMIT

On August 20, 2026, the National Marine Fisheries Service announced a commercial federal waters closure for the Atlantic Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel Northern Zone, to take effect at 12:01 am on Tuesday August 25, 2026.

Beginning 12:01 August 25, 2026, it shall be unlawful for any person to possess or land in Virginia any amount of Spanish mackerel in excess of 500 pounds from any vessel in any one day. This provision will be in place until March 1, 2027, when the Atlantic Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel Northern Zone reopens in federal waters.

Chapter 4 VAC 20-540, "Pertaining to Spanish Mackerel and King Mackerel" can be found in its entirety at <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title4/agency20/chapter540/>

For any questions or concerns, please contact Jill Ramsey at 757-247-2243 or Catherine Wilhelm at 757-247-2004.