

Management of Cobia through the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery Management Plan

Cobia Stock ID Workshop Review

SEDAR 58

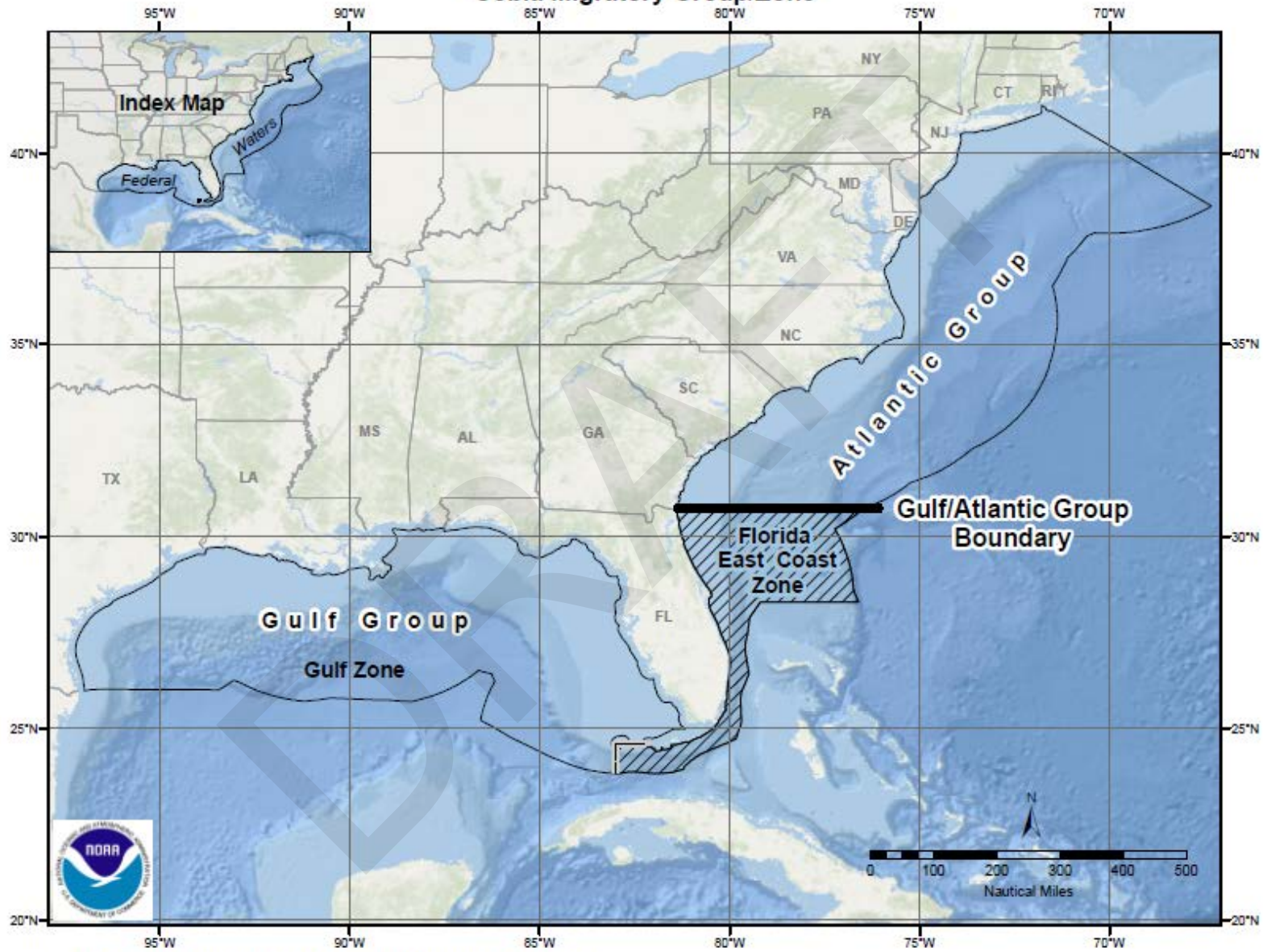
June 2018

Prepared by: Christina Wiegand, South Atlantic Council Staff

Ryan Rindone, Gulf Council Staff



Cobia Migratory Group/Zone



EsrI Ocean Basemap Sources: Esri, DeLorme, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors

Regulations for cobia in **federal** waters:

	Commercial Regulations	Recreational Regulations
Atlantic Cobia		
Size Limit	33 inches FL	36 inches FL
Possession Limit	Two fish per person per day or six fish per vessel per day, whichever is more restrictive	One fish per person per day or six fish per vessel per day, whichever is more restrictive
Annual Catch Limit	50,000 pounds	620,000 pounds
FLEC Zone Cobia		
Size Limit	33 inches FL	33 inches FL
Possession Limit	2 fish per person per day	2 fish per person per day
Annual Catch Limit	70,000 pounds	860,000 pounds
Gulf Cobia		
Size Limit	33 inches FL	33 inches FL
Possession Limit	2 fish per person per day	2 fish per person per day
Annual Catch Limit	Stock ACL: 1,660,000 pounds	

Recreational regulations for **Atlantic** cobia in **state** waters:

State	Bag Limit	Vessel Limit Private	Vessel Limit For-Hire	Min Size Limit	Season	Allocation
MD – NJ	1/person	1/vessel		29" FL	All Year	6,200 lbs
Virginia	1/person	3/vessel		40" TL*	June 1 - Sept 30	244,292 lbs
North Carolina	1/person	2/vessel May; 1/vessel June- Dec	4/vessel	36" FL	May 1- Dec 31	236,313 lbs
South Carolina	1/person	Southern Cobia Zone 3/vessel; Other areas 6/vessel		36" FL	Southern Cobia Zone June-April; Other areas all year	74,885 lbs
Georgia	1/person	6/vessel		36" FL	March 1 - October 31	58,311 lbs

* Only 1 > 50 inches TL allowed per vessel per day.

Commercial regulations for **Atlantic** cobia in **state** waters:

State*	Possession Limit	Vessel Limit	Min Size Limit	Season
Virginia	2/licensee	6/vessel	37" TL	All Year
North Carolina	2/person	6/vessel	33" FL	All Year
South Carolina	No commercial harvest in state waters.			
Georgia	1/person	6/vessel	36" FL	All Year

Recreational regulations for **FLEC Zone** cobia in **state** waters:

State	Bag Limit	Vessel Limit: Private	Vessel Limit: For-Hire	Min Size Limit	Season
Florida – Atlantic Zone (waters southeast of the Monroe-Collier county line)	1/person	6/vessel		33” FL	All Year

Commercial regulations for **FLEC Zone** cobia in **state** waters:

State	Possession Limit	Vessel Limit	Min Size Limit	Season
Florida – Atlantic Zone (waters southeast of the Monroe-Collier county line (25°48.216’ N. lat).	2/person	6/vessel	33” FL	All Year

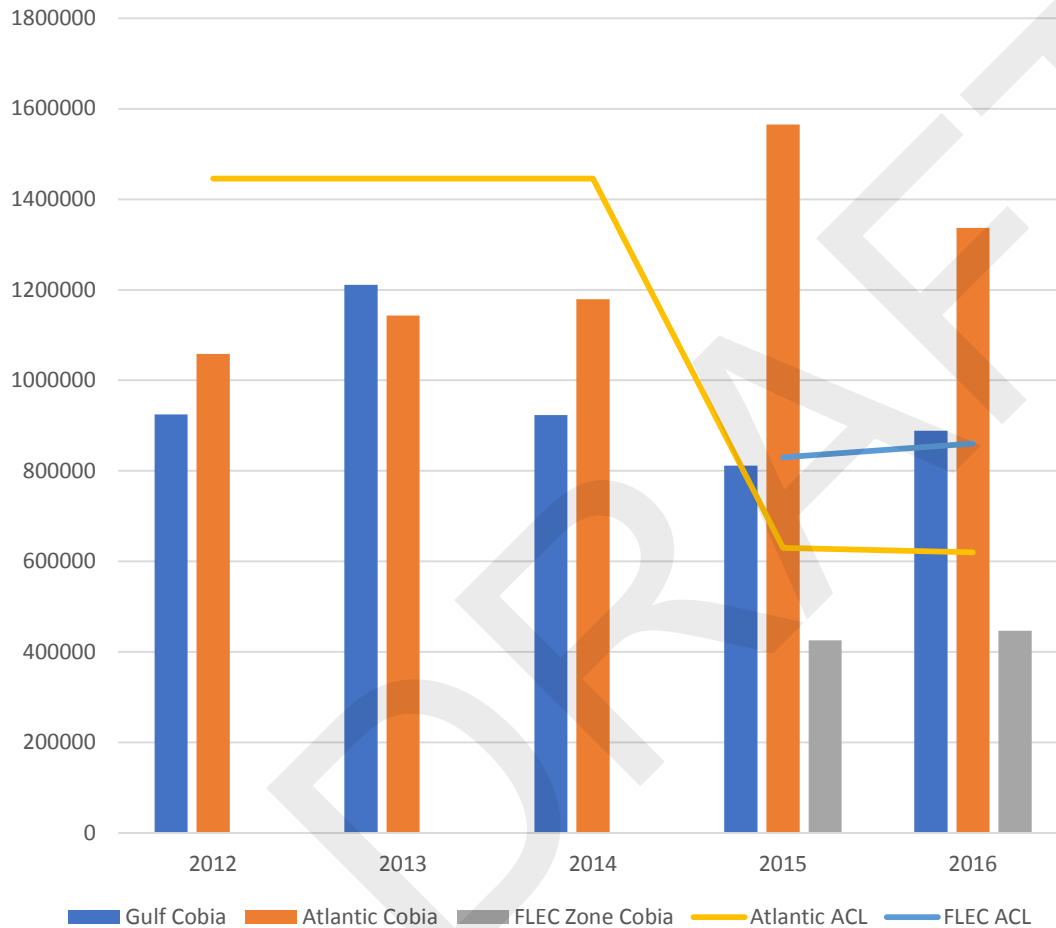
Recreational regulations for **Gulf** cobia in **state** waters:

State	Bag Limit	Vessel Limit Private	Vessel Limit For-Hire	Min Size Limit	Season
Florida – Gulf Region	1/person	2/vessel		33” FL	All Year
Alabama	2/person	-		33” FL	All Year
Mississippi	2/person	-		33” FL	All Year
Louisiana	2/person	-		33” FL	All Year
Texas	2/person	-		37” TL	All Year

Commercial regulations for **Gulf** cobia in **state** waters:

State	Possession Limit	Vessel Limit	Min Size Limit	Season
Florida – Gulf Region	1/person	2/vessel	33” FL	All Year
Alabama	2/person	-	33” TL	All Year
Mississippi	It is illegal to sell Cobia caught in Mississippi territorial waters or landed in Mississippi.			
Louisiana	2/person	-	33” FL	All Year
Texas	4/person (2/person daily bag)	-	37” TL	All Year

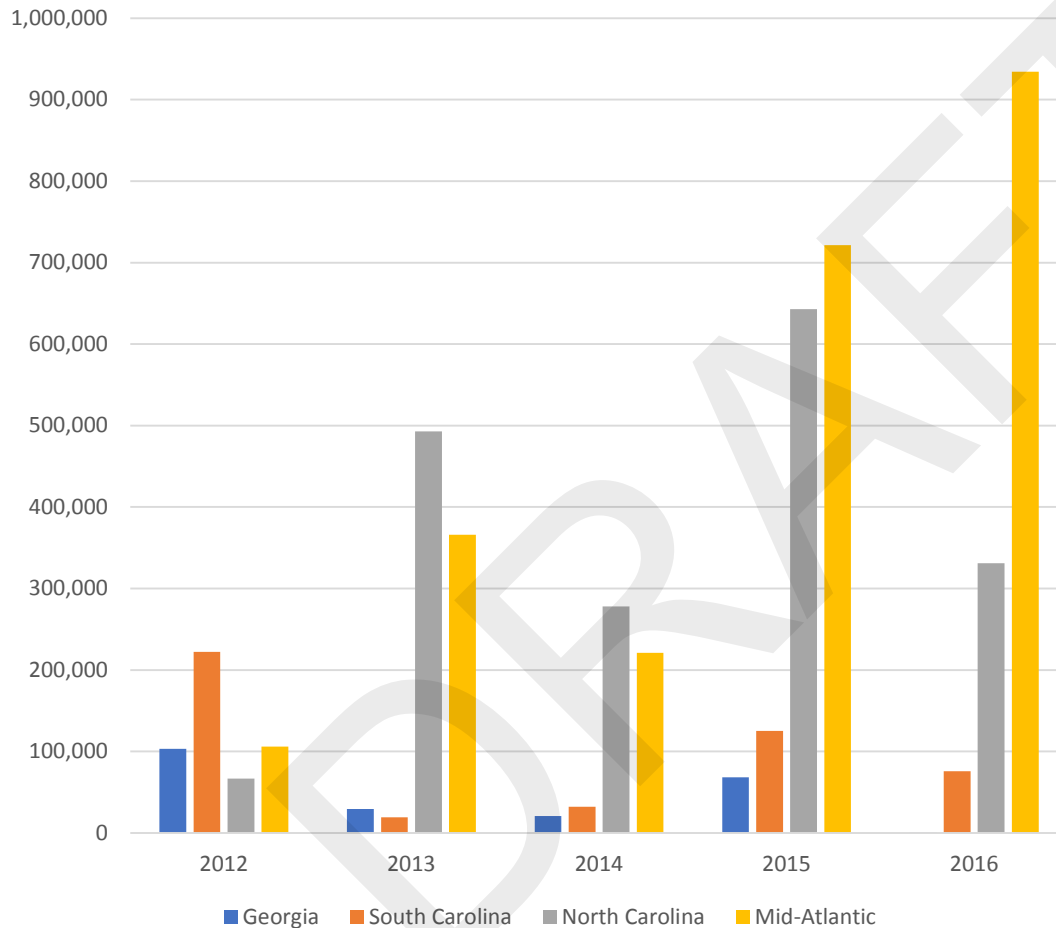
Recreational landings of cobia, 2012-2016, lbs al.



Source: SEFSC ACL Files, accessed May 30, 2018

- Pre-2015, the boundary was the GMFMC/SAFMC jurisdictional line.
- 2015+, boundary shifted to the GA/FL line.
- The east coast of Florida was apportioned 36% of the Gulf cobia ACL.
- Gulf cobia is managed using a stock ACL.

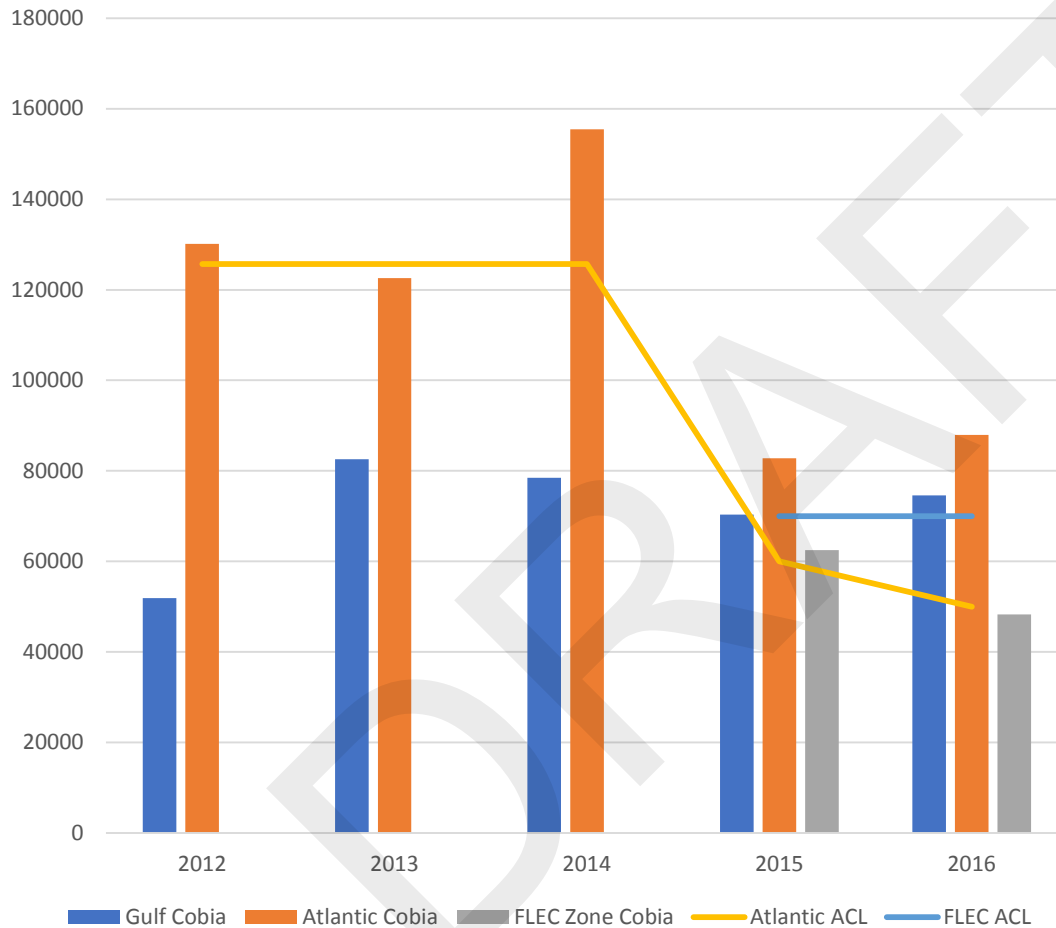
Recreational landings of Atlantic cobia by state, 2012-2016, lbs al.



- Federal waters closed to recreational harvest on June 24, 2016.
- Virginia accounts for majority of landings in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Source: SEFSC ACL Files, accessed October 2017

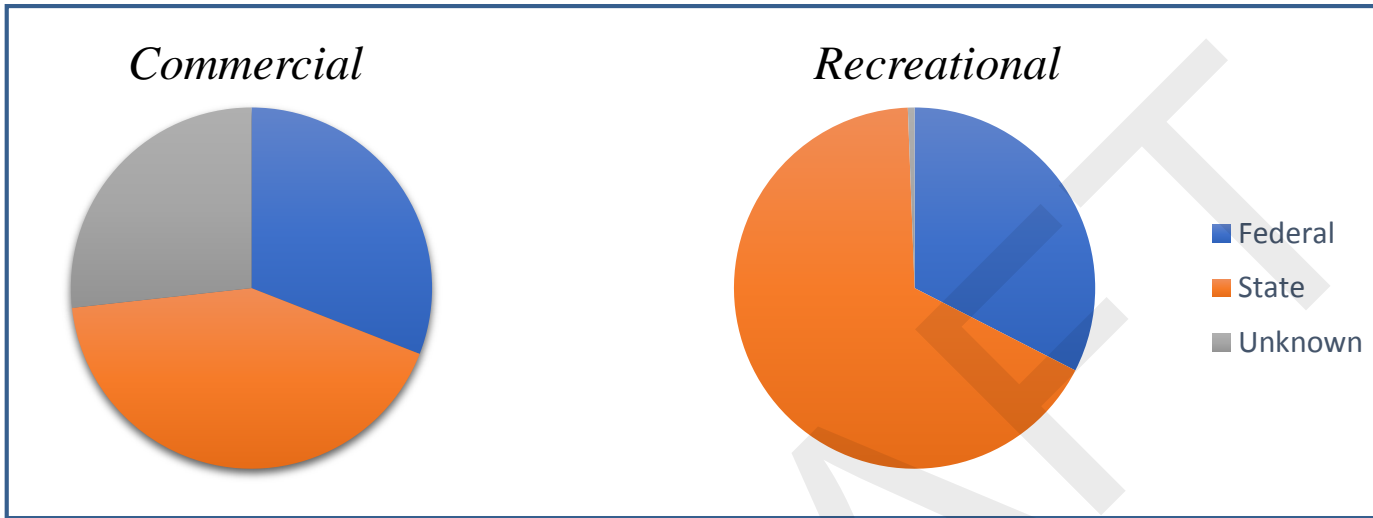
Commercial landings of cobia, 2012-2016, lbs al.



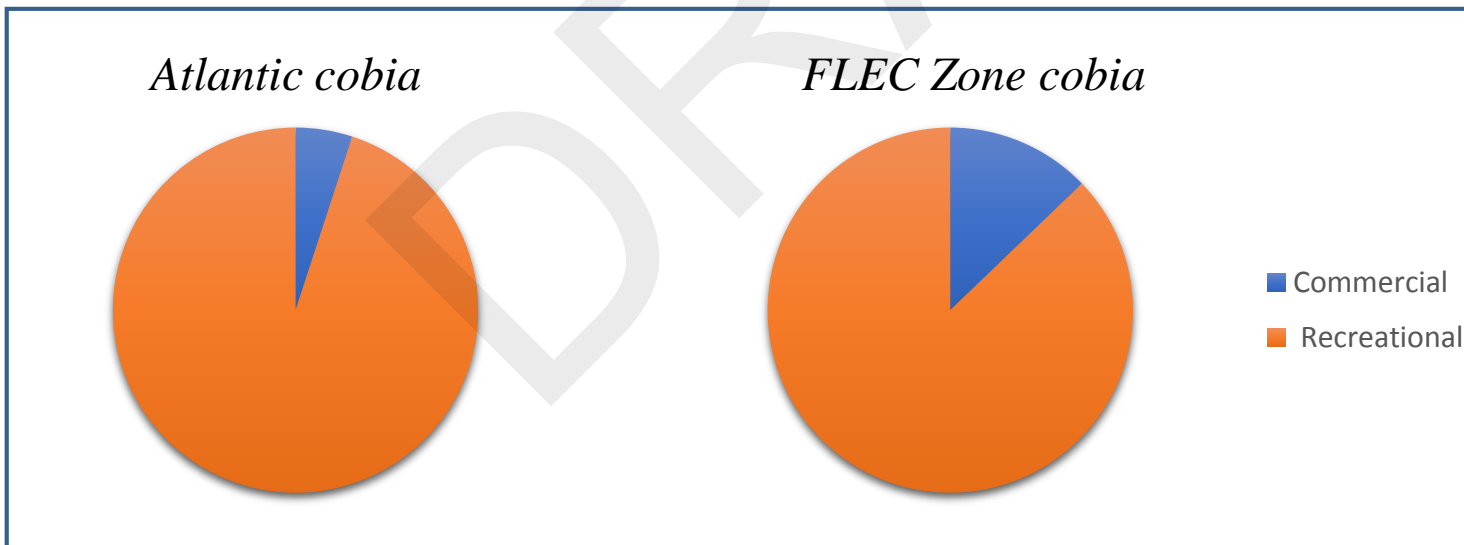
Source: SEFSC ACL Files, accessed May 30, 2018

- Pre-2015, the boundary was the GMFMC/SAFMC jurisdictional line.
- 2015+, boundary shifted to the GA/FL line.
- The east coast of Florida was apportioned 36% of the Gulf cobia ACL.
- Gulf cobia is managed using a stock ACL.

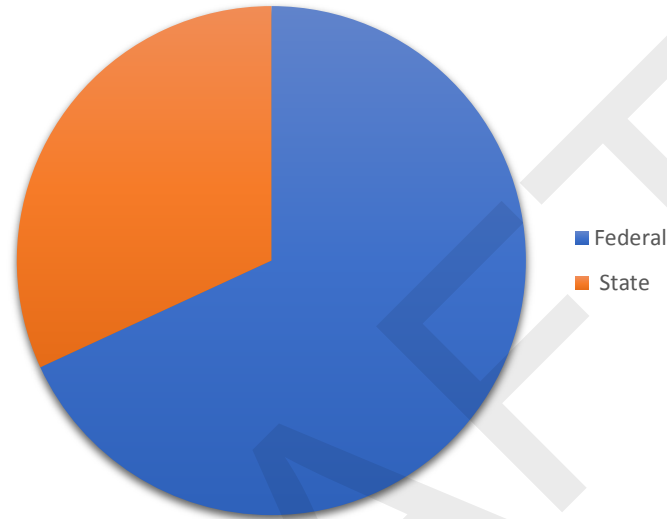
Proportion of Atlantic cobia (GA-NY) harvested from state vs. federal waters (2012-2015, avg.)



Proportion of commercial vs. recreational harvest of Atlantic and FLEC zone cobia (2015)



Proportion of recreational Gulf cobia (excluding FLEC) harvested from state vs. federal waters (2012-2016, avg.)



Proportion of commercial vs. recreational harvest of Gulf cobia (excluding FLEC) (2012-2016, avg.)

