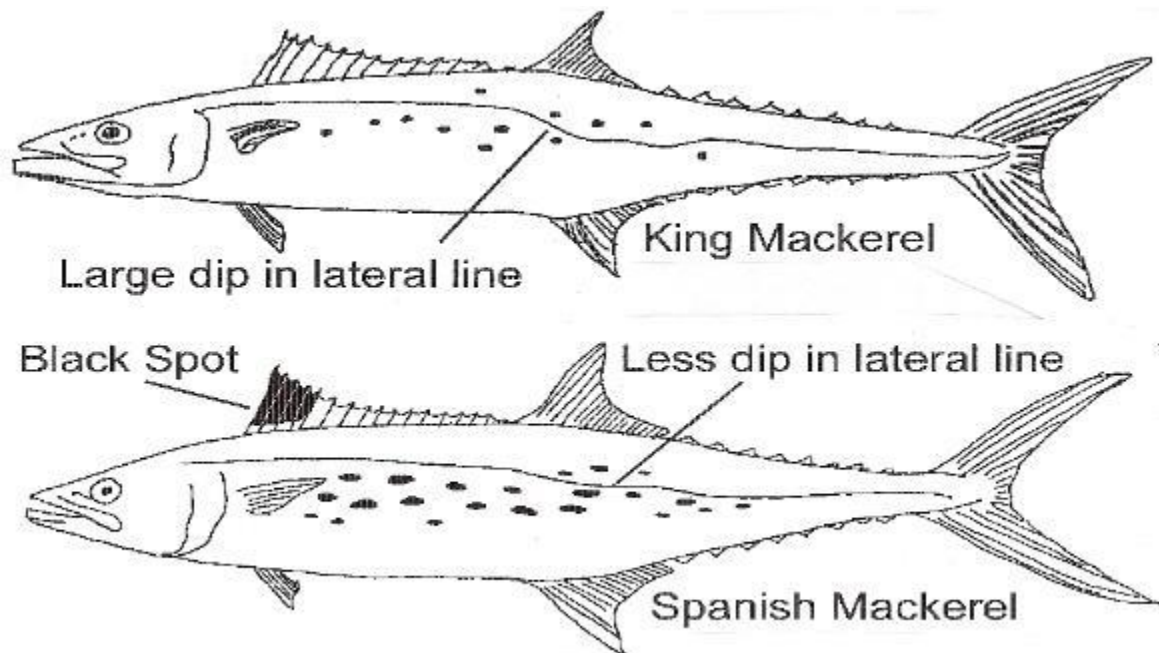


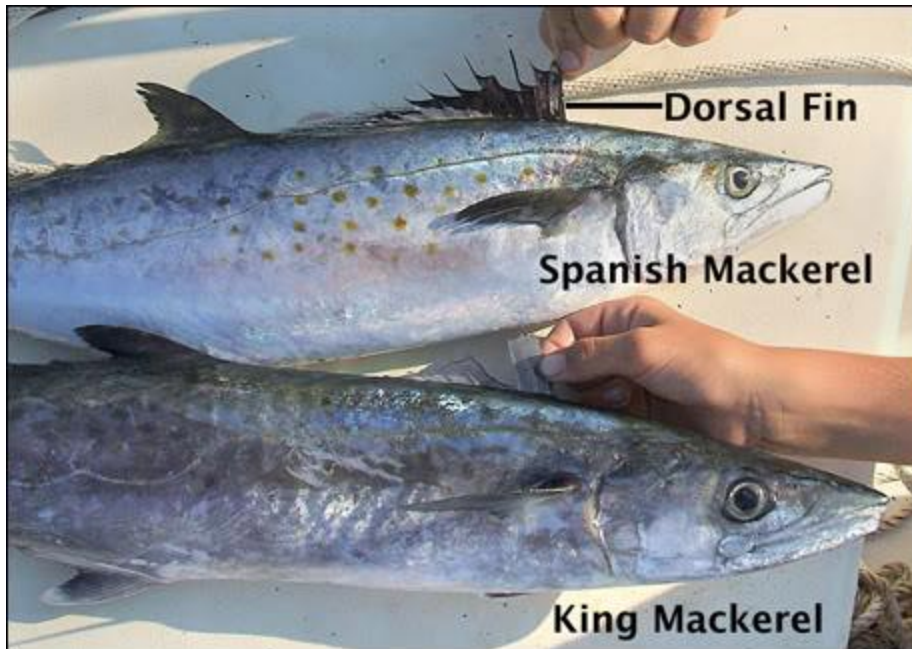
## How to identify Spanish and juvenile King Mackerel

Juvenile king mackerels and spanish mackerel can be easily misidentified. The spanish mackerel can be distinguished from juvenile king mackerels by their lateral lines and the first dorsal fin coloration:

**Dorsal Fin:** The front three or four sections (can be up to 1/3 ) of the Spanish Mackerel's first dorsal fin is black.

**LATERAL LINE:** The King mackerel's lateral line drops abruptly below the second dorsal fin. The lateral line of the Spanish mackerel slopes gradually down toward the tail.





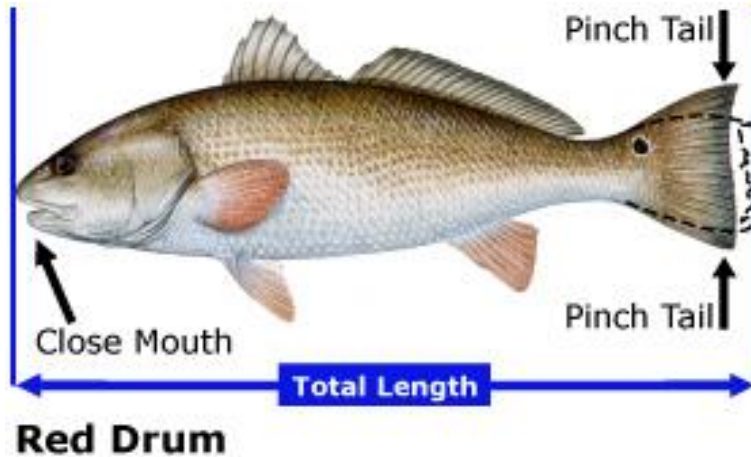
The Spanish mackerel is distinguished from the cero mackerel (*Scomberomorus regalis*) by yellow-gold spots on its sides (versus the cero's yellow-gold streaks along the midline from pectoral fin to tail). However, the ceromackerel is not normally found in the Pensacola - Destin area.

Know Your Florida Fish: Mackerels		
Species	Description	Identification
<p><b>Spanish Mackerel</b> <i>Scomberomorus maculatus</i></p>	<p>Adults and juveniles have several rows of round, bronze spots</p> <p>Maximum size 3 ft</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> dorsal fin is black</p> <p>Lateral line gently slopes downward</p>
<p><b>King Mackerel</b> <i>Scomberomorus cavalla</i></p>	<p>Adults are silvery with no spots</p> <p>Juveniles have bronze spots</p> <p>Maximum size 6 ft</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> dorsal fin is silver</p> <p>Lateral line has sharp drop</p>
<p><b>Cero</b> <i>Scomberomorus regalis</i></p>	<p>Adults have a bronze stripe from the pectoral fin to the tail</p> <p>Both adults and juveniles have oblong spots</p> <p>Maximum size 3 ft</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> dorsal fin is black</p>

# How to Measure Saltwater Fish

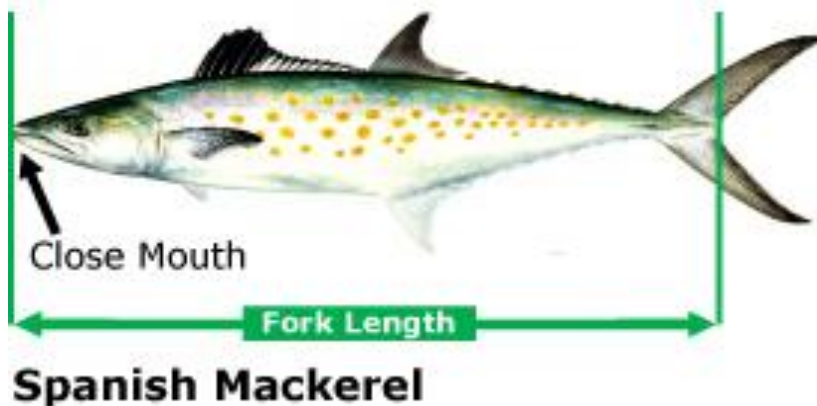
Most fish size limit regulations of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) use either Fork Length or Total Length.

These measurement methods provide a consistent, well defined measurement technique. These methods encourage angler compliance with fishery management regulations.



## Total Length Measurement

Total Length is now measured from the most forward point of the head, with the mouth closed, to the farthest tip of the tail with the tail compressed or squeezed, while the fish is lying on its side.



## Fork Length Measurement

Fish regulated by fork length are measured from the tip of the jaw or tip of the snout with closed mouth to the center of the fork in the tail.