



# *Dolphin Wahoo Participatory Workshop Update*

Julia Byrd, John Hadley  
SAFMC

Matt McPherson, Mandy Karnauskas, Skyler Sagarese,  
Scott Crosson, Kevin Craig, Cassidy Peterson  
NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science Center

**SAFMC Meeting**

**June 2020**





# Workshop Overview

**GOAL:** Increase information flow between scientists, managers, and fishermen in support of improved fishery resources in the Atlantic

**Develop a conceptual model of the Dolphin Wahoo fishery in NC/VA & FL Keys**

- *Major factors affecting the fishery*
- *Where risks in fishery lie*
- *What targeted research needed*
- *What is valued in the ecosystem*
- *How changes in ecosystem affect businesses & communities*
- *How environmental factors affect the fishery*

## Collaborators

- *SEFSC (lead): Mandy Karnauskas & Matt McPherson*
- *SAFMC*
- *MREP & Gulf of Maine Research Institute*
- *All of the fishermen & community participants!*

# Workshop Locations & Timing

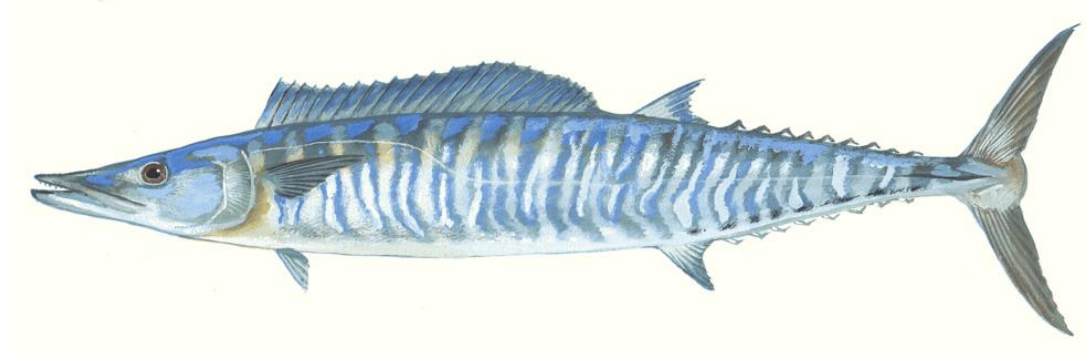
## NC/VA Workshops

- *March 9: Beaufort, NC*
- *March 10: Wanchese, NC*
- *March 11: Virginia Beach, VA*



## FL Keys Workshops

- *Originally scheduled for Summer 2020*
- *COVID-19 impacted planning*
- *Potentially reschedule late summer/early fall 2020*
- *Will be contacting Council members, AP members, and other interested parties to get input on timing & locations*





# Workshop Process: Starting Point

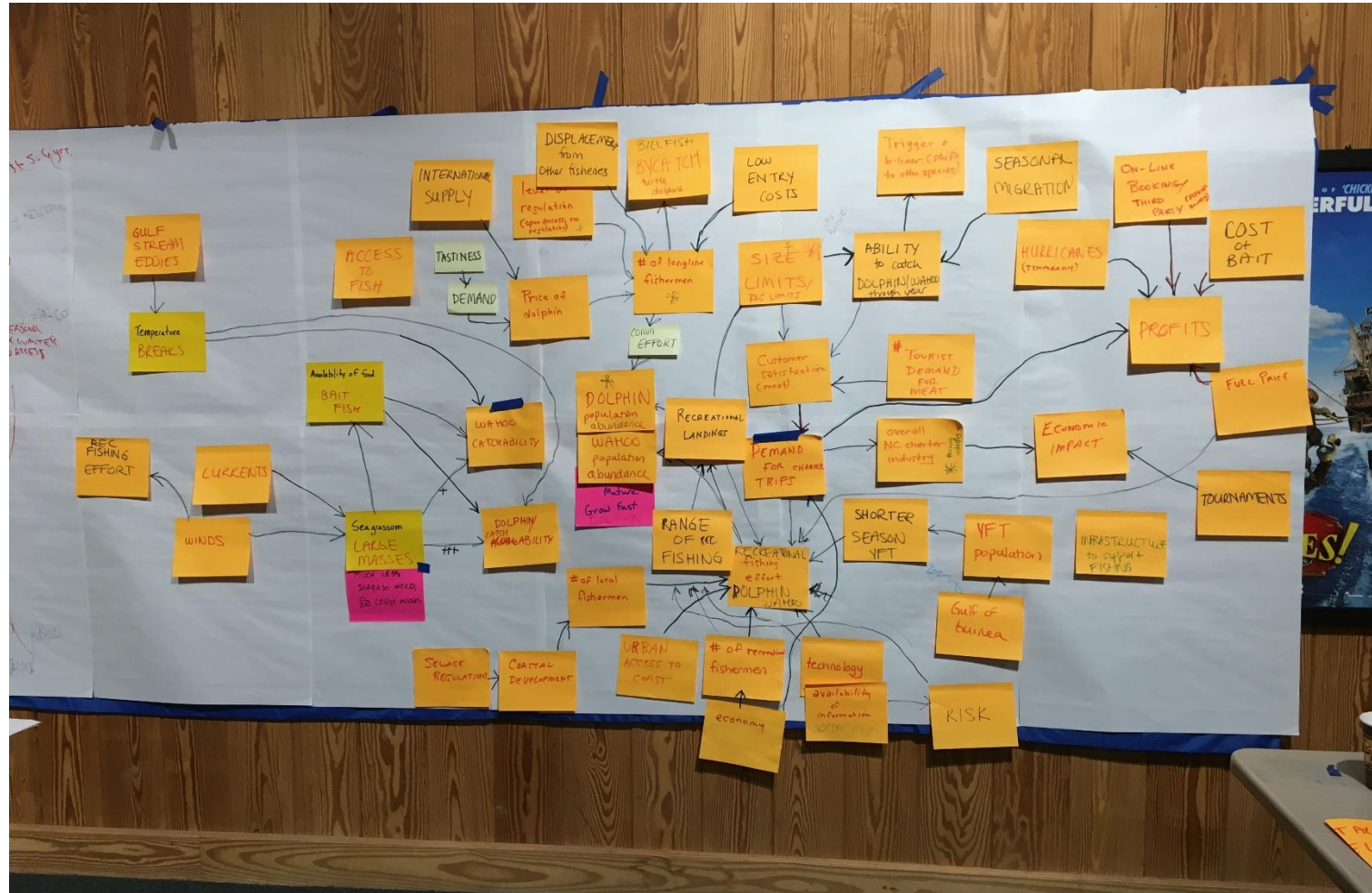


# Workshop Process: Underway

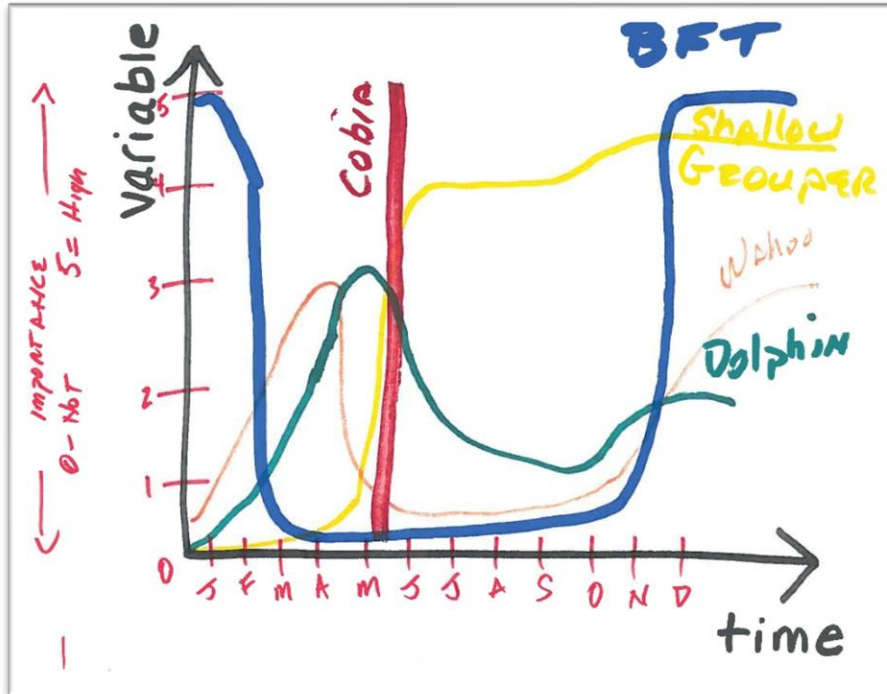




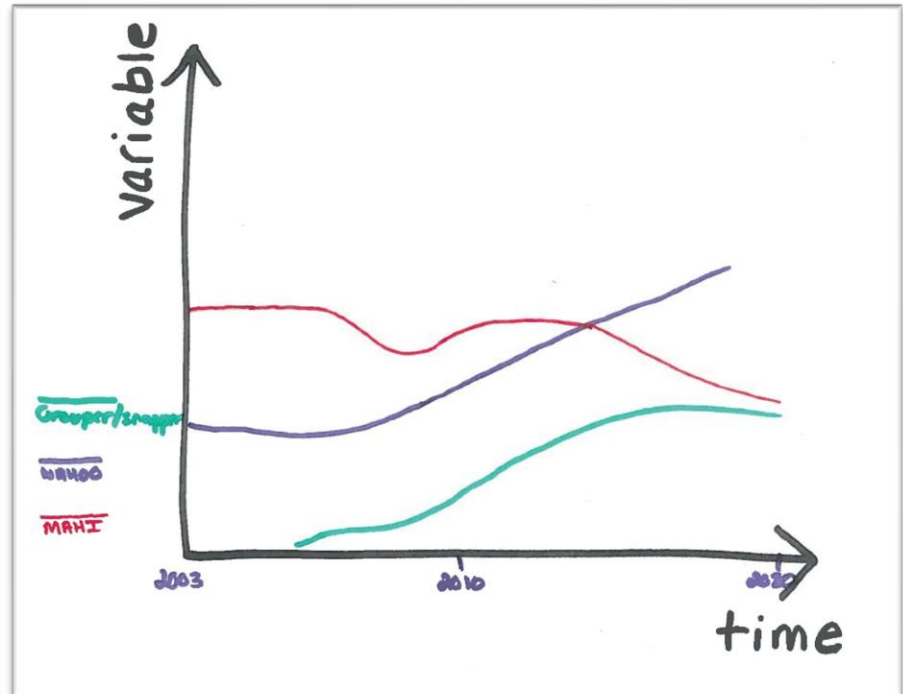
# Workshop Process: End Products



# Workshop Process: End Products



Participants plotted the importance of different species to their fishing operations throughout the year



Participants plotted perceived local abundance trends over time for dolphin, wahoo and other species





# NC/VA Workshop Overview

## Beaufort, NC: March

*7 industry participants*

*Primarily for-hire & limited recreational*



## Wanchese, NC: March

*14 industry participants*

*Primarily commercial & for-hire*

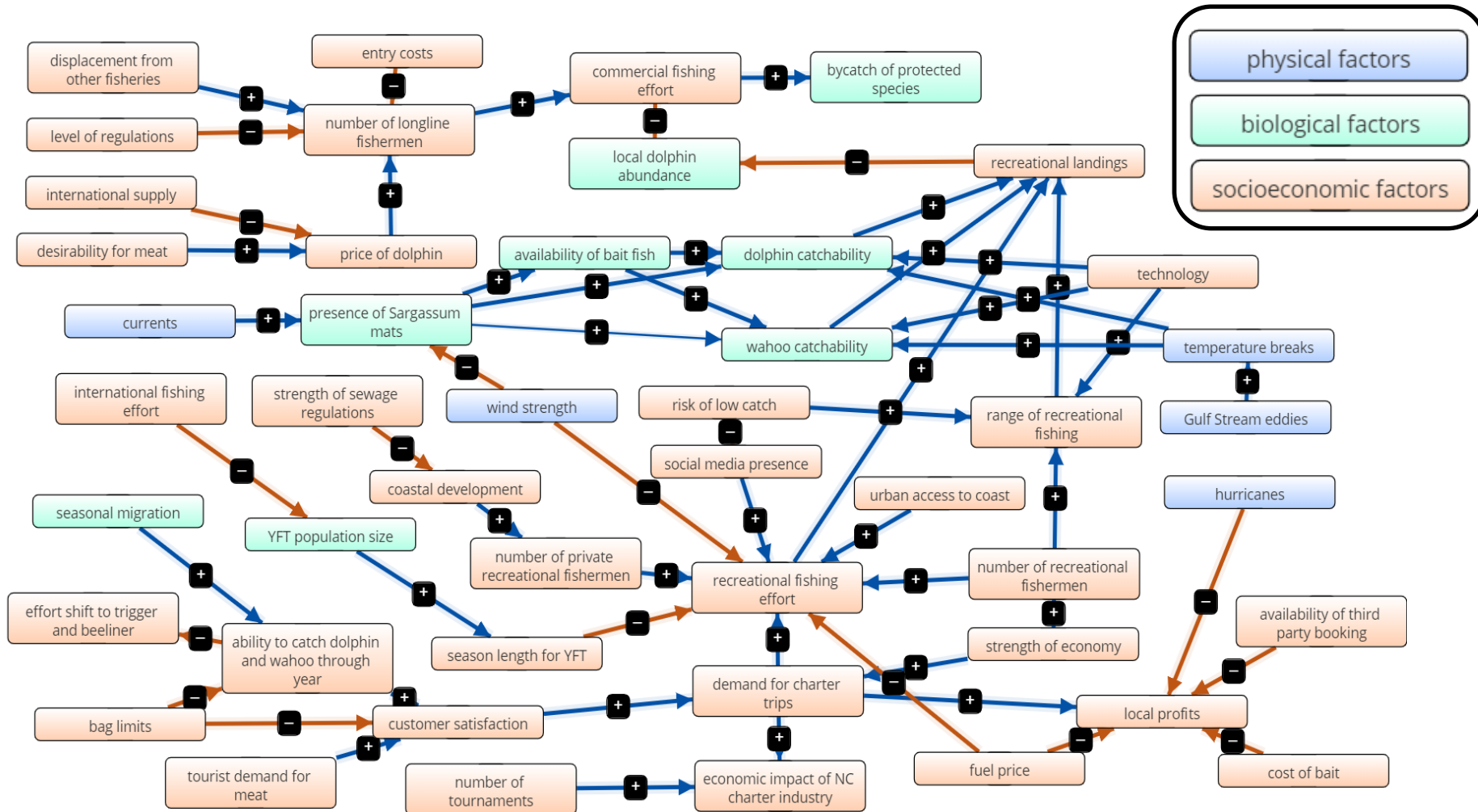


## Virginia Beach, VA

*4 industry participants*

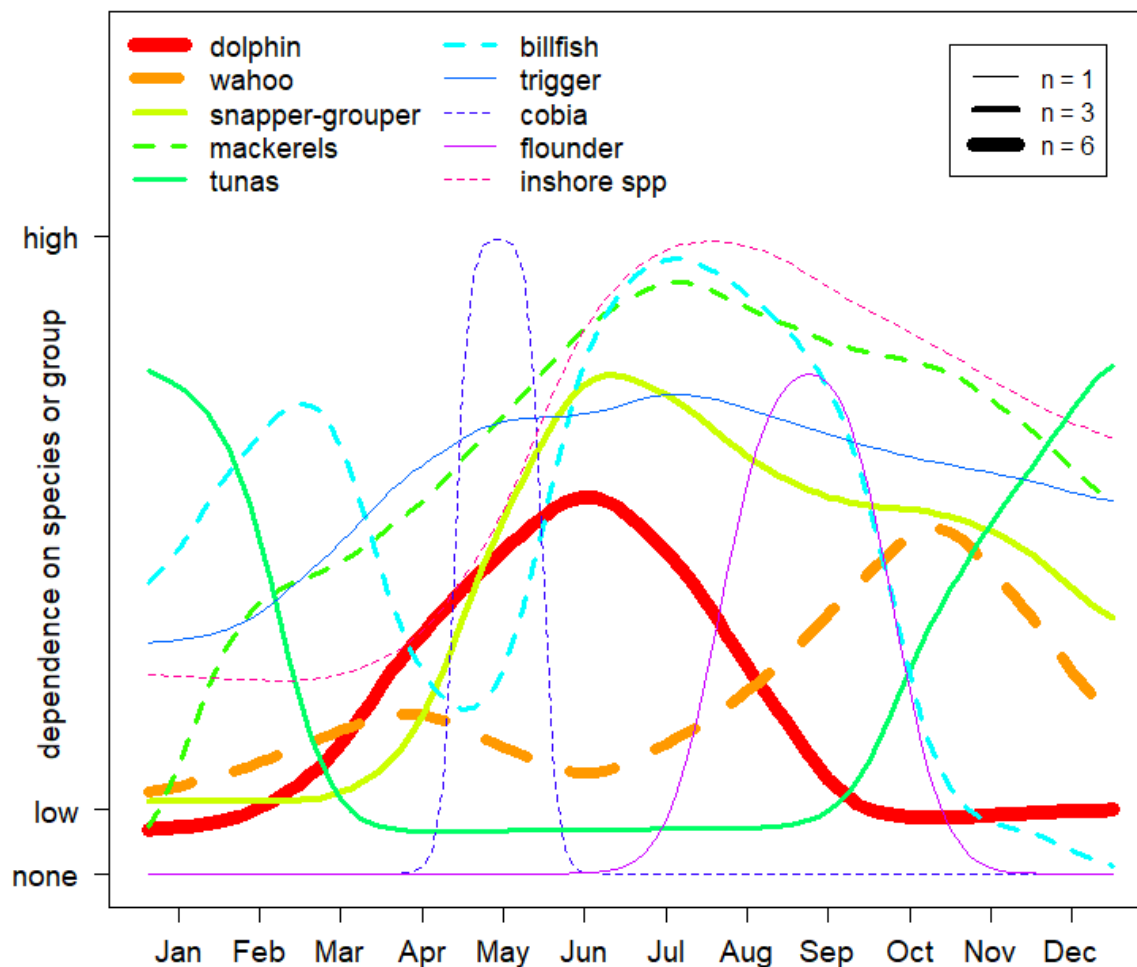
*Primarily for-hire & recreational*





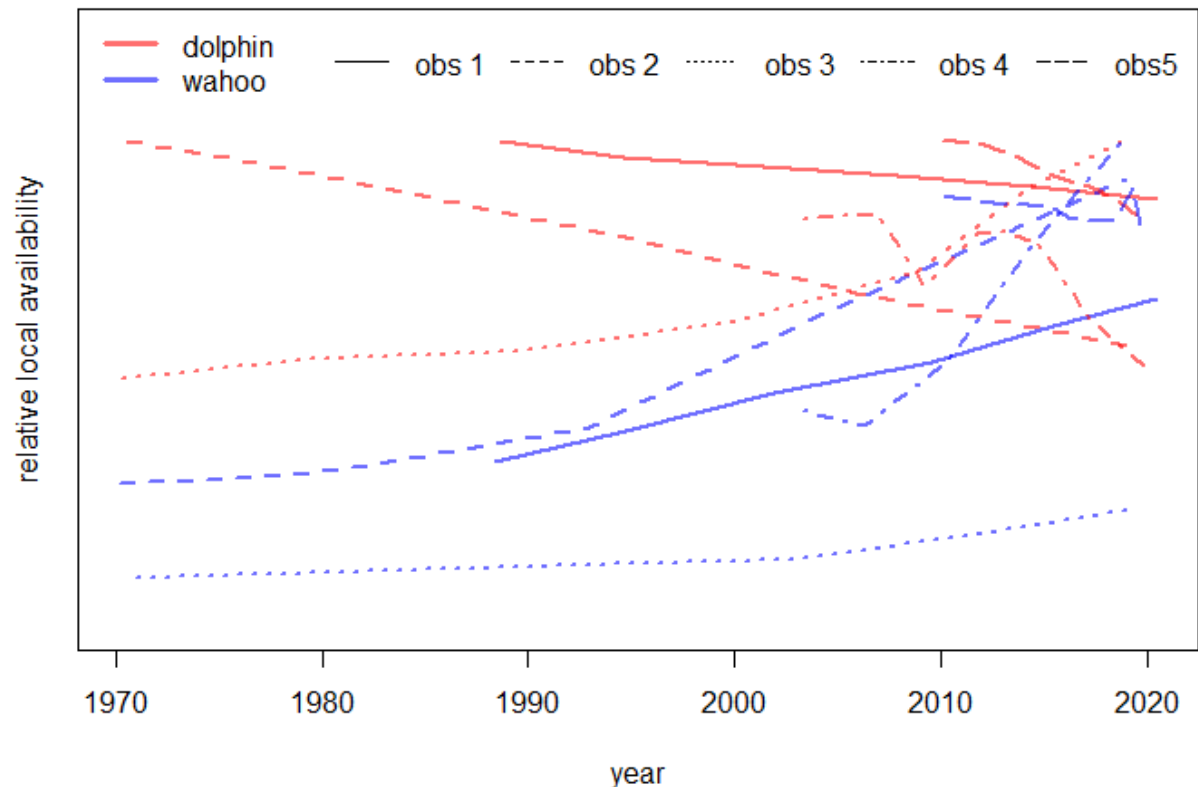
# Draft results: Seasonal Importance

- Dolphin most locally important in summer, wahoo in fall
- Dolphin/wahoo part of large fishing portfolio.
- Dolphin/wahoo frequently not primary target species.
- Informs effort shifts that may occur in response to decreased access to a fishery.



# Draft Results: Perceived abundance trends

Average perception: local dolphin availability has been gradually decreasing and local wahoo availability has been increasing.





# Emerging Themes

- Dolphin vs. wahoo: same fishery participants but large differences between species
- Overall, relatively little discussion of wahoo
- No clear hypotheses regarding overall stock drivers and abundance patterns
- Importance of social and economic considerations for management
- Concerns about accountability, particularly regarding overall recreational effort, in all areas



# Emerging Themes - Dolphin

- Within small geographic range there is large variation in role of species in the fishery
- Conflicts over dolphin between sectors at local and regional scales
- Impact of dolphin bag limits on consumer satisfaction (meat vs. sport fishing)
- Dependence of different size classes (gaffers vs. bailers) variable across area and sector
- Increased private recreational effort on dolphin, accountability concerns



# Next Steps

- Conceptual modeling in South Florida (COVID-19 dependent)
- More in-depth analysis forthcoming
- Final report for Council

