



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Melvin Bell, Chair | Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph.D., Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

July 28, 2022

Matt Brookhart
Eastern Regional Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
NOAA's National Ocean Service

Dear Mr. Brookhart:

Thank you for your letter requesting input from the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) on the potential need for fishing regulations to implement the proposed designation of Hudson Canyon as a National Marine Sanctuary. Two of the Council's Fishery Management Plans (FMP) extend into the proposed designation area: the Dolphin Wahoo FMP and the FMP for Coastal Migratory Pelagic (CMP) resources. The former manages the stocks of dolphin (*Coryphaena hippurus*) and Wahoo (*Acanthocybium solandri*) along the U.S. Atlantic from Maine to Key West, Florida. King mackerel (*Scomberomous cavalla*) and Spanish mackerel (*S. maculatus*) are managed jointly with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council from New York to the Texas/Mexico border.

As suggested in your letter, the Council would benefit from a briefing from your office to better understand the potential implications of the designation process to fisheries under its jurisdiction and formulate recommendations. Please let us know if you can present to the Council at our December 5-9, 2022 meeting, which will be held in Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina. Additionally, the Council will request input from stakeholders through its advisory panels this Fall. Therefore, we request a presentation on the proposed sanctuary during our Coastal Migratory Pelagics Advisory Panel when it meets October 5 – 6, 2022. These meetings are broadcast over webinar so remote participation and presentation is an option. We also intend to coordinate with the Mid-Atlantic, New England, and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils on this matter. Therefore, on behalf of the Council, I respectfully request an extension to February 1, 2023 to allow adequate time to provide expert opinion and complete our response following our December Council meeting.

Sincerely,

Melvin Bell
SAFMC Chair

LN# 2022-20

cc: Council members & Staff
Monica Smit-Brunello, NOAA GC