

should not include target stocks that are caught for sale or personal use. NMFS goes on to state that the mackerel species “are caught and sold by commercial vessels and are retained for personal use as bait by recreational fisheries in Federal waters, creating competing interests and conflicts among user groups, both of which are criteria that could exclude consideration of bullet and frigate mackerel as EC species under the National Standard Guidelines.”¹

At the December 2018 meeting, the Dolphin Wahoo Committee of the South Atlantic Council received a presentation on the presence of the two mackerel species in the diets of dolphin and wahoo and discussed the request from the Mid-Atlantic Council to manage bullet mackerel and frigate mackerel as EC species in the Dolphin Wahoo FMP. The presentation slides for the dietary information presented can be found by clicking [HERE](#). At the March 2019 meeting, the South Atlantic Council discussed a white paper on mechanisms and regulatory parameters for adding EC species to a FMP, ways that other Councils have addressed EC species in their FMPs, as well as background information on fisheries for bullet mackerel and frigate mackerel. The South Atlantic Council voted to send the topic of adding bullet mackerel and frigate mackerel to the Dolphin Wahoo FMP as EC species out for scoping in the spring of 2019.

At the June 2019 meeting, the South Atlantic Council reviewed scoping comments and directed staff to start work on Amendment 12 to the Dolphin Wahoo FMP (Amendment 12) that would add bullet mackerel and frigate mackerel to the FMP as EC species and provide an options paper for the amendment at the September 2019 South Atlantic Council meeting. In developing the options paper, the South Atlantic Council directed the amendment’s interdisciplinary plan team (IPT) to focus on the potential options that were taken out for scoping (**Table 1**). Additionally, the Council discussed exploring a prohibition on sale of bullet mackerel and frigate mackerel as a potential measure.

Table 1. Potential options for developing measures to address bullet mackerel and frigate mackerel as EC species in the Dolphin Wahoo FMP that were taken out to scoping in the spring of 2019.

Options	Description
1) Request guidance from the SSC	Request guidance from the SSC on identifying prey species to be listed as ecosystem components.
2) Designate EC species with no management related items	Designate EC species with no management related items such as trip or possession limits. This is similar to actions taken to list some snapper grouper species as EC species in the Snapper Grouper FMP and may elevate the importance of the species for research and monitoring purposes.
3) Prohibit or limit a directed fishery (trip limit)	Prohibit directed fisheries for designated EC species by establishing a trip limit which can be based on a total amount or a percent of total trip landings. This trip limit can apply across all gears or can focus on specific gears.
4) Prohibit or limit a directed fishery (annual vessel limit)	Prohibit directed fisheries for designated EC species by establishing an annual vessel limit.
5) Implement a reporting requirement	Establish or focus reporting requirements towards EC species such as through logbooks or dealer reports.

¹ The Federal Register Notice with NMFS approved and disapproved measures can be found at <https://thefederalregister.org/82-FR/40721>

