

Options Paper

Development of Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10 Snapper Grouper Amendment 44

June 2016

At their December 2015 meeting in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) discussed allocation issues facing the dolphin and yellowtail snapper fisheries. The Council directed staff to plan for a March 2016 joint meeting of the Dolphin Wahoo and Snapper Grouper Committees to discuss the potential development of a new joint Dolphin Wahoo/Snapper Grouper Amendment to address allocation considerations.

At the March 2016 meeting the Council discussed the following actions that could go in to DW Amendment 20/SG Amendment 44:

- Commercial gear separation in the dolphin fishery (hook/line and longline)
- Temporary allocation shifts between sectors similar to current Action 8 in CMP Amendment 26. However, while CMP 26 Action 8 refers to temporary allocation shifts from the recreational sector to the commercial sector, the Committee wanted any action in this amendment to allow temporary allocation shifts from either sector to the other.
- Common pool allocations where either sector can draw from the pool as needed.
- Institute a rollover reserve. If a sector does not harvest all of its allocation in one year, it could be made available to that sector in the next year. The Council may want to consider the percent of a sector's ACL that could be rolled over.
- Have a single ACL for the fishery – no sector ACLs. For species that are not overfished or experiencing overfishing such as dolphin, once a percent of the total ACL is reached in one fishing season, sector ACLs could be instituted in the following season.
- Temporary allocation shifts such as in the bluefish fishery. The current temporary allocation shift in the bluefish allocation is as follows: *If 17 percent of the total allowable landings (TAL) is less than 10.5 million lb (4.8 million kg) and the recreational fishery is not projected to land its harvest limit for the upcoming year, the commercial fishery may be allocated up to 10.5 million lb (4.8 million kg) as its quota, provided that the combination of the projected recreational landings and the commercial quota does not exceed the TAL.*
- Include all other options discussed in the white paper in the March 2016 briefing book for the Joint Dolphin Wahoo/Snapper Grouper Committee not discussed above.

The Committee discussed waiting until June 2016 to decide which items to consider including in the amendment and to send the amendment out for scoping in August 2016.

In March 2016, motions were past specifically to consider a single ACL for both dolphin and yellowtail snapper as actions in DW 10/SG 44, and consider separate ACLs by gear type (longline and hook/line) for the commercial dolphin fishery.

Draft Action – Remove sector ACLS for dolphin and yellowtail snapper

Alternative 1 (No Action) – The overall ACL for dolphin is separated by sector (90% recreational/10% commercial). The overall ACL for yellowtail snapper is separated by sector (47.44%recreational/52.56% commercial).

Alternative 2 – Create a single ACL for all sectors

Sub-alternative 2a – for dolphin

Sub-alternative 2b – for yellowtail snapper

Draft Action – Allocate dolphin by gear type for the commercial sector

Alternative 1 (No Action) – There is currently one sector ACL for all gear types in the dolphin fishery for the commercial sector.

Alternative 2 – Create separate commercial sector gear allocations for the dolphin fishery.

Sub-alternative 2a – Allocate 62% of the commercial ACL for dolphin to longline gear. Allocate 38% of the commercial ACL for dolphin to all other commercial fishing gear. (Based on average landings by gear type from 2005 through 2014).

Sub-alternative 2b – Allocate 46% of the commercial ACL for dolphin to longline gear. Allocate 54% of the commercial ACL for dolphin to all other commercial fishing gear. (Based on lowest longline % landings by gear type from 2005 through 2014).

Sub-alternative 2c – Allocate 75% of the commercial ACL for dolphin to longline gear. Allocate 25% of the commercial ACL for dolphin to all other commercial fishing gear. (Based on highest longline % landings by gear type from 2005 through 2014).

Sub-alternative 2d – Allocate 50% of the commercial ACL for dolphin to longline gear. Allocate 50% of the commercial ACL for dolphin to all other commercial fishing gear.

In addition to allocation issues for dolphin and yellowtail snapper, the Committee may recommend the Council consider in this or another amendment, the following dolphin management measures:

- Commercial bag limit sales of dolphin.
- Modification of the Purpose and Need for the Dolphin/Wahoo FMP to allow for a directed commercial fishery for dolphin
- Make the commercial Atlantic Dolphin Wahoo Permit limited entry
- Make the for-hire Dolphin Wahoo Permit limited entry
- Institute a circle hook requirement for the dolphin fishery

SUGGESTED MOTION: DIRECT STAFF TO DEVELOP A SCOPING DOCUMENT AND TO SEND DOLPHIN WAHOO AMENDMENT 10/SNAPPER GROUPER AMENDMENT 44 OUT FOR SCOPING IN AUGUST OF 2016 VIA WEBINAR.