

**SUMMARY REPORT
DOLPHIN WAHOO COMMITTEE
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Jekyll Island, GA
March 3, 2020**

The Committee approved minutes from the December 2019 meeting and the agenda.

Status of commercial landings versus ACLs

NMFS Southeast Regional Office (SERO) staff delivered briefings to the Committee on the status of commercial landings of dolphin and wahoo relative to ACLs. Based on preliminary landings estimates, commercial dolphin landings were at less than 1 percent of the sector ACL and commercial wahoo landings were at 12 percent of the sector ACL for 2020.

Amendment 12 (Bullet and Frigate Mackerel as Ecosystem Component Species)

The amendment would add bullet and frigate mackerel to the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan as ecosystem component species. The Committee received guidance from SERO staff on the Council's ability to designate bullet mackerel and frigate mackerel as ecosystem component species and implement associated regulatory measures. The Committee provided the following direction to staff and made the following motions:

Direction to staff:

- 1) Do not include draft actions (DRAFT Action 2 through Draft Action 9) for consideration in Amendment 12.
 - **DRAFT Action 2.** Establish a permit requirement for bullet mackerel and frigate mackerel.
 - **DRAFT Action 3.** Establish reporting requirements for bullet mackerel and frigate mackerel.
 - **DRAFT Action 4.** Establish a commercial trip limit for bullet mackerel and frigate mackerel.
 - **DRAFT Action 5.** Establish a commercial annual vessel limit for bullet mackerel and frigate mackerel.
 - **DRAFT Action 6.** Establish a recreational bag or vessel limit for bullet mackerel and frigate mackerel.
 - **DRAFT Action 7.** Establish a process for allowing the development of a directed fishery for bullet and frigate mackerel.
 - **DRAFT Action 8.** Establish a prohibition on sale of bullet mackerel and frigate mackerel.
 - **DRAFT Action 9.** Other actions that should be considered in Amendment 12?

MOTION #1: APPROVE THE IPT'S SUGGESTED PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT.

The *purpose* and *need* is to add bullet mackerel and frigate mackerel to the Fishery Management Plan for the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery of the Atlantic as ecosystem component (EC) species to safeguard their ecological role as forage fish for wahoo.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #2: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 IN ACTION 1 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE IN AMENDMENT 12.

Action 1. Designate bullet mackerel and frigate mackerel as ecosystem component species in the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan

PREFERRED Alternative 2. Add bullet mackerel and frigate mackerel to the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan and designate the two mackerel species as ecosystem component species.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Update on the Dolphin Wahoo Participatory Workshops

The Committee was provided an update on a series of participatory workshops that will take place with dolphin wahoo fishermen at locations in Beaufort, NC, Wanchese, NC, and Virginia Beach, VA in March 2020. These workshops will seek to gather information on major factors affecting fisheries for dolphin and wahoo, risks to these fisheries, how changes in the ecosystem have affected fishing businesses and communities, and what targeted research is needed.

Other Business

There were no items discussed under Other Business.

Timing and Tasks:

MOTION #3: DIRECT STAFF TO COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING TASK:

1. CONTINUE WORK ON AMENDMENT 12 FOR REVIEW AT THE JUNE 2020 MEETING.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL