



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE; SUITE 201

NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

TEL 843/571-4366

FAX 843/769-4520

Toll Free 866-723-6210

Email: safmc@safmc.net

Website: www.safmc.net

Ben Hartig, Chair
Dr. Michelle Duval, Vice Chair

Robert K. Mahood, Executive Director
Gregg T. Waugh, Deputy Executive Director

Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel

Crowne Plaza Hotel
4831 Tanger Outlet Blvd.
North Charleston, SC

Meeting Report

Advisory Panel Members Present:

David Harter (Chairman)
Christopher Burrows
Dr. Kyle Christiansen
Ty Conti
Harris Huddle
Fred Kinard
Tim Nettles
George Patterson
W. A. Phinney, Jr.
Ray Rosher
Joe Shute

Advisory Panel Members not Present:

Richard DeLizza
Dewey Hemilright (Vice-Chairman)
Robert Johnson
John Tortorici

Council Members:

John Jolley
David Cupka
Chris Conklin

Council Staff:

Brian Chevront
Mike Collins
Kim Iverson
Julie O'Dell
Gregg Waugh

Presenter:

Don Hammond

General Public:

Greg Garner (SCDNR LE)

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel (AP) met on Wednesday, March 19, 2014 from 9 am until 12 pm. After approving the agenda and previous meeting minutes, the AP received a presentation Don Hammond, Cooperative Science Services, regarding ongoing research and results from his dolphin tagging program. A copy of Mr. Hammond's presentation is attached to this report. Additionally, the AP discussed the following topics:

- Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5 currently under review
- Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7
- Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 8
- Commercial trip limits and recreational bag limits
- For-hire sale of dolphin and wahoo
- AP member term limits

The AP made the following motions regarding Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7:

Action 1: Exempt dolphin and wahoo harvested lawfully in The Bahamas from regulations that require them to be landed with head and fins intact in the U.S. EEZ.

Alternative 1 (No Action): Dolphin and wahoo in or from the Atlantic EEZ must be maintained with head and fins intact. Such fish may be eviscerated, gilled, and scaled, but must otherwise be maintained in a whole condition.

Alternative 2: Allow dolphin and wahoo brought into the U.S. EEZ from The Bahamas as fillets. The vessel must have stamped and dated passports to prove that the vessel passengers were in The Bahamas, as well as valid current Bahamian cruising and fishing permits onboard the vessel. The vessel must be in continuous transit in the U.S. EEZ. Two fillets of dolphin or wahoo, regardless of the size of the fillet will count as 1 fish towards the possession limit.

**MOTION 1: RECOMMEND THAT COUNCIL SELECTS ACTION 1, ALTERNATIVE 2 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE.
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Action 2. Exempt dolphin and wahoo harvested lawfully from The Bahamas from the bag and possession limits in the U.S. EEZ.

Alternative 1 (No Action): The bag limit for the possession of dolphin and wahoo lawfully harvested from The Bahamas, is 10 dolphin (60 dolphin per boat)/2 wahoo per person per day, in the U.S. EEZ.

Alternative 2: Exempt dolphin lawfully harvested in The Bahamas from regulations for bag limits in the U.S. EEZ.

Alternative 3: Exempt wahoo lawfully harvested in The Bahamas from regulations for bag limits in the U.S. EEZ.

**MOTION 2: AP ENDORSES ALTERNATIVES 2 & 3 AS PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION 2.
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Action 3. Require fillets of dolphin, wahoo, and snapper grouper species brought into the U.S. EEZ from The Bahamas to have the skin intact.

Alternative 1 (No Action): Snapper grouper fillets possessed in the U.S. EEZ from The Bahamas are currently not required to have skin intact.

Preferred Alternative 2: Snapper grouper fillets brought into the U.S. EEZ from The Bahamas must have the skin intact on the entire fillet.

Preferred Alternative 3: Dolphin and wahoo fillets brought into the U.S. EEZ from The Bahamas must have the skin intact on the entire fillet.

**MOTION: THE AP RECOMMENDS THE COUNCIL SELECTS ALTERNATIVES 1 AND 3 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES.
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

The rationale given by the AP for recommending Alternative 1 (No Action) as a preferred alternative, as opposed to Alternative 2 for Action 3 was that Alternative 1 (No Action) would allow fishermen to keep all snapper grouper species legally harvested in The Bahamas, regardless of the U.S. stock status of the species.

Action 4. In addition to possessing valid Bahamian cruising and fishing permits, require stamped and dated passports to prove that vessel passengers were in The Bahamas if the vessel is in possession of snapper grouper fillets in the U.S. EEZ.

Alternative 1 (No Action): Vessels bringing snapper grouper fillets into the U.S. EEZ from The Bahamas are required to have valid current Bahamian cruising and fishing permits onboard the vessel.

Alternative 2: Vessels bringing snapper grouper fillets into the U.S. EEZ from The Bahamas are required to have stamped and dated passports to prove that the vessel passengers were in The Bahamas, as well as valid current Bahamian cruising and fishing permits onboard the vessel.

The AP did not make any motions in regards to Action 4. The discussion regarding Action 4 centered on the fact that persons aboard vessels in the U.S. EEZ that had been fishing in The Bahamas would be required to maintain all the documentation required by Bahamian authorities, including stamped passports that provide evidence showing the passengers aboard the vessel were lawfully harvesting fish in The Bahamas.

The AP made the following motion regarding Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7:

Action 2. Revise the sector allocations for dolphin

Alternative 1 (No Action): The recreational sector allocation for dolphin is 92.46%. The commercial sector allocation for dolphin is 7.54%. The sector allocations for dolphin were set in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment (SAFMC 2011) and updated in Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5 (SAFMC 2013) using the sector allocation rule where 50% of sector allocations are based on a longer term landings series (1999 – 2008) and 50% of the sector allocations are based on a shorter time series (2006-2008).

Alternative 2: Establish sector allocations based on soft cap allocations in place before the Comprehensive ACL Amendment. The recreational sector allocation for dolphin is 87%, and commercial sector allocation is 13%.

Alternative 3: Set the commercial allocation at its highest percentage of the total catch over the past 5 years (2008-2012). The recreational sector allocation for dolphin is 86%, and commercial sector allocation is 14%.

Alternative 4: Set the commercial allocation at the average of the percentages of the total catch over the past 5 years (2008-2012). The recreational sector allocation for dolphin is 90%, and commercial sector allocation is 10%.

Alternative 5: Modify the time series by which allocations were specified for the two sectors. Allocation by sector = (0.5 * catch history) + (0.5 * current trend)

Sub-alternative 5a: Catch history = average landings 1986-2011, current trend = average landings 2009-2011). 2011 is the last year before ACLs went into place. The recreational sector allocation for dolphin is 90%, and commercial sector allocation is 10%.

Sub-alternative 5b: Catch history = average landings 1986-2012, current trend = average landings 2010-2012). 2012 is the most recent year of complete landings availability. The recreational sector allocation for dolphin is 90%, and commercial sector allocation is 10%.

Sub-alternative 5c: Catch history = average landings 1986-2012, current trend = average landings 2006-2012). 2012 is the most recent year of complete landings availability. The recreational sector allocation for dolphin is 91%, and commercial sector allocation is 9%.

AP REAFFIRMED THE CHOICE OF ALTERNATIVE 4 AS THEIR PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR ACTION 2.

The AP made the following motion regarding commercial trip limits and recreational bag limits:

MOTION: AP RECOMMENDS THE COUNCIL DEVELOP AN ACTION THAT WOULD REQUIRE A COMMERCIAL TRIP LIMIT OR A REDUCTION IN THE RECREATIONAL BAG LIMIT SHOULD 80% OF THE SECTOR ACL BE REACHED OR PROJECTED TO BE REACHED.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

For-hire sale of dolphin and wahoo

At this point, the AP had a discussion of for-hire sale of dolphin and wahoo. They were concerned that in spite of the AP's previous three unanimous requests, the Council failed to include a provision to reinstate for-hire sales for dolphin and wahoo. Again, the AP stated their desire to allow bag limit sales and passed the following motion:

MOTION: AP REITERATES ITS PAST MOTION TO ALLOW THE PROPERLY LICENSED CHARTER BOAT SECTOR SELL THEIR CATCH OF DOLPHIN AND WAHOO.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Kim Iverson spoke with the AP regarding recent actions by the Council to limit AP terms to three terms with each term lasting three years. A number of AP members will rotate off the AP once their current terms are completed. They were told that they could reapply after 1 year off the AP if they would like to.

Dolphinfish Research Program

Don Hammond, Director
 Cooperative Science Services, LLC
 Charleston, South Carolina

<http://DOLPHINTAGGING.COM>



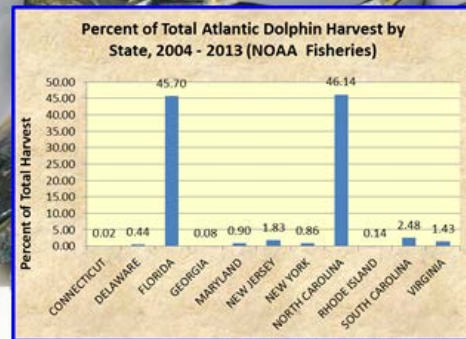
Sponsored in part by



Complexity of the Fishery A Varying Profile



Players in the U.S. Atlantic Dolphin Fishery



Who is Catching the Fish

NOAA Fisheries Comparison of Private and Charter Boat Harvest of Dolphin, 2010 - 2013.

State	Private (Pounds)	Charter (Pounds)
Florida	~8,500,000	~1,000,000
Georgia	~4,000,000	~7,000,000
North Carolina	~1,500,000	~1,000,000
South Carolina	~1,000,000	~500,000

NOAA Fisheries Profile of SAB

NOAA Fisheries Dolphin Size Distribution, 2010 through 2013 for South Atlantic

South Atlantic Size Category Contribution to Dolphin Harvest, 2010 - 2013. (NOAA Fisheries)

Size Category	Percent of Total Fish
Small	52.58
Medium	36.32
Large	11.48

North Carolina Dolphin Fishery Profile

NOAA Fisheries Dolphin Size Distribution, 2010 through 2013 for North Carolina

North Carolina Size Category Contribution to Dolphin Harvest, 2010 - 2013. (NOAA Fisheries)

Size Category	Percent of Total Fish
Small	50.57
Medium	36.37
Large	13.08

NOAA Fisheries East Florida Profile

NOAA Recreational Statistics Data for Dolphin Size Distribution in East Florida, 2010 - 2013

Size Class Contribution to Total Catch Using NOAA Recreational Statistics Data, 2010 - 2013.

Size Category	Percent of Total Fish
Small	52.58
Medium	35.45
Large	8.16

Florida Tournament Fishery Profile

Size Distribution of Dolphinfish in Florida Tournaments, 2010 Through 2013. N=1,026

Size Class Contribution to Total Number and Weight of Fish in Florida Tournaments, 2010 - 2013

Size Category	Number (%)	Weight (%)
Small	59.72	5.44
Medium	28.96	18.28
Large	51.31	76.28

Harvest Profile at a SC Marina, 2013

2013 Size Distribution for South Carolina Fish. N = 744

Size Distribution of NOAA Fisheries Statistics for South Carolina Recreational Caught Dolphin 2013

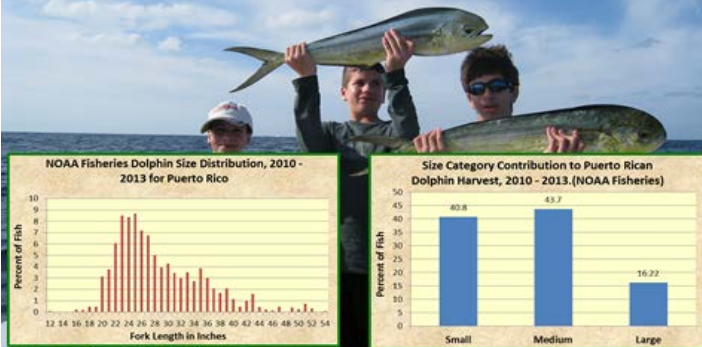
Size Class Contribution to Total Number and Weight of Dolphin Sampled in South Carolina

Size Class Contribution to Total Harvest of South Carolina Dolphin by NOAA Fisheries

Size Category	Number (%)	Weight (%)
Small	23.25	9.72
Medium	51.47	45.01
Large	25.24	45.25

Size Category	Percent of Total Fish
Small	63.47
Medium	28.55
Large	8.41

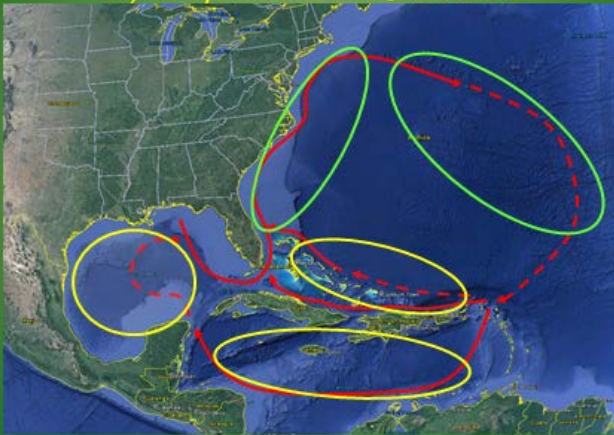
NOAA Fisheries Profile of Puerto Rico



International Dispersal of U.S. East Coast Fish



Hypothesis for Spawning & Recruitment of Dolphin in W N Atlantic



Nature of the W N Atlantic Dolphin Fisheries

- Dolphin are harvested by recreational fishermen from the Florida Keys to New York
- Anglers in the SAB harvest 94 percent of the dolphin each year off the U.S. Atlantic Coast
- Only in North Carolina do charter boats harvest more dolphin than private boats
- Regional fisheries rely on fish six months of age less for 40 to 60 percent of the fish caught
- Spawning failure in any area would impact a U.S. dolphin fishery within eight months

DRP Fosters Collaborative Research

- Edward B. Farrell, Andre M. Boustany, Patrick N. Halpin, Donald W. Hammond, 2013. *Dolphinfish (Coryphaena hippurus) distribution in relation to biophysical ocean conditions in the Northwest Atlantic*. J. Fish. Res. 151 (2013) 177-199
- Wessley Merten, Richard Appeldoorn, Donald Hammond, 2013. *Movements of dolphinfish (Coryphaena hippurus) along the U.S. east coast as determined through mark and recapture data*. J. Fish. Res. 151 (2014) 114-121
- Two additional papers are in press.

Status Satellite Tag Studies

- Three instruments currently deployed off Puerto Rico will complete our behavior and temperature selection studies.
- This year a new study will begin on long term tracking to identify migration routes. Five satellite tags have been secured to start this study.



Continue Harvest Profile Study

Monitor tournaments in Florida

Monitor harvest by vessels in one marina basin in Georgetown, Carolina

Dolphinfish Research Program



Donald Hammond , Director
Cooperative Science Services, LLC
961 Anchor Road
Charleston, South Carolina 29412
CSSLLC@BELLSOUTH.NET
(843) 795-7524

