Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel
Summary Report
April 24, 2012
N. Charleston, SC

Advisory Panel Members Present:
David Harter (Chairman)
Dewey Hemilright (Vice-Chairman)
Harris Huddle
Joe Shute
Fred Kinard
W. A. Phinney, Jr.
Dr. Kyle Christiansen
George Patterson
Tim Nettles
Ray Rosher

Advisory Panel Members not Present:
Richard DeLizza
John Tortorici

Council Members:
David Cupka (Chairman)
Tom Swatzel

Council Staff:
Gregg Waugh
Brian Cheuvront
Mike Errigo
Mike Collins
Kari MacLauchlin
John Carmichael
Kim Iverson

General Public:
Don Hammond
Rusty Hudson

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel (AP) met on Tuesday, April 24, 2012 from 8:30 until noon. After approving the agenda and previous meeting minutes, the AP received a presentation regarding the Council process and the role of the APs and the general public as integral parts in that process. Additionally, they discussed the following topics:

- Outcome of the SSC meeting from April 2012 and its impact on setting ABCs and ACLs
- Implications of the new MRIP vs. MRFSS estimates
- Sector allocation for dolphin
- For-hire sale of dolphin and wahoo

The AP was told the SSC is considering modifying the ABC Control Rule to address recommendations of the 'ORCS' Report (Only Reliable Catch Stocks) (NMFS Technical Memorandum NMFS-SEFSC-616). The intended modification replaces the current decision tree of Tier 4 with the ORCS attributes table and ABC scalars, as the Committee considers the ORCS approach more robust. The SSC requested that a workshop be held to address the specific details of the modification and develop initial scoring values for managed stocks, and that a final proposal be considered at the next SSC meeting in October 2012. John Carmichael provided further details.

Mike Errigo presented historical recreational landings for both dolphin and wahoo. Data are available to compare MRFSS and MRIP landings estimates for the years 2004 – 2010. In the future, there may be the ability to do a similar comparison going back several more years. In the case of dolphin and wahoo, the estimates of recreational landings made by MRFSS and MRIP are quite similar, especially in recent years. In all cases, the differences between the two measurement methods were within the confidence intervals expected for either measurement method.

The AP discussed the sector allocation method selected by the Council versus their recommended allocation method for dolphin. The Council applied "Boyles Law" (weighing both long term and short term catch levels by sector). At their last AP meeting, the AP recommended the Council use a method similar to the "soft cap" that had previously been in place, namely, allow the commercial sector 13% of the allocation with a maximum of 1.5 million pounds to be harvested by that sector. The AP reiterated their support of their choice of sector allocation methods stating that while the fishery is not either overfished or undergoing overfishing and the previous allocation was working, even if it was just a soft cap, the AP decided there is no justification to for changing the allocation method that seemed to be working.

Lastly, the AP discussed for-hire sale of dolphin and wahoo. The AP recommended that the licensed for-hire sector ought to be allowed to sell dolphin and wahoo to licensed dealers.

The following motions were moved and passed by the AP:

MOTION: Recommend the implementation of a competitively priced tag program for dolphin and wahoo that will indicate accurate harvest for all recreational components (for-hire and private sectors). Rosher/Phinney Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Recommend the Council adopt a sector allocation for dolphin where 13% of the allocation, not to exceed 1,500,000 pounds ww goes to the commercial sector and the remaining 87% would be allocated to the recreational sector. Shute/Rosher. Motion carries unanimously.

MOTION: Re-recommend the Council allow the properly licensed for-hire sector to sell its dolphin catch. Rosher/Shute. Motion carries unanimously.

MOTION: Reconsider the previous motion. Hemilright/Shute. Motion carries unanimously.

MOTION: Re-recommend the Council allow the properly licensed for-hire sector to sell its dolphin catch to a licensed dealer. Rosher/Phinney. Motion carries unanimously.

MOTION: Recommend the Council allow the properly licensed for-hire sector to sell its wahoo catch to a licensed dealer. Shute/Phinney. Motion carries unanimously.