



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Trish Murphey, Chair | Jessica McCawley, Vice Chair

John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA

Dolphin Wahoo Committee

Lumina Holiday Inn

1706 N. Lumina Avenue

Wrightsville Beach, NC

Tuesday, December 3, 2024, 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM (Times are subject to change)

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of minutes (December 2023)

1. Dolphin Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) Update (***Attachment 1***)
 - a. Presentation – NMFS SEFSC
 - b. **Committee Action:** No action required.
2. Modifications to the minimum size limit, recreational retention limits, and for-hire captain and crew bag limits for dolphin (Regulatory Amendment 3) (***Attachment 2***)
 - a. Overview – John Hadley
 - b. **Committee Action:** Provide guidance on the timing of amendment development.

Other Business

Adjourn

Committee Members

Kerry Marhefka, Chair

Robert Beal

Gary Borland

Tim Griner

Jimmy Hull

Trish Murphey

Charlie Phillips

Andy Strelcheck

Skip Feller, Mid-Atlantic Representative

Tom Roller, Vice Chair

Carolyn Belcher

Amy Dukes

Judy Helmey

Jessica McCawley

Lt. Tom Pease

Robert Spottswood, Jr.

Scott Lenox, Mid-Atlantic Representative

Mike Pierdinock, New England Representative

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Dolphin MSE update presentation

Attachment 2: Decision document for Dolphin Wahoo Regulatory Amendment 3 (modifications

to the minimum size limit, recreational retention limits, and for-hire captain and crew bag limits for dolphin)

Staff Lead: John Hadley (john.hadley@safmc.net)

OVERVIEW

Dolphin Wahoo Committee

The Committee will approve the December 2023 minutes and the agenda for the December 2024 meeting.

1. Summary of Dolphin Management Strategy Evaluation Update(*Attachment 1*)

Description: The NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) is conducting a management strategy evaluation (MSE) for the Atlantic dolphin fishery. The goal of this project is to develop an index-based management procedure that may provide catch level and management advice that best achieves the multiple management objectives of the fishery. SEFSC staff will update the Council on progress of the Dolphin MSE and recent stakeholder working group meetings.

Committee Action: No action required.

2. Modifications to the minimum size limit, recreational retention limits, and reducing for-hire captain and crew bag limits for dolphin (Regulatory Amendment 3) (*Attachment 2*)

Description: This amendment includes measures that would extend the applicable range of the 20-inch fork length minimum size limit for dolphin, modify recreational retention limits for dolphin, and remove captain and crew bag limits for dolphin. At the [June 2023](#) meeting, the Council passed a motion to delay development of the amendment until the Dolphin MSE report is available or until the December 2024 Council meeting, whichever is earlier. This guidance was reiterated at the [December 2023](#) meeting.

Council staff will review the Committee's previous guidance on draft actions and facilitate a discussion of the Committee's plans for developing Regulatory Amendment 3. With the final results of the Dolphin MSE not likely available for review by the Committee until late 2025, the Committee will be asked how to proceed with Regulatory Amendment 3.

Status of Amendment: The amendment was approved for scoping at the March 2022 meeting. Feedback received during the Dolphin MSE stakeholder workshops and during Council meetings constituted the scoping process.

Committee Action: Provide guidance on the timing of amendment development.

Specifically, should work start again on the amendment immediately, after the Council has reviewed the results of the Dolphin MSE, or a different timeframe?

Other Business

Adjourn