

# **SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

## **DOLPHIN WAHOO COMMITTEE**

**Savannah Hilton DeSoto  
Savannah, Georgia**

**March 5, 2014**

### **SUMMARY MINUTES**

#### **Dolphin Wahoo Committee:**

Anna Beckwith, Chair  
David Cupka  
John Jolley

Zack Bowen  
Doug Haymans  
Pres Pate

#### **Council Members:**

Ben Hartig  
Mel Bell  
Jack Cox  
Lt. Morgan Fowler  
Jessica McCawley

Dr. Michelle Duval  
Chris Conklin  
Dr. Roy Crabtree  
Dr. Wilson Laney  
Charlie Phillips

#### **Council Staff:**

Bob Mahood  
Mike Collins  
Dr. Kari MacLauchlin  
Kim Iverson  
Julie O'Dell  
Anna Martin

Gregg Waugh  
John Carmichael  
Amber Von Harten  
Dr. Mike Errigo  
Myra Brouwer  
Dr. Brian Chevront

#### **Observers/Participants:**

Monica Smit-Brunello  
Dr. Bonnie Ponwith  
Phil Steele

Dr. Jack McGovern  
Pat O'Shaughnessy  
Doug Boyd

Additional Observers Attached

The Dolphin Wahoo Committee of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council convened in the Madison Ballroom of the Savannah Hilton DeSoto, March 5, 2014, and was called to order at 4:30 o'clock p.m. by Chairman Anna Beckwith.

MS. BECKWITH: I declare the Dolphin Wahoo Committee open. If you guys would take a look at your agenda, Attachment 2; does anyone have any additions to the agenda? Okay, seeing none, the agenda is approved. I am going to defer approval of the December 2013 Committee Minutes because I have not had an opportunity to thoroughly review them, so we will be doing that at full council if that's okay with the committee. Do we have our status reviews?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Yes; Jack is going to do the commercial.

DR. McGOVERN: For dolphin and wahoo commercial, about 1 percent of the commercial ACL has been met through the end of February, which is similar to where we were last year at this time. In 2013 49 percent of the commercial dolphin ACL was met. For wahoo, about the percent of the wahoo ACL has been met through the end February; and again those landings are very similar to where we were last year. About 94 percent of the commercial ACL was met in 2013 for wahoo.

For recreational data – and we have updated information for both of these just like for snapper grouper – we have data through Wave 6 now for dolphin and wahoo recreational. We don't have the headboat data yet, but we're going to be getting those this week. For 2013 39 percent of the dolphin recreational ACL has been met; and last year about 45 percent of the recreational ACL was met. For wahoo about 30 percent of the recreational was met in 2013 and in the previous year about 109 percent was met.

MS. BECKWITH: The status on Amendment 5.

DR. McGOVERN: Dolphin Wahoo 5 has actions to revise the ABC estimates, ACLs and recreational ACTs for dolphin and wahoo through incorporation of the new MRIP information. Additionally, dolphin and wahoo would revise the accountability measures and update the framework procedure for dolphin and wahoo.

The amendment was submitted for secretarial review on November 25<sup>th</sup> of last year. The proposed rule package is under review in headquarters; and it should publish soon. The NOA published on February 28<sup>th</sup> and the comment period for the Notice of Availability for the amendment ends on April 29<sup>th</sup> of this year.

MS. BECKWITH: Thank you, Jack. I'll turn it over to Brian.

DR. CHEUVRONT: And here we thought we were done with this for today; we're back to Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 now. Since most of the folks were here and it was so recent that we just discussed this, I'm thinking what we might want to go ahead and do is go right to the discussion of the purpose and need since you all remember now why we're doing this amendment and all that in the first place.

What I'd like to point out to you is that the Snapper Grouper Committee just modified the purpose and need for Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7/Snapper Grouper Amendment 3. I would like to read for you what they have suggested; and I think you need to now look at it from the dolphin wahoo perspective and see does this meet the purpose and need for dolphin and wahoo.

The purpose of this management measure is to allow recreational fishermen to bring dolphin and wahoo fillets from the Bahamas into the U.S. EEZ and update regulations to allow recreational fishermen to bring back snapper grouper fillets from the Bahamas into the U.S. EEZ. The need: The management measure is needed to increase the social and economic benefits to recreational fishermen by removing impediments to the possession of fish in the U.S. EEZ that were legally harvested in Bahamian waters and the harvest of which would not adversely impact U.S. resources.

There are two things I can see in the need that might need to be revised at this point. The need refers to a single management measure; and that was taken from the original version of the document that you saw in December; so we to pluralize that. Then there was some discussion from Roy regarding about adverse impact on U.S. resources; and do we want to include discussion of that in the need of this document.

MS. BECKWITH: Folks, what is your pleasure? I guess let's take one by one.

DR. CHEUVRONT: So do we not want to modify the need at this point to at least make it plural since we've got multiple measures; and what do we think about that last part of that last sentence?

MR. JOLLEY: Do I need to make a motion or something? I'd make a motion that we follow your suggestion to make that – is it plural; is that what you're looking for?

MS. BECKWITH: To recognize that there are multiple actions.

DR. CHEUVRONT: I can take that as direction to staff to do that; but the thing that I'm really more concerned about is that last part, "the harvest of which would not adversely impact U.S. resources", and do we need to address that here in the need?

MR. CUPKA: Well, as Roy pointed out, he had some concerns about that; and if we do, I think the simplest thing to do would to strike the last part and just put a period after "Bahamian waters" if we don't want to get into all that discussion.

MS. BECKWITH: David, would you put that in the form of a motion, please.

**MR. CUPKA: Madam Chairman, I would move that we amend the need statement to delete the last part of the final sentence; to delete the phrase "and the harvest of which would not adversely impact U.S. resources".**

MS. BECKWITH: Second by John.

MR. CUPKA: Madam Chairman, if you would like, I could read how that needs' statement would read with those changes.

MS. BECKWITH: Okay, David, if you want to go ahead and read it.

MR. CUPKA: Okay, it would read, "The management measures are needed to increase the social and economic benefits to recreational fishermen by removing impediments to the possession of fish in the U.S. EEZ that were legally harvested in Bahamian waters."

MS. BECKWITH: **Is there any opposition to that motion? Seeing none; that motion carries.**

DR. CHEUVRONT: Now, going to Page 5 of the decision document, which is Attachment 2, and what we would like to do here is to have you look at Actions 1 through 4 specifically and then you can decide if you – even though that Actions 5 and 6 are directed towards snapper grouper, you might want to look to them and see if there is anything that makes it relevant for discussion by this committee.

Now, what I do want to point out to you, Action 1 you have the Law Enforcement Committee made a motion to add language to require that passports had to be stamped to prove that vessel passengers were in the Bahamas. Now, when you did this for snapper grouper, the Snapper Grouper Committee changed that language to say "stamped and dated".

Now, this committee might want to consider doing that same thing to keep the parity for dolphin and wahoo. The other issue is that the Law Enforcement Committee removed Subalternatives 2B through 2E under Action 1. Now the thing is that's fine if that's what you want to do, but we're going to need some justification as to why you want to move this action forward with only two alternatives and are not considering any other alternatives or ways of counting the dolphin that are being brought into the U.S. EEZ under Alternative 2 since you've pulled out all the weight measures.

MS. BECKWITH: And if we remember some of the discussion from the Law Enforcement Committee, some of the reasons that they mentioned were, of course, the problem with scales and weighing on a vessel and just the simplicity of being able to count rather than really deal with the different poundages. Let's deal with the stamped and dated issue first. Is there a motion from the committee to mirror the language for snapper grouper that would indicate that the passport needed to be stamped and dated?

MR. JOLLEY: Yes; so move.

MS. BECKWITH: Seconded by Doug Haymans. Do we have any discussion on the motion? **The motion reads modify the documentation requirements as follows: Require passports to be stamped and dated to prove the vessel passengers were in the Bahamas. Any opposition? Seeing none; that motion carries.** Okay, now what is the pleasure of the committee in reference to 2B through 2E?

Are we interested in having solely the no action alternative and Subalternative 2A, which is two fillets per fish; or we interested in keeping any poundage options? Again, we had a law enforcement motion that went ahead and removed 2B through 2E for the stated reasons that it was too difficult to – Mel.

MR. BELL: Madam Chairman, I'm not on your committee, but it seemed like what can be legally harvested in the Bahamas was 18 fish. There wasn't a poundage thing. That's why since you can turn 18 fish into a certain number of fillets, that's the logic there because there's no poundage thing in their law. If this is about what is legal in the Bahamas coming in, that's why that made sense I think to the committee and the AP.

MS. BECKWITH: So, again, is there any desire of the committee to take Subalternatives 2B through 2E to the considered but rejected?

**MR. HAYMANS: Sure, I'll do that for you, Madam Chairman. I make a motion that we move 2B through 2E to the considered but rejected.**

MS. BECKWITH: John is the second. Any discussion? Any opposition? **Seeing none; that motion carries.** David.

MR. CUPKA: Does that mean then we have one subalternative that we could move into the alternative?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Yes; I think what we were really planning on doing is we were just going to turn Subalternative 2A and just fold it all in and make it Alternative 2. Okay, if there is no further discussion on Action, we'll go to Action 2. The Law Enforcement Committee – this is to exempt dolphin and wahoo harvested legally from the Bahamas from the bag and possession limits in the U.S. EEZ.

Alternative 2 would exempt dolphin and wahoo. The Law Enforcement Committee split that out; and they just made Alternative 2 applies only to dolphin and created a new Alternative 3 that simply addresses wahoo. There was some discussion that perhaps really only wahoo is the only species that needs to be considered for exemption from the U.S. bag limits and possession limits.

MS. BECKWITH: Is there a desire from the committee to add an Alternative 3 to exempt wahoo from the U.S. bag limit and possession limits and modify Alternative 2 to exempt only dolphin?

MR. BELL: I'm not on your committee again. I think the logic there was to just provide some flexibility because there was discussion about whether the focus should be on wahoo or both or whatever. I'm not sure we were clear on that; but setting it up that way gave you the flexibility to go with one or the other or both if you chose. That was the logic in that.

MR. HAYMANS: It seemed to me that the road we were headed down with snapper grouper was not to allow Bahamian limits but to stick to U.S. limits. Wasn't that the direction we were headed in?

DR. CHEUVRONT: It's not a matter of allowing Bahamian limits. It would be a matter of being required to follow both. Whatever basically is the more restrictive of the two is what you would have. For example, while you're in the Bahamas, you could have up to 18 dolphins out of that, because remember you could have 18 fish of dolphin, wahoo, tunas or king mackerel.

If you were to come into the U.S. EEZ with dolphin – say you had four guys on board the vessel – you would still only be limited to those 18 fish even though the U.S. limits would allow you to have 40 fish, 40 dolphins on board. What we're saying here is that people seemed to be okay following the Bahamian limits when they come into the U.S. EEZ except dolphin, because dolphin has a two fish per person bag limit – excuse me, wahoo. Wahoo has a two fish per person bag limit; and so you've got to have nine guys on board that boat to bring 18 wahoo back.

MS. BECKWITH: Although we have had some folks say that occasionally they'll have just one captain that is bringing the boat across; so even with that one captain, we would still have a potential issue with the dolphin limit to only being ten dolphins if it is one captain bringing the boat over. It may be worth it if we're going to go ahead and move in this direction to do both, but this additional alternative would add some flexibility for additional discussion.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Yes; it just gives you a little bit more flexibility in deciding what you want to do later on is really all that we're talking about there. Now, the Law Enforcement Committee has already made that motion. This committee doesn't have to make the same motion. It could just say we're cool with going with what the Law Enforcement Committee has already suggested.

MR. BOWEN: I just wanted to ask forgiveness for my lack of engagement. I'm just not in favor of this; and that's the reason I'm just sitting here listening. I am listening but I'm just not engaged because I don't agree with it.

MS. BECKWITH: Okay; so unless I hear someone wanting to make a motion on this, we'll go ahead and move forward and let the motion stand from the Law Enforcement Committee.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Okay, the next action is on the bottom of Page 5 of the decision document. It is Action 3 to establish reporting requirements to the vessels bringing fillets of dolphin and wahoo and snapper grouper species into the U.S. EEZ from the Bahamas. The Law Enforcement Committee and the Snapper Grouper Committee both suggested that this action be moved to the considered but rejected appendix. Does this committee want to consider this and do something different? We just need to have that discussion now if you want to.

**MR. HAYMANS: I'd make a motion that we concur with the Law Enforcement Committee on this one and move Action 3 to the considered but rejected appendix.**

MS. BECKWITH: Seconded by John. Okay, the motion reads move Action 3 to the considered but rejected appendix. Is there any discussion? **Any opposition? Seeing none; it carries.**

DR. CHEUVRONT: Okay, at the top of Page 6 you have Action 4; and that is the action that requires fillets of dolphin, wahoo and snapper grouper species brought into the U.S. EEZ from the Bahamas to have the skin intact. Now, the Law Enforcement Committee was fine with this action as it was. They wanted to clarify that the skin intact meant for the entire fillet. The Snapper Grouper Committee made a motion that said select Alternative 2 under Action 4 as preferred and add clarifying language that would indicate that skin must be intact on the entire fillet.

MS. BECKWITH: Is there any of those two motions we would like to concur with? Doug.

MR. HAYMANS: Madam Chairman, I would make a motion that we – I'm sorry; I didn't realize we had selected it as preferred; my apologies. I'm okay with the skin on the entire fillet. I thought that is what the motion was going to be, but then I realized that we had selected it as a preferred.

MS. BECKWITH: We certainly don't have to. Snapper Grouper did but law enforcement simply clarified the language for skin on the entire fillet. Michelle.

DR. DUVAL: Point of order – and forgive me, I'm not on your committee, Madam Chairman – wouldn't you want the motion for the Dolphin and Wahoo Committee to read select Alternative 3 under Action 4 as a preferred since that pertains to dolphin and wahoo?

**MR. HAYMANS: Then I would make the motion to select Alternative 3 under Action 4 as preferred and add clarifying language that would indicate that the skin must be intact on the entire fillet.**

MS. BECKWITH: Okay, David is the second. Is there any discussion? Any opposition?

MR. JOLLEY: Excuse me, Madam Chairman, we're just talking about the skin has to be on the fish; we're not talking about splitting the fillet in half yet; is that correct?

MS. BECKWITH: Correct. Okay, any additional discussion? Opposition? **Seeing none; it carries.**

DR. CHEUVRONT: Madam Chairman, I'd like to bring up about John was just asking about the condition of the fillets and things. We covered that under Action 1; so I don't know if there is anything that you wanted to back up and discuss that right now. The only two alternatives that are being considered are not allowing fillets at all and allowing two fillets per fish. Those are the only two alternatives that you have under that action; so either don't allow them to bring back any fillets or to allow them to bring back only fillets equivalent to two fillets per fish.

MS. BECKWITH: So it would be 36 fillets for an 18-fish limit.

MR. JOLLEY: Well, I'm still against not being able to cut these two species in half because I know it's a problem.

MS. BECKWITH: Cut the fillets in half?

MR. JOLLEY: So now what do we do?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Well, what you can do is you can come up with additional alternatives of different ways to look at how the fillets could be brought back from the Bahamas. Subalternatives 2B through 2E looked at different poundage allowed equivalencies per fish. The Law Enforcement Committee was against that idea of anything to do with poundages.

MR. JOLLEY: I don't have a problem with that and I don't think anybody else does.

DR. CHEUVRONT: With allowing poundages or not?

MR. JOLLEY: With exempting the poundage thing; you can't weigh fish at sea accurately.

MS. BECKWITH: So are you interested in considering an additional alternative that would be addition to two fillets makes one fish, three fillets for 18 fish?

MR. JOLLEY: I certainly am because we've spent a lot of time on that, and I think that is the reasonable way forward, that is the most practical for people who catch big fish and are trying to get some of this fish back.

MS. BECKWITH: So you're okay with that?

MR. JOLLEY: Yes.

MS. BECKWITH: Okay; so we have that in there.

MR. JOLLEY: That's in there still?

MS. BECKWITH: Yes.

MR. JOLLEY: Because I'm not getting anything on my computer; it is broken down.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Right now what you can do is you can bring back a maximum of 36 fillets. That is the Alternative 2. The new Alternative 2 is the maximum of 36 fillets.

MR. JOLLEY: That's fine.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Okay; I just wanted to make sure before we left this.

MR. CUPKA: Yes; but that 36 fillets may not represent 18 fish if you have large fish and want to cut them into more than two fillets per fish. Again, law enforcement wanted to be able to count fillets; so I don't see any way of getting around that. If you catch a large fish and you want to cut into three fillets, then you're just going to lose a fish, but you'll still have the same poundage.



MR. JOLLEY: That's fine; we can pack it and cool it efficiently. That's really what we're after. If we have to learn to take fewer fish home; I think that's fine; maybe we ought to be doing that.

MR. HAYMANS: Brian, explain to me how Action 1 allows 36 fillets?

DR. CHEUVRONT: The bag limit from the Bahamas is 18 fish.

MR. HAYMANS: We're not allowing the bag limit from the Bahamas. We're still operating under U.S. bag limits in Action 1. There is nothing in Action 1 that says that we're going to not adhere to U.S. limits. There is nothing in that action.

DR. CHEUVRONT: That is assuming that you are also going to do something with Action 2. If you're required to follow U.S. regulations only under Action 1, you could bring back four fillets per person on the vessel for wahoo.

MR. HAYMANS: I just don't want John to have the impression that Action 1 allows 36 fillets. It has got to be linked to Action 2, and we've got to be able to select Alternative 2 in order for that to happen. I'm still figuring out what to do with that.

MS. BECKWITH: Understood and noted.

DR. CHEUVRONT: I think what is going to have to happen as we go through this and get to a point where the council decides they want to choose preferred alternatives there, what the meaning of the different combinations of the different alternatives of those two actions – how that would impact how many fillets somebody could bring back. That will be done in the analysis in the document.

Okay, the last two actions here are specifically related to snapper grouper. We can talk about them very quickly; but unless there is some reason that you think you need to discuss them under dolphin and wahoo, we can just skip on by them because these are issues that the Snapper Grouper Committee has already discussed.

Action 5 is to remove the exemption that allows fillets of snapper grouper species harvested lawfully in the Bahamas to be landed in the U.S. EEZ. This was to take away what is currently allowed under snapper grouper. The Law Enforcement Committee voted to move Action 5 to the considered but rejected appendix.

The Snapper Grouper Committee looked at putting it back in, but that motion failed. What happens is right now the only motion by a committee is to remove Action 5; so this would basically snapper grouper species that are brought from the Bahamas as fillets, they are required to follow the U.S. bag and possession limits; so prohibited species in the U.S. would not be allowed to be brought back from the Bahamas into the U.S.

Okay, Action 6 exempts snapper grouper species harvested lawfully in the Bahamas from the bag and possession limits in the U.S. EEZ. The Snapper Grouper Committee made a motion to move Action 6 to the considered but rejected appendix.

MS. BECKWITH: Do we have any comments on that? Okay.

DR. CHEUVRONT: I just wanted to review once again the timing on this is that the LEAP reviewed it on Monday. You are giving your guidance on the development this week. The IPT is going to do an analysis on the document with the actions that we have left and bring them back to you in June. Both the Dolphin Wahoo AP and the Snapper Grouper AP will look at the document between now and your June meeting. It will be brought back to you in June. You can choose preferred alternatives to do that at that point and vote to send it out for public hearings in August.

We'll distribute the document to the Mid-Atlantic and the New England Councils because, remember, dolphin and wahoo is our FMP goes for the Atlantic; so that includes all the way up to Maine. They will be given an opportunity to comment on it as well. Then we will bring it all back to you at the September meeting where you are scheduled for on this for final approval.

MS. BECKWITH: Okay, Amendment 9. We're going to be looking at the decision document for Amendment 9, which is Attachment 5. We will begin on PDF Page 10, I think.

DR. CHEUVRONT: The first thing that we need to do is we need to go over the scoping comments. As I stated during the Snapper Grouper Committee Meeting, this document was taken out for scoping in January and February of this year. We held a scoping webinar on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. We did not receive any comments during that scoping session.

However, we did receive two written comments. One commenter preferred Alternative 2 because it was closest to proportion that was allocated to the two sectors prior to the current ACL. SFA tentatively endorsed Alternative 4 because it gets the commercial sector closer to the 1.5 million pounds that was allocated prior to the current ACL and was the preferred choice of the Dolphin Wahoo AP.

That was one thing I wanted to also point to you is that last year when the Dolphin Wahoo AP met, this action was part of Dolphin Wahoo 5. At the June meeting of last year you all decided to pull out this action with the understanding that you were going to put it into an allocation amendment that you were going to start last fall.

Well, when you got to discussing whether you were going to do an allocation amendment, you decided not to do it for snapper grouper until you had finished visioning. At that point I reminded you, well, you had told the Dolphin Wahoo AP that you were going to deal with this starting last fall.

Since it already had been put off once, you decided not to put it off again and go ahead and include it in this amendment. The Dolphin Wahoo AP saw this action and you have seen this action all the way up through last June when you decided to put it off until you got to the allocation amendment.

You've already had a fair amount of discussion about this, although I have to point out to you that you have one alternative here that is new. Your Dolphin Wahoo AP had selected

Alternative 4 as their preferred because it got the allocations closer to the landings that had been allowed under the soft cap that was in place before the Comprehensive ACL Amendment.

In talking about this action as it was being developed, one of the alternatives that you could consider that had not been looked at before was updating the landings' history. Previously under Alternative 1 you have landings were used only through 2008, and that meant that it was based on that formula where you used a longer time series and a shorter time series to determine the trends to help come up with the allocations.

The long-term time series was 1999 through 2008 and the short time series was 2006 through 2008. Well, what happens, though, is you have three more years of data available to you that you could use to adjust the allocation. What Alternative 5 does is it gives you some subalternatives to help you make those allocations using that same method but updating the years of data.

Subalternative 5A, however, only adds two years of data and not all three. The reasoning behind that is because the Comprehensive ACL went into effect in 2012; and while neither sector reached its ACL in that year, 2011 was the last year before you had sector allocations on the fishery so there was no constriction on the landings.

Subalternative 5B looks at the long-term series being 1986 through 2012 and the average recent landings shifted the three years from 2010 to 2012. Alternative 5C looks at 1986 through 2012 and 2006 through 2012, so you have a longer period for the shorter series. What that would do is 5A puts you at the same percentages as Alternative 4 as does Subalternative 5C; but Subalternative 5B modifies that slightly and makes it 91 percent recreational and 9 percent commercial.

You can see below what this table does is it shows you what the landings' allocations would be for the two sectors under each of those alternatives and subalternatives. Now, the thing here is that dolphin is doing fine. Neither sector is reaching its ACL and is not likely to really probably under any of these alternatives or subalternatives.

MS. BECKWITH: Okay, our original preferred the last time around was Alternative 4. We have got Alternative 4, Subalternative 5A and 5C that get us to the same place that our original preferred in Amendment 5 was in terms of final allocation. I believe 5A was the old use of Boyles' Law; is that right?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Well, we really don't call it Boyles' Law.

MS. BECKWITH: The allocation amendment.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Yes; I do want to put one thing out here about using landings' history. If be fine for right now for 2011 or 2012 as being your terminal year, but what are you going to do in the future. In the future you've got these hard year allocations in there and they're going to get stale as time goes on.

Because you're going to have restrictions put in place based on landings, there is no way that you'll be able to update those landings for the future; so imagine being ten years down the road and you're still making allocations based on landings that ended in 2011 or 2012. Factually you're going to end up with basically the same percentages if you choose Alternative 4, but it is going to be based on old data.

MR. HARTIG: I'm not on your committee but I would be a little bit cautious using the more recent timeframe based on what has happened since 2008 to the recreational fishery. Basically the offshore trips have been cut by over 50 percent and the participation has been down significantly. To me it would make sense to use a more stable timeframe where the recreational fishery wasn't disadvantaged by the economic conditions that the country was undergoing at the time.

Even though it gets you to where you want to be, you still may not want to use it based on those. I'm thinking long term and how we look at allocations down the line, and I certainly would be cautious about using the most recent timeframe to make allocation decisions based on the recreational participation.

MR. BOWEN: To Ben's comment, I agree with him 100 percent. I would like to make a motion that we make Alternative 1 our preferred. It is the longer term landing series from '99 to 2008.

MS. BECKWITH: Let me remind you that the Dolphin Wahoo Committee had Alternative 4 as their preferred and this was the preferred of the council during Amendment 5 that we kind of pulled out at the last minute. Is there a second to Zack's motion? Okay, the motion dies for lack of a second. John.

MR. JOLLEY: Back to Alternative 1, this may seem stupid to you guys, but I see this number of 7.54 percent and then the other 92.46. I think that is a little silly. I don't know how we got to that exactly. That was before my time, but why wouldn't it be 92 and 8, for example. It seems to me like most of our percentages at least for dolphin are in whole percentages. I know that's the way it came out, but I think that is kind of silly in this allocation process to using tenths.

DR. CHEUVRONT: John, I can explain why it is used like that. Remember, you're dealing with 15 million pounds of fish or 15 million-plus. We don't have any other fishery that has this many pounds of fish. To do the allocation and getting it as close as possible to the actual poundage that would be assigned to each sector based on landings' history, to get it even close to that we had to go to two decimal points.

At one point I actually had it out to about five decimal points to get it to the pound, and then we all decided, well, that's pretty silly. When you're talking about two decimal places in this, you're talking hundreds of thousands of pounds of dolphin; so that's why we took it out to two decimal places. In many cases in many of our fisheries we don't even have hundreds of thousands of pounds for the total ACL; so that's the reason why we had to go to that level of precision to get it close.

MR. JOLLEY: And we're not even meeting the ACL.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Right.

MS. BECKWITH: So while I'm more than happy to re-discuss each of these alternatives; if there is support for the dolphin wahoo Preferred Alternative 4, I would like to hear a motion.

MR. HAYMANS: I was going to suggest before we did that there was some language on Page 12 about altering Alternative 2. Do we need to do that or consider it and not do it?

DR. CHEUVRONT: That is simply a language clarification, which we can deal with that as well in a separate motion; but, yes, that is something that we ought to clarify because the recommended language change is the one that more accurately reflects what really is going on there; that there is a little bit of wiggle room in terms of understanding what Alternative 2 is actually based on.

I hadn't gotten to that yet because I actually was not expecting you to choose a preferred right now, anyway, because we've just gone through scoping and the analysis isn't in the document right now. We can bring that all back to you in June and you might want to defer selecting a preferred until you see the analysis, but it is whatever you all want to do.

MR. HAYMANS: Is this an IPT recommendation?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Yes, it is.

MR. HAYMANS: Okay, I want to be careful with IPT. **Madam Chair, I would make a motion that we accept the IPT's recommended wording change for Alternative 2.**

MS. BECKWITH: Seconded by Zack. Any discussion? Any opposition? **The motion carries.**

DR. CHEUVRONT: Okay, I think what would be helpful is if you all were willing to give the IPT some latitude to do some editorial work on some of the action and alternatives here; and when we bring it back to you in June with the analysis – I mean, Jack just pointed out to me that actually under Subalternative 5B is that the allocation is 90 percent recreational and 10 percent commercial; and 5C is 91 percent recreational and 9 percent commercial. There is a typo in there so we just need to fix that sort of thing as well.

MS. BECKWITH: And you can take that as direction to staff?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Sure. Okay, I believe that's all that we have unless there is anything else that people want to discuss for Action 2. I do want to point out that the timing for this is very similar as Dolphin Wahoo 7. The Dolphin Wahoo AP is meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup>. The SSC is going to see this amendment at their upcoming meeting. I believe it's on their agenda.

The Snapper Grouper AP is going to see it at their meeting. The analysis will be done on the actions and it will come back to you in June. Now, the Golden Crab also will see this at their AP meeting in May. You will review this amendment more time in June and choose preferred

alternatives if you desire to do so at that time and vote to send it out for public hearings that will be held in August of 2014.

Then, again, this will distributed to the Mid-Atlantic and the New England Councils because of the fact that the Dolphin Wahoo Amendment goes through New England. Then it will come back to you all in September to review the public input, revise the document and approve the actions.

Because this amendment is not likely to be in effect in time for the 2015 start of the dolphin wahoo season, the amendment would be revised and the document would be brought back to the council for final formal review at the December meeting. This is what we used to do; and then we got in this mode of really trying to rush documents through without the council seeing the final document that was going to be submitted. We're trying to get back to that old schedule as much as we possibly can to allow the council to see exactly what is being submitted to the Secretary of Commerce prior to it being actually sent and not having to rely just on the council chairman's discretion.

MS. BECKWITH: Great, thank you, Brian. Are there any additional concerns or comments from the committee? If not, I adjourn the committee and I yield back about three minutes.

MR. HAYMANS: Before you take a break, I just have one announcement and comment. I simply wanted to recognize Mr. Frank Redmond in the audience. Mr. Redmond is the representative of Senator Johnny Isakson; and as far as I can remember, the last four years you have been able to attend at least one or two days of each of council meetings when they're in Savannah and also in St. Simons. I greatly appreciate that, sir.

(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 o'clock p.m., March 5, 2014.)

Certified By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Transcribed By:  
Graham Transcriptions, Inc.  
March 24, 2014

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# PLEASE SIGN IN

So that we will have a record of your attendance at each meeting and so that your name may be included in the minutes, we ask that you sign this sheet for the meeting shown below.

## South Atlantic Fishery Management Council March 2014 Meeting – Savannah, GA

### Dolphin Wahoo Committee Meeting: Thursday, March 6, 2014

<u>NAME &amp; SECTOR or ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>AREA CODE &amp; PHONE NUMBER</u>	<u>EMAIL ADDRESS</u>	<u>P.O. BOX/STREET CITY, STATE &amp; ZIP</u>
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MARCH MTC DAY 4

80	L, I	<a href="mailto:captaindrifter@bellsouth....">captaindrifter@bellsouth....</a>	424 min
76	klostermann, joe	<a href="mailto:grkjkf@comcast.net">grkjkf@comcast.net</a>	378 min
67	O'Shaughnessy, Pat...	<a href="mailto:patrick.oshaughnessy@noaa...">patrick.oshaughnessy@noaa...</a>	88 min
65	DeHart, Hayley	<a href="mailto:hayley.mills.dehart@gmail...">hayley.mills.dehart@gmail...</a>	415 min
64	MacLauchlin, Bill	<a href="mailto:billmac@adtrends.com">billmac@adtrends.com</a>	468 min
64	Mealey, Christophe...	<a href="mailto:cmealey13@gmail.com">cmealey13@gmail.com</a>	165 min
63	Fey, Kasey	<a href="mailto:info@keyskeeper.org">info@keyskeeper.org</a>	225 min
52	Lamberte, Tony	<a href="mailto:tony.lamberte@noaa.gov">tony.lamberte@noaa.gov</a>	525 min
49	Frede, Robin	<a href="mailto:rifrede@gmail.com">rifrede@gmail.com</a>	177 min
49	Mehta, Nikhil	<a href="mailto:nikhil.mehta@noaa.gov">nikhil.mehta@noaa.gov</a>	476 min
45	burtion, michael	<a href="mailto:michael.burton@noaa.gov">michael.burton@noaa.gov</a>	316 min
44	Gerhart, Susan	<a href="mailto:susan.gerhart@noaa.gov">susan.gerhart@noaa.gov</a>	457 min
42	Lapointe, George	<a href="mailto:georgelapointe@gmail.com">georgelapointe@gmail.com</a>	74 min
41	holiman, stephen	<a href="mailto:stephen.holiman@noaa.gov">stephen.holiman@noaa.gov</a>	417 min
41	rindone, ryan	<a href="mailto:ryan.rindone@gulfcouncil....">ryan.rindone@gulfcouncil....</a>	400 min
40	Michie, Kate	<a href="mailto:kate.michie@noaa.gov">kate.michie@noaa.gov</a>	433 min
39	Brogan, Gib	<a href="mailto:gbrogan@oceana.org">gbrogan@oceana.org</a>	0 min
38	DeVictor, Rick	<a href="mailto:rick.devictor@noaa.gov">rick.devictor@noaa.gov</a>	444 min
38	Raine, Karen	<a href="mailto:karen.raine@noaa.gov">karen.raine@noaa.gov</a>	698 min
36	E, A	<a href="mailto:annemarie.eich@noaa.gov">annemarie.eich@noaa.gov</a>	660 min
36	Brennan, Ken	<a href="mailto:kenneth.brennan@noaa.gov">kenneth.brennan@noaa.gov</a>	62 min
35	AUSTIN, Tony	<a href="mailto:redress@ec.rr.com">redress@ec.rr.com</a>	456 min
33	Bademan, Martha	<a href="mailto:martha.bademan@myfwc.com">martha.bademan@myfwc.com</a>	208 min
32	Hudson, Rusty	<a href="mailto:dsf2009@aol.com">dsf2009@aol.com</a>	449 min
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29	Neer, Julie	<a href="mailto:julie.neer@safmc.net"><u>julie.neer@safmc.net</u></a>	306 min
28	Takade-Heunacher, ...	<a href="mailto:htakade@edf.org"><u>htakade@edf.org</u></a>	23236002 min
26	Abeels, Holly	<a href="mailto:habeels@ufl.edu"><u>habeels@ufl.edu</u></a>	509 min
26	Baker, Scott	<a href="mailto:bakers@uncw.edu"><u>bakers@uncw.edu</u></a>	384 min
24	Martin, Gretchen	<a href="mailto:martin1639@ec.rr.com"><u>martin1639@ec.rr.com</u></a>	134 min
20	Giguere, Cate	<a href="mailto:cathleen.a.giguere@uscg.m..."><u>cathleen.a.giguere@uscg.m...</u></a>	1 min