

DOLPHIN WAHOO COMMITTEE
STUART, FL
June 9, 2009

The committee reviewed motions from the March meeting and received a staff overview of options for MSY, OFL, ABC and ACL for Dolphin and Wahoo. During the discussion of dolphin concern was expressed about the recent level of commercial trips and landings, particularly off North Carolina. Staff was directed to compile the most recent data for the next committee meeting.

The committee approved the following motions:

Dolphin

A. Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)

**MOTION #1: RECOMMEND THESE OPTIONS BE ANALYZED.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

- a. **Option 1. No action.** Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) for dolphin in the Atlantic, U.S. Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico is between 18.8 and 46.5 million pounds.
- b. **Option 2. MSY = 26,986,790 pounds (12,241 mt).** This figure is from a production model by Prager (2000) and would apply for dolphin in the Atlantic, U.S. Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico.
- c. **Option 3. MSY = 15,882,100 – 17,833,190 pounds.** This range is based on average landings from a 10 year and 5 year period respectively (Prager 2000) and would apply for dolphin in the Atlantic, U.S. Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico.
- d. **Option 4.** Specify MSY separately for the Atlantic at _____ million pounds. Use most recent 5 and 10 years of data.
- e. **Option 5.** Recommended MSY from the SSC.

B. Overfishing Level (OFL)

**MOTION #2: RECOMMEND THESE OPTIONS AS PRESENTED
BE ANALYZED.**

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

a. Option 1. No action.

A maximum fishing mortality threshold (MFMT) - In the Atlantic, U.S. Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico overfishing for dolphin is defined as a fishing mortality rate (F) in excess of FMSY (F30%Static SPR).

A minimum stock size threshold (MSST) – In the Atlantic, U.S. Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico the minimum stock size threshold for dolphin is defined as a ratio of current biomass (Bcurrent) to biomass at MSY or (1-M)*BMSY, where 1-M should never be less than 0.5. Using the best available estimates of natural mortality (M = 0.68-0.80) in the formula results in a MSST of 50% BMSY. The stock would be overfished if current biomass (Bcurrent) was less than MSST and would be recovered when current biomass was equal or greater than the biomass at MSY.

- a. **Option 2. $OFL = F_{MSY} = 0.49$** based on a production model (Prager 2000; Table 4).
- b. **Option 3.** Specify OFL separately for the Atlantic at _____.
- c. **Option 4.** Value recommended by the SSC.

C. Allowable Biological Catch (ABC)

**MOTION #3: RECOMMEND THESE ABC OPTIONS BE
ANALYZED.**

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

- a. **Option 1. No action. There is no ABC specified for dolphin.**
- b. **Option 2.** A potential ABC range = 17,541,414 – 22,938,772 pounds based on 65% to 85% of MSY Option 2 and would apply for dolphin in the Atlantic, U.S. Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico. This likely ABC range is presented for initial discussions; the SSC will provide their OFL and ABC recommendations at their June or December 2009 meeting.
- c. **Option 3.** Specify ABC separately for the Atlantic at _____ pounds.
- d. **Option 4.** The value recommended by the SSC.

D. Annual Catch Limit (ACL)

**MOTION #4: RECOMMEND THESE ACL OPTIONS BE ANALYZED.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

- a. **Option 1. No action. There is no ACL specified for dolphin.**
- b. **Option 2.** ACL = 17,541,414 pounds based on 65% of MSY Option 2 and would apply for dolphin in the Atlantic, U.S. Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico.
- c. **Option 3.** ACL = 20,240,093 pounds based on 75% of MSY Option 2 and would apply for dolphin in the Atlantic, U.S. Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico.
- d. **Option 4.** ACL = 22,938,772 pounds based on 85% of MSY Option 2 and would apply for dolphin in the Atlantic, U.S. Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico.
- e. **Option 5.** Specify ACL separately for the Atlantic at _____ pounds.
- f. **Option 6.** Others??

Wahoo

A. Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)

**MOTION #5: RECOMMEND THESE OPTIONS BE ANALYZED.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

- a. **Option 1. No action.** The MSY proxy in the Atlantic, U.S. Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico is between 1.41 and 1.63 million pounds (NMFS SEFSC based on 5-10 year catch history; letter dated 1/8/01).
- b. **Option 2. MSY = x.xx – y.yy million pounds.** These figures could be based on updated 5-10 year time periods using more recent data and would apply for wahoo in the Atlantic, U.S. Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico.
- c. **Option 3.** Specify MSY separately for the Atlantic at _____ million pounds.
- d. **Option 4.** The recommendation from the SSC.

B. Overfishing Level (OFL)

**MOTION #6: RECOMMEND THESE OPTIONS BE ANALYZED.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

a. Option 1. No action.

A maximum fishing mortality threshold (MFMT) - In the Atlantic, U.S. Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico overfishing for wahoo is defined as a fishing mortality rate (F) in excess of FMSY (F30%Static SPR).

A minimum stock size threshold (MSST) – In the Atlantic, U.S. Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico the minimum stock size threshold for wahoo is defined as a ratio of current biomass (Bcurrent) to biomass at MSY or $(1-M)*BMSY$, where 1-M should never be less than 0.5. The stock would be overfished if current biomass (Bcurrent) was less than MSST and would be recovered when current biomass was equal or greater than the biomass at MSY.

b. Option 2. Specify OFL and MSST separately for the Atlantic at _____ and _____ pounds.

c. Option 3. The values recommended by the SSC.

C. Allowable Biological Catch (ABC)

**MOTION #7: RECOMMEND THESE OPTIONS BE ANALYZED.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

a. Option 1. No action. There is no ABC specified for wahoo.

b. Option 2. A potential ABC range = a.aa – b.bb million pounds based on 65% to 85% of MSY Option 1 or 2 and would apply for wahoo in the Atlantic, U.S. Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico. This likely ABC range is presented for initial discussions; the SSC will provide their OFL and ABC recommendations at their June or December 2009 meeting.

c. Option 3. Specify ABC separately for the Atlantic at _____ pounds.

d. Option 4. The value recommended by the SSC.

D. Annual Catch Limit (ACL)

**MOTION #8: RECOMMEND THESE OPTIONS BE ANALYZED.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

a. Option 1. No action. There is no ACL specified for wahoo.

b. Option 2. ACL = c.cc million pounds based on 65% of MSY Option 1 or 2 and apply to wahoo in the Atlantic, U.S. Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico.

c. Option 3. ACL = d.dd million pounds based on 75% of MSY Option 1 or 2 and apply to wahoo in the Atlantic, U.S. Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico.

d. Option 4. ACL = e. ee million pounds based on 85% of MSY Option 1 or 2 and apply to wahoo in the Atlantic, U.S. Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico.

e. Option 5. Specify ACL separately for the Atlantic at _____ pounds.

f. **Option 6.** Others??

MOTION #9: DIRECT STAFF TO PREPARE A DETAILED OPTIONS PAPER INCLUDING THE GUIDANACE PROVIDED AT THIS MEETING APPROVED BY COMMITTEE