



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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OVERVIEW

Dolphin Wahoo Committee Meeting

September 18, 2008
Charleston Marriott
170 Lockwood Boulevard
Charleston, SC

The Dolphin Wahoo Committee needs to: (A) receive an overview of the FMP and take action as necessary; (B) receive a presentation on changes in recreational harvest; and (C) discuss recent landings data and provide guidance to staff.

Note: Minutes from December 2002 are included as background information. Minutes from the December 2004 meeting are included for your review and approval.

A. Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan (Attachment 1)

The Fishery Management Plan for the Dolphin and Wahoo Fishery off the Atlantic States was partially approved on December 23, 2003. The FMP represents a proactive approach to maintaining healthy stocks of dolphin and wahoo, with action intended to cap participation, effort, and landings in the fishery. Approved actions provide equitable harvesting restrictions to the recreational and commercial sectors and maintain the historical participation by both user groups. The intended effects of the FMP are to conserve and manage dolphin and wahoo off the Atlantic states (Maine through the east coast of Florida) and to ensure that no new fisheries for dolphin and wahoo develop.

The following regulations were effective on June 28, 2004: (1) a 20-inch fork length minimum size limit for dolphin off the coasts of Georgia and Florida with no size restrictions elsewhere; (2) prohibition of longline fishing for dolphin and wahoo in areas closed to the use of such gear for highly migratory pelagic species; and (3) allowable gear to be used in the fishery (hook-and-line gear including manual, electric, and hydraulic rods and reels; bandit gear; handlines; longlines; and spearfishing (including powerheads) gear. In addition, other approved portions of the FMP were also effective on this date, including (1) the management unit and designations of stock status criteria for the unit; (2) a fishing year of January 1 through December 31; (3) a 1.5 million pound (or 13% of the total harvest) cap on commercial landings; (4) establishment of a framework procedure by which the SAFMC may

modify its management measures; and (5) designations of Essential Fish Habitat and Essential Fish habitat-Habitat Areas of Particular Concern.

The following regulations were effective on September 24, 2004: (1) owners of commercial vessels and/or charter vessels/headboats must have vessel permits and, if selected, submit reports; (2) dealers must have permits and, if selected, submit reports; (3) longline vessels must comply with sea turtle protection measures; (4) a recreational bag limit of 10 dolphin and 2 wahoo per person per day, with a limit of 60 dolphin per boat per day (headboats are excluded from the boat limit); (5) prohibition on recreational sale of dolphin and wahoo caught under a bag limit except for allowing for-hire vessels that possess the necessary state and Federal commercial permits to sell dolphin harvested under the bag limit in or from the Atlantic EEZ; and (6) a commercial trip limit of 500 pounds for wahoo.

The following regulations were effective on November 23, 2004: (1) operators of commercial vessels, charter vessels and headboats that are required to have a federal vessel permit for dolphin and wahoo must display operator permits.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

1. Committee discussion and action as necessary

B. Presentation on Changes in Recreational Harvest (Attachment 2)

The committee will receive a presentation from Don Hammond.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

Committee discussion and action as necessary

C. Recent Recreational and Commercial Catch Levels (Attachment 3)

Landings presented at the 2004 committee meeting are shown on the next page.

Council Staff will review landings through 2007. NMFS will provide the most recent 2008 recreational and commercial landings data. The committee should examine how commercial landings compare to the cap of 1.5 million pounds or 13% of landings, whichever is greater, and determine whether any action is necessary.

The plan is to address Annual Catch Limits & Accountability Measures in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment that will be approved for scoping at the December 2008 meeting.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Provide staff guidance on items to include.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Table 45. Dolphin harvest (pounds) on the Atlantic Coast from 1994-199 (Data Source: NMFS,						
2	2000 and Goodyear, 1999). Note: Table from Dolphin/Wahoo FMP (2003)						
3		Recreational	Commercial	Total	Recreational	Commercial	
4	1994	9,500,580	1,252,553	10,753,133	88%	12%	
5	1995	13,092,212	2,231,787	15,323,999	85%	15%	
6	1996	8,002,144	1,216,682	9,218,826	87%	13%	
7	1997	10,640,713	1,594,920	12,235,633	87%	13%	
8	1998	7,693,144	826,640	8,519,784	90%	10%	
9	1999	10,127,970	1,050,090	11,178,060	91%	9%	
10	2000	12,574,950	970,781	13,545,731	93%	7%	
11	Avg. 94-97	10,308,912	1,573,986	11,882,898	87%	13%	
12	Avg. 97-99	9,487,276	1,157,217	10,644,492	89%	11%	
13	Avg. 97-2000	10,259,194	1,110,608	11,369,802	90%	10%	
14							
15	New data from ACCSP web site; Query Run: 29-NOV-06. Commercial is non-confidential.						
16	2000	13,068,113	716,612	13,784,725	95%	5%	
17	2001	13,607,057	472,367	14,079,424	97%	3%	
18	2002	11,314,089	378,302	11,692,391	97%	3%	
19	2003	8,948,533	451,268	9,399,801	95%	5%	
20	2004	7,220,181	563,762	7,783,943	93%	7%	
21	2005	9,788,554					
22							
23	Note: OY = 14.1 - 34.9 million pounds.						