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**SUMMARY REPORT OF MOTIONS
REGARDING DOLPHIN WAHOO
Savannah, GA
March 7, 2014**

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council met on March 7, 2014 and discussed the motions made by the Dolphin Wahoo Committee on Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7/Snapper Grouper Amendment 33 and Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 8. The Council also considered the motions made by the Law Enforcement Committee and Snapper Grouper Committee related to Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7/Snapper Grouper Amendment 33.

The Council passed the following motions:

Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7/Snapper Grouper Amendment 33 (Fillets from The Bahamas)

Purpose and Need

MOTION 1: ACCEPT PURPOSE AND NEED AS MODIFIED

Revised Purpose and Need

Purpose: The purpose of these management measures is to allow recreational fishermen to bring dolphin and wahoo fillets from The Bahamas into the U.S. EEZ and update regulations allowing recreational fishermen to bring back snapper grouper fillets from The Bahamas into the U.S. EEZ.

Need: 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.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Action 1 – Allow dolphin and wahoo fillets from The Bahamas

MOTION 2: REMOVE SUB-ALTERNATIVES 2B THROUGH 2E UNDER ACTION 1.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Rationale behind the motion: Bahamian regulations state limits in terms up numbers of fish, unlike the Bahamian regulations for snapper grouper species which states limits in terms of pounds. There currently are no empirical estimates of the average weight of fillets from either dolphin or wahoo.

Revised Action 1: Exempt dolphin and wahoo harvested lawfully in The Bahamas from regulations that require them to be landed with head and fins intact in the U.S. EEZ.

Alternative 1 (No Action): Dolphin and wahoo in or from the Atlantic EEZ must be maintained with head and fins intact. Such fish may be eviscerated, gilled, and scaled, but must otherwise be maintained in a whole condition.

Alternative 2: Allow dolphin and wahoo brought into the U.S. EEZ from The Bahamas as fillets. The vessel must have stamped and dated passports to prove that the vessel passengers

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were in The Bahamas, as well as valid current Bahamian cruising and fishing permits onboard the vessel. The vessel must be in continuous transit in the U.S. EEZ.

Action 2 – Exempt dolphin and wahoo from bag and possession limits

MOTION 3: ADD ALTERNATIVE 3 TO EXEMPT WAHOO FROM U.S. BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS AND MODIFY ALTERNATIVE 2 TO EXEMPT ONLY DOLPHIN
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Revised Action 2. Exempt dolphin and wahoo harvested lawfully from The Bahamas from the bag and possession limits in the U.S. EEZ.

Alternative 1 (No Action): The bag limit for the possession of dolphin and wahoo lawfully harvested from The Bahamas, is 10 dolphin (60 dolphin per boat)/2 wahoo per person per day, in the U.S. EEZ.

Alternative 2: Exempt dolphin lawfully harvested in The Bahamas from regulations for bag limits in the U.S. EEZ.

Alternative 3: Exempt wahoo lawfully harvested in The Bahamas from regulations for bag limits in the U.S. EEZ.

Action 3 – Reporting requirements

MOTION 4: MOVE ACTION 3 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Rationale behind the motion: No law enforcement organization, Federal or State of Florida, has the ability to monitor this type of reporting system for such a large number of participants.

Action 4 – Require fillets of dolphin, wahoo, and snapper grouper species to have skin intact

MOTION 5: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 UNDER ACTION 4 AS PREFERRED AND ADD CLARIFYING LANGUAGE TO INDICATE THAT SKIN MUST BE INTACT ON THE ENTIRE FILLET.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION 6: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 UNDER ACTION 4 AS PREFERRED AND ADD CLARIFYING LANGUAGE TO INDICATE THAT SKIN MUST BE INTACT ON THE ENTIRE FILLET.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Revised Action 4 (Now Action 3). Require fillets of dolphin, wahoo, and snapper grouper species brought into the U.S. EEZ from The Bahamas to have the skin intact.

Alternative 1 (No Action): Snapper grouper fillets possessed in the U.S. EEZ from The Bahamas are currently not required to have skin intact.

Preferred Alternative 2: Snapper grouper fillets brought into the U.S. EEZ from The Bahamas must have the skin intact on the entire fillet.

Preferred Alternative 3: Dolphin and wahoo fillets brought into the U.S. EEZ from The Bahamas must have the skin intact on the entire fillet.

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Action 5 – Remove exemption that allows snapper grouper fillets from The Bahamas

**MOTION 7: MOVE ACTION 5 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX
APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

Rationale behind the motion: The Committee didn't want to create or reinstitute a problem that existed prior to the current regulation. And they decided that considering this action would alienate the public. Landing snapper grouper fillets from The Bahamas has not been a source of significant problems since this regulation was in effect.

Action 6 – Exempt snapper and grouper species from bag and possession limits

**MOTION 8: MOVE ACTION 6 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX
APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

Rationale behind the motion: The Committee decided that there are not any significant issues with requiring fishermen bringing snapper grouper fillets from The Bahamas in terms of bag and possession limits. By requiring fillets brought from The Bahamas into the U.S. EEZ, fillets from species prohibited from possession in the U.S. EEZ would not be allowed.

MOTION 9: APPROVE THE NEW ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES BELOW:

(New) Action 4 – Require stamped and dated passports onboard vessels bringing snapper grouper fillets from The Bahamas into the U.S. EEZ

Action 4. In addition to possessing valid Bahamian cruising and fishing permits, require stamped and dated passports to prove that vessel passengers were in The Bahamas if the vessel is in possession of snapper grouper fillets in the U.S. EEZ.

Alternative 1 (No Action): Vessels bringing snapper grouper fillets into the U.S. EEZ from The Bahamas are required to have valid current Bahamian cruising and fishing permits onboard the vessel.

Alternative 2: Vessels bringing snapper grouper fillets into the U.S. EEZ from The Bahamas are required to have stamped and dated passports to prove that the vessel passengers were in The Bahamas, as well as valid current Bahamian cruising and fishing permits onboard the vessel.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Additional DW7/SG33 Requests and Guidance:

The LEAP requested an opportunity to give the issues in the amendment more consideration and allow the state management agencies to review it, as well.

Guidance was given to staff to clarify in the document that if fish from The Bahamas are sold in the U.S., it would constitute a violation of Bahamian law and the Lacey Act provisions would apply.

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Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 8/Snapper Grouper Amendment 34/Golden Crab 9 (Generic Accountability Measure and Dolphin Allocation Amendment)

Action 1 –

The Council made no motions regarding **Action 1** while reviewing Dolphin Wahoo Committee motions.

Action 2 –

MOTION 10: ACCEPT IPT'S WORDING CHANGE RECOMMENDATION FOR ALTERNATIVE 2.
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

DIRECTION WAS GIVEN TO STAFF TO EDIT LANGUAGE AS APPROPRIATE FOR ACCURACY FOR ACTION 2

Revised Action 2. Revise the sector allocations for dolphin.

Alternative 1 (No Action): The recreational sector allocation for dolphin is 92.46%. The commercial sector allocation for dolphin is 7.54%. The sector allocations for dolphin were set in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment (SAFMC 2011) and updated in Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5 (SAFMC 2013) using the sector allocation rule where 50% of sector allocations are based on a longer term landings series (1999 – 2008) and 50% of the sector allocations are based on a shorter time series (2006-2008).

Alternative 2: Establish sector allocations based on soft cap allocations in place before the Comprehensive ACL Amendment. The recreational sector allocation for dolphin is 87%, and commercial sector allocation is 13%.

Alternative 3: Set the commercial allocation at its highest percentage of the total catch over the past 5 years (2008-2012). The recreational sector allocation for dolphin is 86%, and commercial sector allocation is 14%.

Alternative 4: Set the commercial allocation at the average of the percentages of the total catch over the past 5 years (2008-2012). The recreational sector allocation for dolphin is 90%, and commercial sector allocation is 10%.

Alternative 5: Modify the time series by which allocations were specified for the two sectors. Allocation by sector = (0.5 * catch history) + (0.5 * current trend)

Sub-alternative 5a: Catch history = average landings 1986-2011, current trend = average landings 2009-2011). 2011 is the last year before ACLs went into place. The recreational sector allocation for dolphin is 90%, and commercial sector allocation is 10%.

Sub-alternative 5b: Catch history = average landings 1986-2012, current trend = average landings 2010-2012). 2012 is the most recent year of complete landings availability. The recreational sector allocation for dolphin is 90%, and commercial sector allocation is 10%.

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Sub-alternative 5c: Catch history = average landings 1986-2012, current trend = average landings 2006-2012). 2012 is the most recent year of complete landings availability. The recreational sector allocation for dolphin is 91%, and commercial sector allocation is 9%.

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