



# SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Melvin Bell, Chair | Stephen J. Poland, Vice Chair  
John T. Carmichael, Executive Director

## AGENDA Dolphin Wahoo Committee

**Wednesday, March 3, 2021 – 10:00 am – 3:45 pm (times are subject to change)**

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the December 2020 Dolphin Wahoo Committee minutes

1. Status of Amendments under formal review – NMFS SERO
  - a. Bullet Mackerel and Frigate Mackerel as Ecosystem Component Species: Amendment 12 – Sent to NMFS on 12/04/20.
2. Review of the updated Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan Goals and Objectives (*Attachment 1*)
  - a. Overview – John Hadley
  - b. **Committee Action:** Discuss and provide feedback as appropriate – Anna Beckwith
3. Revise Dolphin and Wahoo Management Measures: Amendment 10 (*Attachments 2a – 2c*)
  - a. Overview – John Hadley
  - b. **Committee Action:** Review public hearing comments and provide guidance on amendment content – Anna Beckwith
4. Timing for the next Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel meeting
  - a. Overview – John Hadley
  - b. **Committee Action:** Provide general guidance on when the next Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel will be scheduled – Anna Beckwith

Other Business – Anna Beckwith

Adjourn

### **Committee Members**

Anna Beckwith, Chair  
Art Sapp, Vice Chair  
Chester Brewer  
Chris Conklin  
Tim Griner

Carolyn Belcher  
Mel Bell  
Kyle Christiansen  
Andy Strelcheck  
Jessica McCawley

Steve Poland  
Lt. Robert Copeland  
Mid-Atlantic Liaisons: Tony DiLernia and Dewey Hemilright  
New England Liaison: Rick Bellavance

Spud Woodward  
Kerry Marhefka

**Attachments:**

**Attachment 1:** Updated Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan Goals and Objectives

**Attachment 2a:** Summary of public hearing comments for Amendment 10 (Revise Dolphin and Wahoo Management Measures)

**Attachment 2b:** Decision document for Amendment 10 (Revise Dolphin and Wahoo Management Measures)

**Attachment 2c:** Draft Amendment 10 (Revise Dolphin and Wahoo Management Measures)

**Staff Lead:** John Hadley ([john.hadley@safmc.net](mailto:john.hadley@safmc.net))

# OVERVIEW

## Dolphin Wahoo Committee

The Committee will approve minutes from the December 2020 meeting and the agenda for the March 2021 meeting.

### 1. **Status of Amendments under Formal Review**

**Description:** NMFS SERO staff will update the Committee on the status of Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 12 that adds bullet mackerel and frigate mackerel to the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan as Ecosystem Component species. The amendment was submitted to NMFS on 12/04/20.

**Committee Action:** None.

### 2. **Review of the updated Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan Goals and Objectives (Attachment 1)**

**Description:** The Fisheries Allocation Review Policy (NMFS Policy Directive 01-119) issued in July 2016 encourages the use of adaptive management in respect to allocation revisions, which includes “periodic re-evaluation and updating of the management goals and objectives to ensure they are relevant to current conditions and needs.” As part of the Council’s process for creating an Allocation Review Trigger Policy, the goals and objectives of FMPs that include sector allocations will be reviewed and updated as appropriate.

The goals and objectives of the Dolphin Wahoo FMP were implemented in the original plan that went into place in 2004 and have not been updated since that time. The Dolphin Wahoo Committee reviewed the FMP goals and objectives at the June 2019, September 2019 and December 2019 meetings and provided guidance on updated language. Council staff will provide an overview of revised FMP goals and objectives which incorporate the Committee’s previous comments and guidance. The intent is to receive any final edits to the goals and objectives in preparation for the Council’s potential vote to approve Amendment 10 for Secretarial review at the June 2021 meeting.

**Status of Amendment:** Changes to the Dolphin Wahoo FMP goals and objectives will be included in Amendment 10.

**Committee Action:** Discuss and provide guidance to staff on any additional revisions to the Dolphin Wahoo FMP goals and objectives.

### 3. **Revise Dolphin and Wahoo Management Measures: Amendment 10 (Attachments 2a – 2c)**

**Description:** Amendment 10 includes actions that accommodate updated catch level recommendations and recreational data from the Marine Recreational Information Program and revise the annual catch limits and sector allocations for dolphin and wahoo accordingly. The amendment also contains actions that implement various other management changes in the fishery including revising recreational accountability measures; accommodating possession of dolphin and wahoo on vessels with trap, pot, or buoy gear onboard; removing the operator card requirement, reducing the recreational vessel limit for dolphin, reducing the recreational bag limit or implementing a recreational vessel limit for wahoo, and allowing filleting of dolphin at sea onboard for-hire vessels in the waters north of the Virginia/North

Carolina border. Public Hearings for this amendment were held via webinar on January 26-28, 2021.

Council staff will review public comments and the revised actions as well as analyses in the amendment that incorporate input from the Committee's December 2020 meeting.

**Status of Amendment:** The amendment is currently under development and working towards approval for Secretarial review potentially at the June 2021 Council meeting.

**Committee Action:** Review public hearing comments. Discuss and provide guidance to staff on how to proceed with the development of Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10.

4. **Timing for the next Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel meeting**

**Description:** The Dolphin Wahoo AP most recently met in October 2020 to discuss items pertaining to the Dolphin Wahoo fishery. After Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10, which is scheduled for final review by the Council at the June 2021 meeting, there are not any Dolphin Wahoo related management topics that are scheduled to be discussed by the Council until potentially late in the year or early 2022. As such, the next Dolphin Wahoo AP meeting will not be scheduled until the Spring of 2022 at the earliest, unless advised otherwise.

**Committee Action:** Provide guidance on whether the Committee is comfortable with staff tentatively scheduling the next Dolphin Wahoo AP meeting for the Spring of 2022 or would the Committee prefer that the next AP meeting occur sometime before then.

**Other Business**