



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston SC 29405
Call: (843) 571-4366 | Toll-Free: (866) SAFMC-10 | Fax: (843) 769-4520 | Connect: www.safmc.net

Trish Murphey, Chair | Jessica McCawley, Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA

Dolphin Wahoo Committee
World Golf Renaissance
500 S. Legacy Trail
St. Augustine, FL 32092

Thursday, June 11, 2026, 10:45 AM to 3:00 PM (Times are subject to change)

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of minutes (December 2024) ([December 2024 Dolphin Wahoo Committee Report](#))

1. Dolphin Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) (*Attachment 1*)
 - a. SSC Feedback – Marcel Reichert, Former SSC Chair
 - b. Presentation – Cassidy Peterson, NMFS SEFSC and Thomas Carruthers, Blue Matter Science
 - c. **Committee Action:** The Committee will be asked 1) for feedback on Regulatory Amendment 3 related results; 2) to advise on the MSE management procedure design and performance; and 3) to advise on operational management objectives, performance metrics, and risk tolerance of the MSE.
2. Modifications to the minimum size limit, recreational retention limits, and for-hire captain and crew bag limits for dolphin (Regulatory Amendment 3) (*Attachment 2*)
 - a. Overview – John Hadley
 - b. **Committee Action:** Provide guidance on whether to restart amendment development.

Other Business

Adjourn

Committee Members

Kerry Marhefka, Chair

Robert Beal

Gary Borland

Judy Helmey

Jimmy Hull

Trish Murphey

Charlie Phillips

Andy Strelcheck

Mike Pierdinock, New England Fishery Management Council Liaison

Tom Roller, Vice Chair

Carolyn Belcher

Amy Dukes

Dewey Hemilright

Jessica McCawley

Lt. Tom Pease

Robert Spottswood, Jr.

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Dolphin MSE presentation

Attachment 2: Decision document for Dolphin Wahoo Regulatory Amendment 3 (modifications to the minimum size limit, recreational retention limits, and for-hire captain and crew bag limits for dolphin)

Staff Lead: John Hadley (john.hadley@safmc.net)

OVERVIEW

Dolphin Wahoo Committee

The Committee will approve the December 2024 minutes and the agenda for the June 2026 meeting.

1. Summary of Dolphin Management Strategy Evaluation Update (*Attachment 1*)

Description: The NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) is conducting a management strategy evaluation (MSE) for the Atlantic dolphin fishery. The goal of this project is to develop an index-based management procedure that may provide catch level and management advice that best achieves the multiple management objectives of the fishery. SEFSC staff will update the Committee on progress of the Dolphin MSE and the results of recent modeling efforts.

As part of multi-step review of the MSE, the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed the MSE operating model at its April 2026 meeting. The SSC was asked to provide comments on 1) the operating model, its uncertainties, and performance metrics; 2) the management procedure structure and parameterization; and 3) make recommendations to the review panel on specific model components and uncertainties to evaluate.

The former SSC Chair will provide a summary of the SSC's discussion to the Committee. Afterwards, the Committee will receive a presentation from the SEFSC on the MSE, including results that model the actions being considered in Regulatory Amendment 3. During and after the presentation, the Committee will be asked 1) for feedback on Regulatory Amendment 3 related results; 2) to advise on the MSE management procedure design and performance; and 3) to advise on operational management objectives, performance metrics, and risk tolerance of the MSE.

Committee Action: Provide the requested feedback on the Dolphin MSE.

2. Modifications to the minimum size limit, recreational retention limits, and for-hire captain and crew bag limits for dolphin (Regulatory Amendment 3) (*Attachment 2*)

Description: This amendment includes measures that would extend the applicable range of the 20-inch fork length minimum size limit for dolphin, modify recreational retention limits for dolphin, and remove captain and crew bag limits for dolphin. The Committee last reviewed the amendment at the [December 2024 meeting](#) and has subsequently been holding off on further amendment development pending initial results of the Dolphin MSE.

With the initial Dolphin MSE results now available for some of the measures considered in Regulatory Amendment 3, Council staff will review the Committee's previous guidance on draft actions and facilitate a discussion of the Committee's plans for developing Regulatory Amendment 3.

Committee Action: Provide guidance on the timing of amendment development. Specifically, should work begin again on the amendment immediately or on a different timeline?

Other Business

Adjourn