



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Jessica McCawley, Chair | Mel Bell, Vice Chair
John T. Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA Dolphin Wahoo Committee

Monday, June 8, 2020 – 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm (Times are subject to change)

Approval of Agenda

Approval of March 2020 Dolphin Wahoo Committee Minutes

1. Dolphin Wahoo Catch Level Recommendations
 - a. Overview – Dr. Genny Nesslage
 - b. **Committee Action:** Discuss and take action as necessary – Anna Beckwith
2. Update on Dolphin Wahoo and HMS Pelagic Longline BiOp (if available)
 - a. Overview – Jennifer Lee, NMFS SERO
 - b. **Committee Action:** Discuss and take action as necessary – Anna Beckwith
3. Revise Dolphin Wahoo Management Measures: Amendment 10 (*Attachments 1a and 1b*)
 - a. Overview – John Hadley
 - b. **Committee Action:** Review and provide guidance on amendment content and timing– Anna Beckwith
4. Adding Bullet and Frigate Mackerel to the FMP as Ecosystem Component Species: Amendment 12 (*Attachment 2a and 2b*)
 - a. Overview – John Hadley
 - b. **Committee Action:** Review and provide guidance on amendment content and consider approval for public hearings– Anna Beckwith
5. Update on the Dolphin Wahoo Participatory Workshops (*Attachment 3*)
 - a. Overview – Mandy Karnauskas and Matt McPherson, NMFS SEFSC
 - b. **Committee Action:** None required
6. Mid-Atlantic representation on the Dolphin Wahoo AP
 - a. Overview – John Hadley
 - b. **Committee Action:** Provide guidance on additional Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel seat from the Mid-Atlantic region – Anna Beckwith

Other Business – Anna Beckwith

Adjourn

Committee Members

Anna Beckwith, Chair

Art Sapp, Vice Chair

Chester Brewer

Chris Conklin

Tim Griner

Steve Poland

Spud Woodward

Mid-Atlantic Liaisons: Tony DiLernia and Dewey Hemilright

New England Liaison: Rick Bellavance

Carolyn Belcher

Mel Bell

Kyle Christiansen

Roy Crabtree

Jessica McCawley

David Whittaker

LCDR Jeremy Montes

Attachments:

Attachment 1a: Decision document for Amendment 10 (Revise Dolphin and Wahoo Management Measures)

Attachment 1b: SEFSC vessel count analysis for PLL landings of dolphin by vessel permit type

Attachment 2a: Decision document for Amendment 12 (Bullet Mackerel and Frigate Mackerel as Ecosystem Component Species)

Attachment 2b: Draft Amendment 12 (Bullet Mackerel and Frigate Mackerel as Ecosystem Component Species)

Attachment 3: Presentation slides for the update on the dolphin wahoo participatory workshops

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Staff Support: Julia Byrd (julia.byrd@safmc.net)

Technical Support: Suzanna Thomas (suzanna.thomas@safmc.net)

OVERVIEW

Dolphin Wahoo Committee

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

1. **Dolphin Wahoo Catch Level Recommendations**

Description: At the December 2020 meeting, the Committee took a close look at the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) that the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) recommended for dolphin and wahoo. The Committee expressed concern over the landings time series that was used in setting the ABCs and requested that the SSC:

- 1) Reconsider the time series used for dolphin when setting catch level recommendations for dolphin. It was noted that using the third highest landings value in a four-year time series meant that the second lowest value was selected.
- 2) Consider if a different time series that is more reflective of the current fishery for wahoo would be more appropriate in setting catch level recommendations for wahoo.
- 3) Would application of the Only Reliable Catch Stocks (ORCS) method be a superior approach to the “third highest landings” approach in setting catch level recommendations for dolphin and wahoo? If so, does the SSC deem this approach best scientific information available (BSIA) and thus this method can be applied rather than the existing approach?

After discussion of the topic at their April 2020 meeting, the SSC chose the third highest landings from 1994 to 2007 for both dolphin and wahoo to set the ABC instead of a time series of 1994 to 1997 for dolphin and 1999 to 2007 for wahoo. This resulted in ABCs of 24,570,764 lbs ww for dolphin and 2,885,303 lbs ww for wahoo, both of which are higher than the previously recommended ABCs. ORCS was discussed but the SSC had some concerns over the method and would like to revisit the application of ORCS for all the unassessed species in the ABC Control Rule Amendment. As such, ORCS was not used for setting the ABCs for dolphin or wahoo.

Required Committee Action: Discuss and take action as necessary.

2. **Update on the Dolphin Wahoo and HMS Pelagic Longline BiOp**

Description: A new Biological Opinion (BiOp) for the dolphin and wahoo fisheries will coincide with the development of Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10 (DW 10). Additionally, a new BiOp is expected to be completed soon for the pelagic longline (PLL) component of Highly Migratory Species (HMS) fishery. The outcome of the HMS PLL BiOp may be relevant to DW 10 as several actions in the amendment are meant to mirror HMS regulations in the PLL fishery for dolphin and wahoo. It is possible that these regulations may change as a result of the HMS PLL BiOp. NMFS SERO staff will provide an update on the progress of these two BiOps as well as other foreseeable protected resources related topics that may affect DW 10.

Required Committee Action: Discuss and take action as necessary.

3. **Revise Dolphin and Wahoo Management Measures: Amendment 10 (*Attachment 1a and 1b*)**

Description: Amendment 10 includes actions that accommodate updated recreational data from the Marine Recreational Information Program by revising the annual catch limits and sector allocations for dolphin and wahoo, redefining optimum yield in the dolphin fishery, and revising accountability measures. The amendment also contains actions that implement various other management revisions in the fishery such as accommodating possession of dolphin and wahoo on vessels with unauthorized gears onboard, removing the operator card requirement, modifying the recreational vessel limit for dolphin, aligning gear, bait, and training requirements in the pelagic longline fishery with Highly Migratory Species requirements, establishing a pelagic longline endorsement for the commercial permit, and allowing filleting of dolphin at sea onboard for-hire vessels North of the Virginia/North Carolina border.

Committee discussion on many actions in Amendment 10 has been delayed pending revised catch level recommendations from the SSC. The SSC provided these recommendations for dolphin and wahoo at their October 2019 meeting, however the Council requested that the SSC reconsider the time series used to set the catch level recommendations and the potential use of ORCS at the April 2020 SSC meeting. With this information available, the Committee can discuss Amendment 10 in its entirety and provide guidance on how to move forward with development of the amendment.

Status of Amendment: The amendment is in progress and working towards approval for public hearings potentially at the September or December 2020 Council meeting.

Required Committee Action: Discuss and provide guidance to staff on how to proceed with the development and timing of Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10. Of particular note are the new catch level recommendations and how they may relate to several actions in the amendment. Additionally, several actions have not been approved by the Committee for inclusion in the Amendment 10 (Actions 3, 4, and 14) and will need Committee approval to move forward.

4. **Adding Bullet and Frigate Mackerel to the FMP as Ecosystem Component Species: Amendment 12 (*Attachments 2a and 2b*)**

Description: Amendment 12 would add bullet mackerel and frigate mackerel to the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan (FMP) as ecosystem component species. At the March 2020 meeting, the Committee received guidance from SERO staff on the Council's ability to designate bullet mackerel and frigate mackerel as ecosystem component species and implement associated regulatory measures. The Committee decided to move forward with the amendment and selected a preferred alternative.

Status of Amendment: The Council has approved one action in the amendment and selected a preferred alternative that would add bullet mackerel and frigate mackerel as ecosystem component species in the Dolphin Wahoo FMP. The Committee could approve the amendment for public hearings at the June 2020 meeting and potentially vote on final approval at the September 2020 Council meeting.

Required Committee Action: Review and provide guidance on amendment content and consider approval for public hearings.

5. **Update on the Dolphin Wahoo Participatory Workshops (*Attachment 3*)**

Description: In March 2020, the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC), along with South Atlantic Council staff, conducted a series of participatory workshops with dolphin wahoo fishermen at locations in Virginia Beach, VA, Manteo, NC, and Beaufort, NC. These workshops gathered information on major factors affecting fisheries for dolphin and wahoo, risks to these fisheries, how changes in the ecosystem have affected fishing businesses and communities, and what targeted research is needed. A similar set of workshops is being planned for locations in South Florida and the Florida Keys for the late summer months of 2020. An overview and preliminary findings from the North Carolina and Virginia workshops will be provided to the Committee by SEFSC staff.

Required Committee Action: None.

6. **Mid-Atlantic representation on the Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel**

Description: In September 2019, the Council voted to add one seat with Mid-Atlantic representation to the Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel (DW AP). South Atlantic and Mid-Atlantic Council staff have been working to fill this seat and, in the process, have discussed asking whether the South Atlantic Council would like to add more than a single seat with Mid-Atlantic representation to the DW AP to diversify sector and/or geographic representation.

Required Committee Action: Discuss and provide guidance on additional DW AP seats with Mid-Atlantic representation.

Other Business