



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Dr. Michelle Duval, Chair | Charlie Phillips, Vice Chair
Gregg T. Waugh, Executive Director

AGENDA

Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel

Crowne Plaza Hotel
4831 Tanger Outlet Boulevard
North Charleston, SC

Friday, April 21, 2017, 9:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.

Approval of Agenda

Approval of March 2014 Meeting Minutes of the Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel

Introductions

1. Presentation on tagging results from the Dolphinfish Research Program - Don Hammond
2. Advisory Panel Orientation/Refresher (**Attachment 1**) - Kim Iverson
3. Update on Recent South Atlantic Council actions relevant to the Dolphin Wahoo FMP (**Attachment 2**) - John Hadley
 - A. Amendment 5 (Increase dolphin and wahoo ACLs)
 - B. Amendment 7 (Dolphin and wahoo fillets from the Bahamas)
 - C. Amendment 8 (Revise sector allocations for dolphin)
 - D. Regulatory Amendment 1 (Commercial trip limits for dolphin)
 - E. Amendment 9 (Electronic For-Hire Logbook)
 - F. Amendment 10 (Definition of OY/quota sharing/operator card requirement/allowable gears)
4. Discussion on Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10 (**Attachment 3**) - John Hadley
5. Fishery Performance Report (**Attachment 4a** and **4b**) - John Hadley

6. Discussion on potential items for the next Dolphin Wahoo FMP amendment (**Attachment 5a** and **5b**) - John Hadley

7. Term Limits for Chair and Vice Chair; Elections for Chair and Vice-Chair

8. Other Business

Adjourn

Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel

Wendell Barnett
Robert Barnette
Clay Bishop
Christopher Burrows
Dr. Kyle Christiansen
Ty C. Conti
Robert Frevert
Richard Harris
Glen Hopkins
Harris Huddle
Fred W. Kinard
H. Tim Nettles
Jonathon Reynolds
Ray Rosher
Tim Scalise

Attachments

Attachment 1: Presentation on the Council Process and Advisory Panels
Attachment 2: Summary of recent Dolphin Wahoo FMP amendments
Attachment 3: Discussion document for Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10
Attachment 4a: Example fishery performance report- Mid-Atlantic Spiny Dogfish
Attachment 4b: Example fishery performance report- Mid-Atlantic Bluefish
Attachment 5a: Potential items for the next Dolphin Wahoo FMP amendment
Attachment 5b: March 2014 Dolphin Wahoo AP report

OVERVIEW

Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel

April 21, 2017
North Charleston, SC

1. Presentation on tagging results from the Dolphin Research Program

Don Hammond, Director of the Dolphin Research Program, will provide a presentation on recent findings from the program's dolphin tagging research.

2. Advisory Panel Orientation/Refresher (*Attachment 1*)

Kim Iverson, SAFMC staff, will provide a presentation on the role of advisory panels (AP) in the Council process.

3. Update on Recent South Atlantic Council Actions (*Attachment 2*)

Council staff will brief the AP on relatively recent and developing amendments pertaining to dolphin and wahoo. Amendments that will be discussed include:

- Amendment 5 (Increase dolphin and wahoo ACLs) – effective 07/09/14
- Amendment 7 (Dolphin and wahoo fillets from the Bahamas) – effective 01/27/16
- Amendment 8 (Revise sector allocations for dolphin) – effective 02/22/16
- Regulatory Amendment 1 (Commercial trip limits for dolphin) – effective 03/31/17
- Amendment 9 (Electronic For-Hire Reporting) – sent to NMFS on 03/4/17
- Amendment 10 (Definition of OY/quota sharing/operator card requirement/allowable gears) – further development suspended until revised recreational data are available from the Marine Recreational Information Program.

4. Discussion on Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10 (*Attachment 3*)

At the March 2017 Council meeting, staff presented a summary of Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10 and the Council provided guidance on actions and alternatives that should remain in the document to be further developed and analyzed. Actions being considered in this amendment include:

1. Revise the optimum yield (OY) definition for dolphin
2. Modify the recreational annual catch target (ACT) for dolphin.
3. Establish a commercial annual catch target (ACT) for dolphin.
4. Allow adaptive management of sector annual catch limits (ACLs) for dolphin.
5. Revise the accountability measures for dolphin.
6. Revise the acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rule for dolphin and wahoo.
7. Allow properly permitted vessels with gear onboard that are not authorized for use in the dolphin wahoo fishery to possess dolphin or wahoo.
8. Remove the requirement of vessel operators or crew to hold an Operator Card in the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery.

Coinciding with development of Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10 is a revision to the methodology of the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) survey that is used to estimate recreational catch and effort data. The MRIP survey is being changed from a phone-based method to a mail-based method for contacting anglers. Preliminary results from the MRIP revision indicate notable increases in estimates of recreational catch. These preliminary results and likely upward revisions for the estimates of recreational landings as they may relate to dolphin create a great deal of uncertainty as to how some actions in Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10 may affect the recreational sector. At their March 2017 meeting, the South Atlantic Council discussed this issue as well as concern over limitations on the amount staff time available to put towards the amendment and ultimately approved a motion to suspend further development of this amendment until revised recreational data are available.

Despite anticipated uncertainty in the recreational data, many of the actions and alternatives will benefit from a review by the AP from either a direct or conceptual standpoint. The AP will review the discussion document (*Attachment 3*), discuss each action, and provide input and recommendations as appropriate.

5. Fishery Performance Report (*Attachment 4a* and *4b*)

The South Atlantic Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) is currently considering modifying the ABC Control Rule. As part of the modification process, the SSC is interested in exploring how to incorporate social and economic factors into the ABC decision.

One example that has been used in the Mid-Atlantic is incorporating feedback provided via fishery performance reports (*Attachments 4a* and *4b*). The Mid-Atlantic SSC receives annual reports from FMP Advisory Panels on fishery performance, which are incorporated into the SSC's decision for setting the ABCs for the managed species. Similar to the [Beige Book](#) generated by the Federal Reserve, the fishery performance reports are intended to supplement quantitative data with anecdotal and qualitative data from the field. Examples of the fishery performance reports are available here: <http://www.mafmc.org/fishery-performance-reports/>.

Council staff will facilitate a discussion with the AP to help create a fishery performance report reflecting their experiences and observations regarding dolphin and wahoo. The report will be provided to the South Atlantic Socio-Economic Panel, SSC, and Council. The discussion will include questions such as:

- How would you rate the stability of the fishery?
- How would you rate the quality of the fishery?
- What factors have influenced recent landings?
- Are there recent major changes that you have observed in the fishery?
- Are the current fishery regulations appropriate? How could they be improved?

6. Discussion on potential items for the next Dolphin Wahoo FMP Amendment (*Attachment 5a* and *5b*)

Council staff will review items previously identified to examine through the Dolphin Wahoo FMP (*Attachment 5a* and *5b*) and facilitate a discussion on potential items for the next Dolphin Wahoo FMP amendment.

7. Term Limits for Chair and Vice Chair; Elections for Chair and Vice-Chair

The AP will discuss specifying term limits for chair and vice chair of the AP. The Snapper Grouper AP currently has two-year limits to allow opportunities for members interested in serving as chair or vice chair.

The Dolphin Wahoo AP does not currently have a chair or vice-chair. The AP may select a new chair and vice-chair to facilitate the next meeting.

8. Other Business

The Committee will address other business as appropriate.