



# SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph.D., Chair | Trish Murphey, Vice Chair  
John Carmichael, Executive Director

## AGENDA

### **Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel**

Town and Country Inn  
2008 Savannah Highway  
Charleston, SC 29407

November 6-7, 2023

Public comment will be solicited at the beginning and at the end of the meeting. Those wishing to comment should indicate such in the manner requested by the Chair, who will recognize individuals to provide comment in-person or on the webinar.

**Photo scanning event for FISHstory project:** Staff will be ready to scan historic photos contributed to the project throughout the AP meeting.

**Monday, November 6, 2023, 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

**Tuesday, November 7, 2023, 8:30 A.M. – Noon.**

Welcome and Introductions – Chris Burrows

Approval of Agenda – Chris Burrows

Approval of April 2022 AP meeting minutes – Chris Burrows

Public Comment

1. Committee Chair Remarks – Kerry Marhefka (*Attachments 1a and 1b*)
2. Update on the SAFMC Citizen Science Program (*Attachment 2*)
  - a. Overview – SAFMC Citizen Science Program staff
  - b. AP Discussion – Chris Burrows
3. Update on the status of amendments and Dolphin Wahoo related efforts (*Attachment 3*)
  - a. Overview – John Hadley
  - b. AP Discussion – Chris Burrows
4. AP feedback on the Dolphin and Wahoo SAFE Reports (*Attachment 4*)
  - a. Overview – Chip Collier
  - b. AP Discussion – Chris Burrows

5. AP Update to the Wahoo and Dolphin Fishery Performance Reports (*Attachments 5a – 5c*)
  - a. [Fishery Performance Report Application](#) (*will be updated ahead of the meeting*) – John Hadley
  - b. AP Discussion – Chris Burrows
6. Dolphin Management Strategy Evaluation Update and AP Input (*Attachment 6a and 6b*)
  - a. Overview – Cassidy Peterson
  - b. AP Discussion – Chris Burrows
7. Update on Best Fishing Practices Outreach (*Attachments 7a and 7b*)
  - a. Overview – Ashley Oliver
  - b. AP Discussion – Chris Burrows
8. Election of new AP Chair and Vice-Chair
  - a. Solicit nominees for the next AP Chair and Vice-Chair – Chris Burrows
9. Other Business

Public Comment

Adjourn

**Advisory Panel Members**

Chris Burrows, Chair	Jonathon Reynolds, Vice Chair
Brice Barr	James “Chip” Berry
Richard DeLizza	Robert Frevert
Richard Harris	Earl Harris, Jr.
Glen Hopkins	Jay Kavanagh
Dan Owsley	Tim Scalise
Rom Whitaker III	Paul Pancake
Bill Richardson	John Nappo
Randall Morgan	Michael Plaia

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

**Attachments:**

- Attachment 1a:** June 2022 Dolphin Wahoo Committee final report
- Attachment 1b:** June 2023 Dolphin Wahoo Committee final report
- Attachment 2:** Citizen Science Program Update presentation
- Attachment 3:** Summary of the status of amendments and Dolphin Wahoo related efforts
- Attachment 4:** Dolphin Wahoo SAFE Report background document and discussion questions
- Attachment 5a:** Wahoo and Dolphin Fishery Performance Report update questions
- Attachment 5b:** Existing Wahoo Fishery Performance report
- Attachment 5c:** Existing Dolphin Fishery Performance report
- Attachment 6a:** Dolphin Management Strategy Evaluation presentation

**Attachment 6b:** Dolphin Management Strategy Evaluation background document discussion questions

**Attachment 7a:** Best Fishing Practices update presentation

**Attachment 7b:** 'What It Means to Me' project overview

# OVERVIEW

## Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel

The AP will approve minutes from the April 2022 meeting and the agenda for the November 2023 meeting.

### 1. Committee Chair Remarks (*Attachments 1a and 1b*)

**Description:** Kerry Marhefka, Chair of the Dolphin Wahoo Committee for the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC), will provide opening remarks for the Dolphin Wahoo AP.

**Requested AP action:** Provide input and ask questions as appropriate.

### 2. Update on the SAFMC Citizen Science Program (*Attachment 2*)

**Description:** SAFMC Citizen Science Program staff will provide information on [Citizen Science Program](#) activities. Updates will be given on the Citizen Science Program advisory groups, the Citizen Science Program's Project Idea Portal, and the SMILE and SAFMC Release projects. Additionally, staff will share results from the FISHstory pilot project and efforts underway to expand the project by gathering additional historic fishing photos.

Have historic fishing photos from the South Atlantic from the 1940s-1980s? Bring them to the AP meeting! Staff will be on hand to scan photos contributed to the project throughout the AP meeting. More details are available [HERE](#).

**Requested AP action:** Identify an additional AP member interested in serving on the Citizen Science Projects Advisory Committee. Provide feedback on other opportunities that could be pursued to gather historic photos for FISHstory.

### 3. Update on the status of amendments and Dolphin Wahoo related efforts (*Attachment 3*)

**Description:** John Hadley, SAFMC staff, will update the AP on the status of recent and developing Council actions and other Dolphin Wahoo related efforts including:

- Dolphin Wahoo Regulatory Amendment 3 (Modifications to the minimum size limit, recreational retention limits, and for-hire captain and crew bag limits for dolphin)
- Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 4 (Joint Comprehensive Commercial Electronic Logbook Amendment)
- Snapper Grouper Amendment 46 (Private Recreational Permitting and Education Requirements)
- Recent dolphin and wahoo fishery management actions of the Caribbean Fishery Management Council
- Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission Flyingfish-Dolphinfish Working Group
- Hudson Canyon Sanctuary Advisory Council

**Requested AP action:** Provide input and ask questions as appropriate.

### 4. AP feedback on the Dolphin and Wahoo SAFE Reports (*Attachment 4*)

**Description:** Council staff have started to develop Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Reports. These reports are required through National Standard 2 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The report should contain the best scientific information available on the

condition of the stock, essential fish habitat, marine ecosystems, and the fishery. These reports can serve as regular updates to the AP, Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), and Council to aid in discussing the condition of the stock and potential need for adjusting management measures. The SSC has provided feedback on information that is crucial for a SAFE report and information that would be good to include based on draft SAFE reports for [Dolphin Wahoo](#) and Snapper Grouper fishery management plans (FMPs). SAFE reports will be developed and updated every two years for each FMP and provided at the spring SSC meeting and June Council meeting. These reports will also be provided to any interested constituents on the Council's website.

Chip Collier, SAFMC staff, will brief the AP on the draft SAFE reports for dolphin and wahoo and solicit input on changes that the AP would like to see in the reports before they are finalized.

**Requested AP action:** Provide feedback on the draft SAFE reports and input on any additional information that may be useful in relation to the dolphin and wahoo fishery.

**5. AP Update to the Wahoo and Dolphin Fishery Performance Reports (*Attachments 5a – 5c*)**

**Description:** With input from the APs, Fishery Performance Reports (FPRs) have been developed for several fish species managed by the SAFMC. The intent of the FPRs is to assemble information from AP members' experience and observations on the water and in the marketplace to complement scientific and landings data. The FPRs will be provided to the Council to assist in their discussions on the need for management actions and potential implications of such actions.

Using an [online application](#), John Hadley, SAFMC Staff, will provide an overview of wahoo and dolphin landings trends and other background information to help with the AP's discussion.

**Requested AP action:** Work through the provided discussion questions to develop revised and updated FPRs for wahoo and dolphin.

**6. Dolphin Management Strategy Evaluation Update and AP Input (*Attachment 6a and 6b*)**

**Description:** The 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 operational management objectives of the fishery. As part of the MSE process, SEFSC staff and SAFMC staff conducted stakeholder workshops along the U.S. east coast to gather feedback on dolphin management and regional aspects of the dolphin fishery. A total of 9 in-person workshops were conducted in the fall of 2022 and the winter of 2022/2023 along with a webinar in May 2023. SEFSC staff will brief the AP on summary feedback gathered during the stakeholder workshops and provide an update on the MSE progress.

**Requested AP action:** Provide feedback on the dolphin MSE stakeholder workshop findings and discussion questions.

**7. Update on Best Fishing Practices Outreach (*Attachments 7a and 7b*)**

**Description:** Council staff will present recent updates on Best Fishing Practices outreach, including details on “What It Means to Me,” a recently approved outreach initiative.

**Requested AP action:** Discuss and provide input, as appropriate.

**8. Election of new AP Chair and Vice-Chair**

**Description:** The AP Chair and Vice-Chair each serve a 3-year term in their respective positions. The current terms are up and the AP will have elections for the next Chair and Vice-Chair.

**Requested AP action:** Election the new Dolphin Wahoo AP Chair and Vice-Chair.

**9. Other Business**