



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

April 22-23, 2025

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.

Tuesday, April 22, 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of Agenda – Jon Reynolds

Approval of November 2023 AP meeting minutes – Jon Reynolds

Public Comment

Committee Chair Remarks – Kerry Marhefka (1:15pm - 1:30pm)

1. Update on the status of amendments and Dolphin Wahoo related efforts (1:30 pm – 1:40 pm) (***Attachment 1***)
 - a. Overview – John Hadley
 - b. AP Discussion – Jon Reynolds
2. Update on the Dolphin Management Strategy Evaluation (1:40 pm - 2:00 pm) (***Attachment 2***)
 - a. Overview – Cassidy Peterson
 - b. AP Discussion – Jon Reynolds
3. Modifications to the minimum size limit, recreational retention limits, and for-hire captain and crew bag limits for dolphin (Regulatory Amendment 3) (2:00 pm – 3:30 pm) (***Attachment 3***)
 - a. Overview – John Hadley
 - b. AP Discussion – Jon Reynolds

-Break-

4. For-Hire Reporting Improvements Amendment (3:45 pm – 5:00 pm) (*Attachments 4a and 4b*)
 - a. Overview – John Hadley
 - b. AP Discussion – Jon Reynolds

Wednesday, April 23, 8:30 A.M. – Noon

5. Research and Monitoring Prioritization Plan (*Attachment 5*) (8:30 am – 9:15 am)
 - a. Overview – Chip Collier
 - b. AP Discussion – Jon Reynolds
6. Update on the SAFMC Citizen Science Program (9:15 am – 9:45 pm) (*Attachment 6*)
 - a. Overview – Julia Byrd
 - b. AP Discussion – Jon Reynolds

-Break-

7. Feedback on making the for-hire Dolphin Wahoo Permit limited entry (10:00 am – 10:45 am) (*Attachment 7*)
 - a. Overview – John Hadley
 - b. AP Discussion – Jon Reynolds
8. Lines of Communication run-through (10:45 am – 11:50 am) (*Attachment 8*)
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. AP Discussion – Jon Reynolds

Other Business

Adjourn

Advisory Panel Members

Jonathon Reynolds, Vice Chair
Brice Barr
Richard DeLizza
Richard Harris
Glen Hopkins
David Moss
Paul Pancake
John Nappo
Brian Bacon

Rom Whitaker III, Vice-Chair
James “Chip” Berry
Robert Frevert
Earl Harris, Jr.
Jay Kavanagh
Dan Owsley
Tim Scalise
Bill Richardson
Randall Morgan

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

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Summary of the status of amendments and Dolphin Wahoo related efforts

Attachment 2: Dolphin Management Strategy Evaluation Update presentation

Attachment 3: Dolphin Wahoo Regulatory Amendment 3 discussion document

Attachment 4a: For-Hire Reporting Improvements Amendment discussion document

Attachment 4b: For-Hire Reporting Improvements Amendment presentation

Attachment 5: Draft Research and Monitoring Prioritization Plan

Attachment 6: Citizen Science Program Update presentation

Attachment 7: For-Hire Limited Entry discussion document

Attachment 8: Lines of Communication presentation

OVERVIEW

Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel (AP) will approve minutes from the November 2023 meeting and the agenda for the April 2025 meeting.

1. Update on the status of amendments and Dolphin Wahoo related efforts (*Attachment 1*)

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)
- For-Hire Reporting Improvements Amendment
- For-Hire Limited Entry Amendment
- 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

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

2. Dolphin Management Strategy Evaluation update (*Attachment 2*)

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 AP on progress of the Dolphin MSE and recent stakeholder working group meetings.

Requested AP action: No action required.

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

Description: This amendment includes measures that would extend the applicable range of the 20-inch fork length minimum size limit, modify recreational retention limits, and remove captain and crew bag limits for dolphin. Council staff will review the AP's previous guidance on draft actions and facilitate a discussion of the amendment.

Requested AP action: Provide input on actions in the amendment.

4. For-Hire Reporting Improvements Amendment (*Attachments 4a and 4b*)

Description: The Council initiated work on an amendment to improve for-hire reporting in June 2024. The purpose of the amendment is to make modifications to the South Atlantic Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting Program and the Southeast Region Headboat Survey to improve the accuracy, precision, and timeliness of landings, discards, fishing effort, and economic data for South Atlantic permitted charter/headboat vessels participating in the snapper grouper, coastal migratory pelagics, and dolphin wahoo fisheries. Through this amendment, the Council wants to improve compliance, adjust reporting

requirements, and allow for data validation so the information collected can be used in managing the three fisheries mentioned. At the March 2025 meeting, the Council approved the amendment for public hearings. Public scoping comments will be solicited this spring, as well as input from the Snapper Grouper, Mackerel Cobia, and Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panels.

Requested AP action: Provide feedback on draft actions and alternatives to improve reporting of for-hire data.

5. Draft Research and Monitoring Prioritization Plan (*Attachment 5*)

Description: Council staff will present the 2023-2027 Research and Monitoring Plan and request recommendations from the AP on any additional areas of research that should be included or prioritization of research and monitoring tasks for dolphin and wahoo. This draft will be reviewed by the Council at their June 2025 meeting.

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

6. Update on the SAFMC Citizen Science Program (*Attachment 6*)

Description: Council staff will provide information on Citizen Science Program activities. Updates will be given on the Citizen Science Program's Project Idea Portal, Program evaluation, FISHstory, SAFMC Release, and SMILE project.

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

7. Feedback on making the for-hire Dolphin Wahoo Permit limited entry (*Attachment 7*)

Description: In December 2023, the Council directed staff to initiate an amendment to consider a limited entry program for the for-hire components of the Dolphin Wahoo, Snapper Grouper, and Coastal Migratory Pelagics fisheries. A control date of December 8, 2023 was requested. The Council also stipulated that federal permit holders that have not reported Snapper Grouper, Coastal Migratory Pelagic, and/or dolphin and wahoo catch from the South Atlantic to the Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting program on or prior to December 5, 2023, will not be assured of future access should a management regime that limits participation in the sector be prepared and implemented.

At the June 2024 meeting, the Council discussed this amendment and delayed further development until updated permit information is made available. Additionally, the Council requested feedback from the Dolphin Wahoo AP on the topic. Council staff will summarize previous discussions of the amendment and request AP input on whether the Council should consider limited entry for the recreational for-hire component of the Dolphin Wahoo fishery.

Requested AP action: Provide input on whether the Council should consider limiting entry into the for-hire component of the Dolphin Wahoo fishery.

8. Lines of Communication Run-Through (*Attachment 8*)

Description: Stakeholder input has always been a fundamental component of the council system. To better ensure stakeholders concerns are heard and addressed, Council staff has begun work to develop a plan for holding stakeholder engagement meetings along the South Atlantic coast, meeting fishermen in their communities. These meetings, now called Lines of Communication: Conversations with the Council, will provide an opportunity for Council members to have productive dialogues with fisheries participants. By engaging stakeholders in this more informal setting, Council members will be able to build or improve relationships

and increase engagement in the management process. Building and maintaining relationships and momentum for participation in the management. A practice run of the Lines meetings will be held with the AP to get input from fisheries participants on the effectiveness of the meeting design.

Requested AP action: Provide input on the effectiveness of the draft meeting design.