

**FINAL**  
**SUMMARY REPORT**  
**DOLPHIN WAHOO COMMITTEE**  
**SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**  
**December 5, 2023**

The Committee approved the minutes from the June 2023 meeting and the agenda for the December 2023 meeting.

**Advisory Panel Summary Report**

The Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel (AP) met November 6-7, 2023 in Charleston, SC to discuss items pertaining to the Dolphin Wahoo fishery. The AP received updates on recent management actions, provided input on the draft Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) reports for dolphin and wahoo, reviewed progress made on the MSE for Atlantic dolphin, and received presentations on the Council's Citizen Science and Best Fishing Practices Outreach programs. In addition, the AP provided input to update Fishery Performance Report for wahoo.

The AP Chair, Chris Burrows, provided a summary report of the AP meeting and the AP's recommendations for the Committee's review. These recommendations included additions to the data included in the SAFE reports, potential future management measures for the recreational and commercial fisheries for wahoo, and potential future management measures for the commercial fishery for dolphin.

**Summary of Dolphin Management Strategy Evaluation stakeholder workshops**

The Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) is conducting a management strategy evaluation (MSE) for the Atlantic dolphin fishery. The goal of the MSE 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. Work on the MSE has proceeded and a stakeholder working group is being developed to provide input on potential operating models, management objectives, and management procedures.

SEFSC staff provided an update on the MSE progress, noting that the report for the MSE results would likely be available in mid-2025. The Committee discussed the MSE and their current timeline for discussion of potential management changes through Regulatory Amendment 3, confirming that this amendment is scheduled to be discussed at the December 2024 meeting.

**Other Business**

There were no items under other business.

**Timing and Tasks:**

**MOTION:** DIRECT STAFF TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

- CONTINUE WITH PLANNED UPDATES ON PROGRESS OF THE DOLPHIN MSE AT THE JUNE 2024 AND DECEMBER 2024 COUNCIL MEETINGS.

- MAINTAIN DISCUSSION OF REGULATORY AMENDMENT 3 ON THE AGENDA FOR THE DECEMBER 2024 COUNCIL MEETING.
- APPROVED BY COUNCIL**