

**SUMMARY REPORT
DOLPHIN WAHOO COMMITTEE
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Webinar
September 15, 2021**

The Committee approved minutes from the June 2021 meeting and the agenda.

Status of Amendments under Formal Review

The Committee was updated on the status of Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10 which revises the total ACL, sector allocations, sector ACLs, and recreational AMs for dolphin and wahoo. Amendment 10 also contains actions that will allow the retention of dolphin and wahoo when trap, pot, or buoy gear are onboard a vessel, remove the operator card requirement, and reduce the recreational vessel limit for dolphin from 60 fish to 54 fish. The amendment is being prepared for formal submission to NMFS.

Information paper on the minimum size limit for dolphin, retention limits onboard charter and private vessels, and for-hire captain and crew bag limits

At the June 2021 meeting, the Committee directed staff to prepare information on an amendment that would consider:

- Extending the minimum size limit for dolphin that is currently in place off Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina northward,
- Specifying different retention limits for charter and private vessels for both dolphin and wahoo, and
- Removing or reducing captain and crew bag limits.

The Committee reviewed an information paper on the identified topics, provided the following guidance on the initial range of options to consider in the amendment, and made the following motion:

DIRECTION TO STAFF:

- **Modify the applicable range of the minimum size limit for dolphin.**
 - Include a range of options that would extend the applicable range of the minimum size limit for dolphin to cover:
 - North Carolina only
 - North Carolina through New York
 - North Carolina through Maine
- **Establish separate recreational retention limits for dolphin onboard charter vessels and private vessels.**
 - Consider the same limits for headboats that would apply to charter vessels
 - Consider the same retention limits onboard for-hire and private vessels
 - Include increments divisible by 6
 - Continue consideration of different retention limits by mode
 - Consider range of:
 - Bag limit: 5 fish to 10 fish per person

- Vessel limit: 30 fish to 60 fish per vessel
- **Establish separate recreational retention limits for wahoo onboard charter vessels and private vessels.**
 - Do not further consider this topic in this amendment.
- **Reduce or remove for-hire captain and crew bag limits.**
 - Continue consideration of removing or reducing captain and crew bag limits for dolphin only.
 - Consider regional approach (Florida only).

MOTION #1: ADD TWO REPRESENTATIVES TO THE DOLPHIN WAHOO ADVISORY PANEL TO REPRESENT THE NEW ENGLAND REGION.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Other Business

There were no items discussed under other business.

Timing and Tasks

MOTION #2: APPROVE THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASKS:

- 1) Prepare an options paper covering topics identified for the next amendment to the Dolphin Wahoo FMP for review at the December 2021 meeting.
- 2) Work with the New England Fishery Management Council to identify potential new representatives for the Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL