

**SUMMARY REPORT
DOLPHIN WAHOO COMMITTEE
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Key West, FL
June 16, 2022**

The Committee approved the transcript from the March 2022 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 was submitted to NMFS on October 19, 2021 and regulation changes went into effect May 2, 2022.

Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel summary meeting report

The Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel (AP) met on April 20-21, 2022 in Charleston, SC to discuss items pertaining to the Dolphin Wahoo fishery. The AP received updates on recent Council actions, development of Regulatory Amendment 3, and other relevant topics. In addition, the AP provided input to update a Fishery Performance Report for Dolphin. Chris Burrows, AP Chair, presented a summary of the AP meeting and the AP's recommendations.

Development of empirical management procedures (MPs) for dolphin

The Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) is planning to begin work on a management strategy evaluation (MSE) for the South 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. The Committee provided the following guidance and made the following motion:

- The Committee is interested in further considering the MSE approach for dolphin. Council staff is encouraged to assist with the stakeholder meetings. Council advisors may be involved in the MSE panel as appropriate.
- The Committee would like to receive updates as the MSE progresses.

**MOTION#1: DIRECT STAFF TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE MSE FOR DOLPHIN AS A PRIORITY OVER REG AM 3. MOVE FORWARD WITH THE MSE STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS IN THE FALL AND COME BACK WITH SUMMARY INFORMATION FROM THE MEETINGS IF AVAILABLE AND REG AM 3 AT THE DECEMBER 2022 MEETING.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

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

Measures in this amendment would extend the applicable geographic range of the minimum size limit as well as modify recreational retention limits and remove captain and crew bag limits for

dolphin. The Committee reviewed an options paper on the amendment and provided the following guidance on the Purpose and Need statements as well as the range of options to consider in the amendment:

DIRECTION TO STAFF:

Purpose and Need

- Consistency in retention limits for dolphin off of Florida may be incorporated into the need at a later date but the Committee would like to wait until after scoping comments are received to make further changes to the Purpose and Need statements.

1. Modify the applicable geographic range of the minimum size limit for dolphin.

- Include a range of options that would extend the applicable geographic range of the 20 inch fork length minimum size limit for dolphin to cover:
 - North Carolina only
 - North Carolina through New York
 - North Carolina through Maine
- This action is intended to apply to both the commercial and recreational sectors.
- Include sample size and PSEs for data used to create Figure 1 that shows the percentage of dolphin under 20 inches observed in the recreational catch.

2. Modify the daily recreational bag limit for dolphin

- Include a range of options for a bag limit of 2 to 10 dolphin per person.
 - Consider different bag limits by mode (private, charter, and headboat vessels).
 - Remove options that would include a vessel limit or bag limit, whichever is greater instead of whichever is more restrictive.

3. Modify the recreational vessel limit for dolphin

- Include a range of options for a vessel limit of 12 to 54 dolphin per vessel.
 - Include increments divisible by 6 as well as a vessel limit of 30 dolphin.
 - Consider different vessel limits by mode (private, charter, and headboat vessels).
 - Add a regional option for vessel limit changes.
 - Off of Florida only.
 - Ask about other potential regional vessel limits during scoping.
- Include an option that would remove vessel limits onboard charter vessels only.
- Bring back information to clarify the definition of a headboat.
- Remove options that would include a vessel limit or bag limit, whichever is greater instead of whichever is more restrictive.

4. Modify captain and crew recreational daily bag limits for dolphin onboard charter vessels

- Include options for removing captain and crew bag limits for dolphin.
 - Consider a regional option.
 - Off of Florida only.

Other Business

There were no items discussed under other business.

Timing and Tasks

MOTION #2: ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASKS:

- 1) Conduct scoping for Regulatory Amendment 3 with the intent of having comments ready for review at the December 2022 meeting.
- 2) Continue developing Regulatory Amendment 3 for review at the December 2022 meeting.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL