

**SUMMARY REPORT
DOLPHIN WAHOO COMMITTEE
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
June 8-10, 2020**

The Committee approved amended minutes from the March 2020 meeting and the agenda.

Dolphin Wahoo Catch Level Recommendations

Dr. Genny Nesslage, SSC Chair, briefed the Committee on the SSC's revised Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) recommendations for dolphin and wahoo that were discussed during the SSC's April 2020 meeting. The SSC chose the third highest landings from 1994 to 2007 for both dolphin and wahoo to set the ABC instead of a time series of 1994 to 1997 for dolphin and 1999 to 2007 for wahoo. This resulted in ABCs of 24,570,764 lbs ww for dolphin and 2,885,303 lbs ww for wahoo, both of which are higher than the previously recommended ABCs. ORCS was discussed but the SSC had some concerns over the method and would like to revisit the application of ORCS for all the unassessed species in the ABC Control Rule Amendment. As such, ORCS was not used for setting the ABCs for dolphin or wahoo. The Committee discussed the SSC's catch level recommendations and reference periods in preparation for review of actions in Amendment 10.

Update on Dolphin Wahoo and HMS Pelagic Longline BiOp

Jennifer Lee, NMFS SERO staff, briefed the Committee on the recently complete Biological Opinion (BiOp) for the High Migratory Species (HMS) Pelagic Longline Fishery. It was noted that there were no jeopardy determinations within the document. The Committee was also briefed on a potential change to the rule for HMS fisheries that sets the maximum allowable length for a pelagic longline in the Mid-Atlantic Region. This rule change could affect an action that the Committee is considering that would mirror this regulation in the Dolphin Wahoo fishery. The Committee discussed the results of the HMS Pelagic Longline BiOp and potential rule change as they relate to Amendment 10.

Revise Dolphin and Wahoo Management Measures: Amendment 10

Amendment 10 included actions that accommodate updated recreational data from the Marine Recreational Information Program by revising the annual catch limits and sector allocations for dolphin and wahoo, redefine optimum yield in the dolphin fishery, and revise accountability measures. The amendment also contained actions that implement various other management revisions in the fishery such as accommodating possession of dolphin and wahoo on vessels with unauthorized gears onboard, removing the operator card requirement, modifying the recreational vessel limit for dolphin, aligning gear, bait, and training requirements in the pelagic longline fishery with Highly Migratory Species requirements, establishing a pelagic longline endorsement for the commercial permit, and allowing filleting of dolphin at sea onboard for-hire vessels North of the Virginia/North Carolina border.

The Committee discussed the amendment and provided the following guidance as well as made the following motions:

MOTION #1. APPROVE THE IPT'S SUGGESTED EDITS TO ACTION 1 IN AMENDMENT 10.

Action 1. Revise the total annual catch limit (ACL) for dolphin to reflect the updated acceptable biological catch level

Alternative 1 (No Action). The total annual catch limit for dolphin is set equal to the current acceptable biological catch level. The current total annual catch limit for dolphin is 15,344,846 pounds whole weight.

~~**Alternative 2.** The total annual catch limit for dolphin is set equal to the acceptable biological catch. Revise the total annual catch limit for dolphin to reflect the updated acceptable biological catch level.~~

Alternative 2. The total annual catch limit for dolphin is equal to the updated acceptable biological catch level.

Alternative 3. The total annual catch limit for dolphin is equal to 95% of the updated acceptable biological catch level.

Alternative 4. The total annual catch limit for dolphin is equal to 90% of the updated acceptable biological catch level.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #2. APPROVE THE IPT'S SUGGESTED EDITS TO ACTION 2 IN AMENDMENT 10.

Action 2. Revise the total annual catch limit (ACL) for wahoo to reflect the updated acceptable biological catch level.

Alternative 1 (No Action). The total annual catch limit for wahoo is set equal to the acceptable biological catch level. The current total annual catch limit for wahoo is 1,794,960 pounds whole weight.

~~**Alternative 2.** The total annual catch limit for wahoo is set equal to the acceptable biological catch. Revise the total annual catch limit for wahoo to reflect the updated acceptable biological catch level.~~

Alternative 2. The total annual catch limit for wahoo is equal to the updated acceptable biological catch level.

Alternative 3. The total annual catch limit for wahoo is equal to 95% of the updated acceptable biological catch level.

Alternative 4. The total annual catch limit for wahoo is equal to 90% of the updated acceptable biological catch level.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #3: APPROVE ACTION 3 AND THE PROPOSED RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION IN AMENDMENT 10 WITH ASSOCIATED DIRECTION TO STAFF.

Action 3. Revise sector allocations and sector annual catch limits for dolphin

Alternative 1 (No Action). The recreational sector allocation for dolphin is 90% of the total annual catch limit. The commercial sector allocation for dolphin is 10% of the total annual catch limit. This is based on the total catch between 2008 and 2012 as reported in 2014 and does not incorporate recreational landings from Monroe County, Florida.

Alternative 2. Allocate 93.95% of the total annual catch limit for dolphin to the recreational sector. Allocate 6.05% of the total annual catch limit for dolphin to the commercial sector. This is based on the total catch between 2008 and 2012 as reported in 2019 and does incorporate recreational landings from Monroe County, Florida.

Alternative 3. Allocate 94.70% of the total annual catch limit for dolphin to the recreational sector. Allocate 5.30% of the total annual catch limit for dolphin to the commercial sector. This is based on the total catch between 2013 and 2017 as reported in 2019 and does incorporate recreational landings from Monroe County, Florida.

Alternative 4. Allocate 94.91% of the total annual catch limit for dolphin to the recreational sector. Allocate 5.09% of the total annual catch limit for dolphin to the commercial sector. This is based on the total catch between 1986 and 2017 as reported in 2019 and does incorporate recreational landings from Monroe County, Florida.

Alternative 5. Modify the time series and method by which allocations for dolphin are specified for the recreational and commercial sectors by applying the following formula and using landings data as reported in 2019. This method incorporates recreational landings from Monroe County, Florida.

$$\text{Sector apportionment} = (50\% * \text{average of long term catch (pounds whole weight)}) + (50\% * \text{average of recent catch (pounds whole weight)})$$

Sub-alternative 5a. Long term catch = 1999 through 2008; Recent catch = 2006 through 2008. This would result in 95.21% of the total annual catch limit to the recreational sector and 4.79% of the total annual catch limit to the commercial sector.

Sub-alternative 5b. Long term catch = 2008 through 2017; Recent catch = 2015 through 2017. This would result in 94.82% of the total annual catch limit to the recreational sector and 5.18% of the total annual catch limit to the commercial sector.

Sub-alternative 5c. Long term catch = 1986 through 2017; Recent catch = 2015 through 2017. This would result in 95.07% of the total annual catch limit to the recreational sector and 4.93% of the total annual catch limit to the commercial sector.

Alternative 6. Allocate 93.75% of the total annual catch limit for dolphin to the recreational sector. Allocate 6.25% of the total annual catch limit for dolphin to the commercial sector. This is based on maintaining the current commercial annual catch limit of 1,534,485 pounds whole weight and allocating the remaining total annual catch limit to the recreational sector.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

DIRECTION TO STAFF:

-DO NOT FURTHER CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES 3 THROUGH 5C IN ACTION 3.

-MAINTAIN ALTERNATIVES 2 AND 6.

-IPT SHOULD CONSIDER ADDING ALTERNATIVES FOR:

-BASELINE YEARS OF 1994-2007

-93% RECREATIONAL, 7% COMMERCIAL

-92% RECREATIONAL, 8% COMMERCIAL

-90% RECREATIONAL, 10% COMMERCIAL

-ALL ALTERNATIVES WILL INCLUDE MONROE COUNTY.

MOTION #4: APPROVE ACTION 4 AND THE PROPOSED RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION IN AMENDMENT 10 WITH INCLUSION OF DIRECTION TO STAFF.

Action 4. Revise sector allocations and sector annual catch limits for wahoo

Alternative 1 (No Action). The recreational sector allocation for wahoo is 96.07% of the total annual catch limit. The commercial sector allocation for wahoo is 3.93% of the total annual catch limit. This is based on the following formula for each sector using landings data as reported in 2013 and does not incorporate recreational landings from Monroe County, Florida.

Sector apportionment = (50% * average of long-term catch (pounds whole weight)) + (50% * average of recent catch (pounds whole weight)).

Long-term catch = 1999 through 2008; Recent catch = 2006 through 2008

Alternative 2. Allocate 97.45% of the total annual catch limit for wahoo to the recreational sector. Allocate 2.55% of the total annual catch limit for wahoo to the commercial sector. This is based on the following formula for each sector using landings data as reported in 2019 and does not incorporate recreational landings from Monroe County, Florida.

Sector apportionment = (50% * average of long-term catch (pounds whole weight)) + (50% * average of recent catch (pounds whole weight)).

Long-term catch = 1999 through 2008; Recent catch = 2006 through 2008

Alternative 3. Modify the time series by which allocations for wahoo are specified for the recreational and commercial sectors applying the following formula and using landings data as reported in 2019 and does not incorporate recreational landings from Monroe County, Florida.

Sector apportionment = (50% * average of long-term catch (pounds whole weight)) + (50% * average of recent catch (pounds whole weight)).

Sub-alternative 3a. Long-term catch = 2008 through 2017; Recent catch = 2015 through 2017. This would result in 97.99% of the total annual catch limit to the recreational sector and 2.01% of the total annual catch limit to the commercial sector.

Sub-alternative 3b. Long-term catch = 1986 through 2017; Recent catch = 2015 through 2017. This would result in 97.81% of the total annual catch limit to the recreational sector and 2.19% of the total annual catch limit to the commercial sector.

Alternative 4. Allocate 96.81% of the total annual catch limit for wahoo to the recreational sector. Allocate 3.19% of the total annual catch limit for wahoo to the commercial sector. This is based on the total catch between 1986 and 2017 as reported in 2019 and does not incorporate recreational landings from Monroe County, Florida.

Alternative 5. Allocate 97.56% of the total annual catch limit for wahoo to the recreational sector. Allocate 2.44% of the total annual catch limit for wahoo to the commercial sector. This is based on maintaining the current commercial annual catch limit of 70,542 pounds whole weight and allocating the remaining total annual catch limit to the recreational sector.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

DIRECTION TO STAFF FOR ACTION 4:

- DO NOT FURTHER CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES 3 AND 4.
- INCLUDE ALTERNATIVES 2 AND 5.
- IPT SHOULD CONSIDER ADDING ALTERNATIVES FOR:
 - BASELINE YEARS OF 1994 TO 2007.
 - PROVIDING THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR WITH AN INCREASE IN ACL.
 - 97% RECREATIONAL, 3% COMMERCIAL

MOTION #5: REMOVE ACTIONS 5, 6, AND 7 FROM AMENDMENT 10.

Action 5. Revise the optimum yield (OY) definition for dolphin

Alternative 1 (No Action). Optimum yield is equal to the total annual catch limit.

Alternative 2. OY is equal to the sum of the commercial ACL and the recreational ACT.

Alternative 3. OY is equal to 75% MSY.

Alternative 4. OY is the long term average catch, which is not to exceed the total ACL, and will fall between the total ACL and the sum of the commercial and recreational ACTs.

Action 6. Establish a commercial annual catch target (ACT) for dolphin

Alternative 1 (No Action). There is no annual catch target for the commercial sector.

Alternative 2. The commercial ACT equals 80% of the commercial ACL [commercial ACL *0.8].

Alternative 3. The commercial ACT equals 90% of the commercial ACL [commercial ACL *0.9].

Alternative 4. The commercial ACT equals the commercial ACL.

Action 7. Modify the recreational annual catch target (ACT) for dolphin

Alternative 1 (No Action). The annual catch target for the recreational sector equals [sector annual catch limit*(1-percent standard error)] or [annual catch limit*0.5], whichever is greater.

Alternative 2. The recreational ACT equals 50% of the recreational ACL [recreational ACL *0.5].

Alternative 3. The recreational ACT equals 60% of the recreational ACL [recreational ACL *0.6].

Alternative 4. The recreational ACT equals 70% of the recreational ACL [recreational ACL *0.7].

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

DIRECTION TO STAFF FOR ACTIONS 5,6, AND 7:

- THESE ACTIONS SHOULD BE MOVED TO AN AMENDMENT THAT COMPREHENSIVELY ADDRESSES THE DEFINITION OF OY IN SAFMC MANAGED FISHERIES AS THEY RELATE TO REVISED NS1 GUIDELINES.

MOTION #6: REMOVE ALTERNATIVES 2 THROUGH 5 IN PROPOSED ACTION 8 AND ADD AN ALTERNATIVE THAT WOULD REFLECT THE CURRENT AM BUT REMOVE THE POST SEASON ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURE THAT INCLUDES A PAYBACK.

Proposed Action 8. Revise the commercial accountability measures for dolphin

Alternative 1 (No Action). The current commercial accountability measure includes an in-season closure to take place if the commercial annual catch limit is met or projected to be met. If the commercial annual catch limit is exceeded, it will be reduced by the amount of the commercial overage in the following fishing year only if the species is overfished and the total annual catch limit is exceeded.

Alternative 2. If commercial landings for dolphin reach or are projected to reach the commercial annual catch limit, close the commercial sector for the remainder of the fishing year. If commercial landings for dolphin exceed the commercial annual catch limit *and* total landings exceed the total annual catch limit, then during the following fishing year, reduce the commercial annual catch limit by the amount of the commercial overage.

Alternative 3. If commercial landings for dolphin reach or are projected to reach the commercial annual catch target, close the commercial sector for the remainder of the fishing year. If commercial landings for dolphin exceed the commercial annual catch limit *and* total landings exceed the total annual catch limit, then during the following fishing year, reduce the commercial annual catch target by the amount of the commercial annual catch limit overage.

Alternative 4. If commercial landings for dolphin reach or are projected to reach the commercial annual catch limit, close the commercial sector for the remainder of the fishing year. If commercial landings for dolphin exceed the commercial annual catch limit *and* total landings exceed the total annual catch limit, then during the following fishing year, reduce the length of the commercial fishing season to ensure commercial landings do not exceed the commercial annual catch limit the following fishing year.

Alternative 5. If commercial landings for dolphin exceed the commercial annual catch limit *and* total landings exceed the total annual catch limit, then during the following fishing year, reduce the length of the commercial fishing season to ensure commercial landings do not exceed the commercial annual catch limit the following fishing year.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

DIRECTION TO STAFF FOR ACTION 8

-ADD A SIMILAR ACTION THAT WOULD ADDRESS THE COMMERCIAL AM FOR WAHOO.

MOTION #7: SPLIT ACTION 9 INTO TWO ACTIONS, ONE FOR THE AM TRIGGER AND THE OTHER FOR THE POST-SEASON AM. ALTERNATIVE 4 AND ITS SUB-ALTERNATIVES BECOME THE ACTION FOR THE TRIGGER. ALTERNATIVE 5 BECOMES THE ACTION FOR THE POST-SEASON AM, AND TO ALTERNATIVE 5, ADD SUB-ALTERNATIVES THAT WOULD REDUCE THE RECREATIONAL BAG LIMIT AND REDUCE THE RECREATIONAL VESSEL LIMIT.

Action 9. Revise the recreational accountability measures for dolphin

Alternative 1 (No action). If recreational landings exceed the recreational annual catch limit, then during the following fishing year, recreational landings will be monitored for persistence in increased landings. If the recreational annual catch limit is exceeded, it will be reduced by the amount of the recreational overage in the following fishing year and the recreational season will be reduced by the amount necessary to ensure that recreational landings do not exceed the reduced annual catch limit only if the species is overfished and the total annual catch limit is

exceeded. However, the recreational annual catch limit and length of the recreational season will not be reduced if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best available science, that it is not necessary.

Alternative 2. ~~If recreational landings exceed the recreational annual catch limit and the available common pool annual catch limit, then during the following fishing year recreational landings will be monitored for persistence in increased landings. If the recreational annual catch limit and the available common pool annual catch limit is exceeded, it will be reduced by the amount of the recreational overage in the following fishing year and the recreational season will be reduced by the amount necessary to ensure that recreational landings do not exceed the reduced annual catch limit only if the species is overfished and the total annual catch limit is exceeded. However, the recreational annual catch limit and length of the recreational season will not be reduced if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best available science, that it is not necessary.~~

Alternative 3. ~~If recreational landings exceed the recreational annual catch limit and the available uncaught sector annual catch limit from the previous fishing year, then during the following fishing year recreational landings will be monitored for persistence in increased landings. If the recreational annual catch limit and the available uncaught sector annual catch limit from the previous fishing year is exceeded, it will be reduced by the amount of the recreational overage in the following fishing year and the recreational season will be reduced by the amount necessary to ensure that recreational landings do not exceed the reduced annual catch limit only if the species is overfished and the total annual catch limit is exceeded. However, the recreational annual catch limit and length of the recreational season will not be reduced if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best available science, that it is not necessary.~~

Alternative 4. Only implement post season accountability measures if:

Sub-alternative 4a. The recreational annual catch limits are constant and the 3-year geometric mean of landings exceed the recreational sector annual catch limit. If in any year the recreational sector annual catch limit is changed, the moving multi-year geometric mean of landings will start over.

Sub-alternative 4b. The recreational annual catch limits are constant and the summed total of the most recent past three years of recreational landings exceeds the sum of the past three years recreational sector annual catch limits.

Sub-alternative 4c. The recreational annual catch limits are constant and recreational landings exceed the recreational sector annual catch limit in two of the previous three fishing years or exceeds the total acceptable biological catch in any one year.

Sub-alternative 4d. The total (commercial and recreational combined) annual catch limit is exceeded.

~~**Sub-alternative 4e.** The stock is overfished based on the most recent Status of U.S. Fisheries Report to Congress.~~

Alternative 5. If the post-season accountability measure is triggered, reduce the length of the following recreational fishing season by the amount necessary to ~~prevent reduce the probability that~~ the annual catch limit ~~from being will be~~ exceeded in the following year.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

DIRECTION TO STAFF FOR ACTION 9:

-THE IPT SHOULD NOT DEVELOP ALTERNATIVES FOR IN-SEASON AMS.

-PRESERVE LANGUAGE ALONG THE LINES OF “IF THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR DETERMINES, USING THE BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE, THAT IT IS NOT NECESSARY” IN REGARD TO ALTERNATIVES FOR AMS.

MOTION #8: SPLIT ACTION 10 INTO TWO ACTIONS, ONE FOR THE AM TRIGGER AND THE OTHER FOR THE POST-SEASON AM. ALTERNATIVE 2 AND ITS SUB-ALTERNATIVES BECOME THE ACTION FOR THE TRIGGER. ALTERNATIVES 3 AND 4 BECOME THE ACTION FOR THE POST-SEASON AM. ADD TO THE NEW ACTION ALTERNATIVES THAT WOULD ESTABLISH A VESSEL LIMIT AND A REDUCED BAG LIMIT.

Action 10. Revise the recreational accountability measures for wahoo

Alternative 1 (No action). If recreational landings exceed the recreational annual catch limit, then during the following fishing year recreational landings will be monitored for persistence in increased landings. If the recreational annual catch limit is exceeded, it will be reduced by the amount of the recreational overage in the following fishing year only if the species is overfished and the total annual catch limit is exceeded. However, the recreational annual catch limit will not be reduced if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best available science, that it is not necessary.

Alternative 2. Only specify post-season accountability measures if:

Sub-alternative 2a. The recreational annual catch limits are constant and the 3-year geometric mean of landings exceed the recreational sector annual catch limit. If in any year the recreational sector annual catch limit is changed, the moving multi-year geometric mean of landings will start over.

Sub-alternative 2b. The recreational annual catch limits are constant and the summed total of the most recent past three years of recreational landings exceeds the sum of the past three years recreational sector annual catch limits.

Sub-alternative 2c. The recreational annual catch limits are constant and recreational landings exceed the recreational sector annual catch limit in two of the previous three fishing years or exceeds the total acceptable biological catch in any one year.

Sub-alternative 2d. The total (commercial and recreational combined) annual catch limit is exceeded.

Sub-alternative 2e. The stock is overfished based on the most recent Status of U.S. Fisheries Report to Congress.

Alternative 3. If the post-season accountability measure is triggered, reduce the recreational sector annual catch limit by the amount of the overage in the following fishing season **only if the species is overfished.**

Alternative 4. If the post-season accountability measure is triggered, reduce the length of the following recreational fishing season by the amount necessary to **prevent reduce the probability that** the annual catch limit **from being will be** exceeded in the following year.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

DIRECTION TO STAFF FOR ACTION 10:

-THE IPT SHOULD NOT DEVELOP ALTERNATIVES FOR IN-SEASON AMS.

-PRESERVE LANGUAGE ALONG THE LINES OF “IF THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR DETERMINES, USING THE BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE, THAT IT IS NOT NECESSARY” IN REGARD TO ALTERNATIVES FOR AMS.

MOTION #9: APPROVE THE IPT'S SUGGESTED EDITS TO ACTION 13 IN AMENDMENT 10.

*Action 13. **Modify Reduce** the recreational vessel limit for dolphin*

Alternative 1 (No Action). The recreational daily bag limit is 10 dolphin per person, not to exceed 60 dolphin per vessel, whichever is less, except on board a headboat where the limit is 10 dolphin per paying passenger.

Alternative 2. The recreational daily bag limit is 10 dolphin per person, not to exceed:

Sub-alternative 2a. 40 dolphin per vessel, whichever is less, except on board a headboat where the limit is 10 dolphin per paying passenger.

Sub-alternative 2b. 42 dolphin per vessel, whichever is less, except on board a headboat where the limit is 10 dolphin per paying passenger.

Sub-alternative 2c. 48 dolphin per vessel, whichever is less, except on board a headboat where the limit is 10 dolphin per paying passenger.

Sub-alternative 2d. 54 dolphin per vessel, whichever is less, except on board a headboat where the limit is 10 dolphin per paying passenger.

Alternative 3. In Florida only, the recreational daily bag limit is 10 dolphin per person, not to exceed:

Sub-alternative 3a. 40 dolphin per vessel, whichever is less, except on board a headboat where the limit is 10 dolphin per paying passenger.

Sub-alternative 3b. 42 dolphin per vessel, whichever is less, except on board a headboat where the limit is 10 dolphin per paying passenger.

Sub-alternative 3c. 48 dolphin per vessel, whichever is less, except on board a headboat where the limit is 10 dolphin per paying passenger.

Sub-alternative 3d. 54 dolphin per vessel, whichever is less, except on board a headboat where the limit is 10 dolphin per paying passenger.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #10: ADD AN ALTERNATIVE THAT WOULD REMOVE PELAGIC LONGLINE GEAR AS AN ALLOWABLE GEAR IN THE DOLPHIN WAHOO FISHERY UNLESS YOU HOLD A HMS LIMITED ENTRY PERMIT.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #11: MOVE PROPOSED ACTION 14 AND PROPOSED ACTION 15, ALONG WITH THE NEW ALTERNATIVE TO A NEW AMENDMENT THAT WILL BE DISCUSSED IN MARCH 2021.

Proposed Action 14. Establish a permit endorsement requirement for dolphin and wahoo when using pelagic longline gear.

Alternative 1 (No Action). Currently there is no permit endorsement required to use pelagic longline gear in the Dolphin Wahoo fishery. Do not establish permit endorsement requirement for vessels issued an Atlantic Dolphin/Wahoo Commercial Permit to use pelagic longline gear.

Alternative 2. In order to use pelagic longline gear onboard a vessel, require a longline endorsement to the Atlantic Dolphin/Wahoo Commercial Permit.

Proposed Action 15. Modify gear, bait, and training requirements in the commercial longline fishery for dolphin and wahoo to align with Highly Migratory Species requirements.

Sub-action 15A: Protected species handling and release training requirements for dolphin and wahoo when using pelagic longline gear.

Alternative 1A (No Action). The owner or operator of a vessel for which an Atlantic Dolphin/Wahoo Commercial Permit has been issued and that has on board a pelagic longline must post inside the wheelhouse the sea turtle handling and release guidelines. Such owner or operator must also comply with the sea turtle bycatch mitigation measures, including gear requirements and sea turtle handling requirements, as specified in 50 C.F.R. §635.21(c)(5)(i) and (ii). These requirements are a reference to the Highly Migratory Species regulations for pelagic longlines. Currently there are no protected species handling and release training requirements to use pelagic longline gear in the Dolphin Wahoo fishery. Do not establish protected species handling and release training requirements for vessels issued an Atlantic Dolphin/Wahoo Commercial Permit and/or endorsement to use pelagic longline gear.

Alternative 2A. In order to use pelagic longline gear on board a vessel, require a valid Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshop certificate on board for both the owner and operator of a vessel issued an Atlantic Dolphin/Wahoo Commercial Permit and/or endorsement.

Alternative 3A. In order to use pelagic longline gear on board a vessel, require a valid Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshop certificate be supplied when renewing an Atlantic Dolphin/Wahoo Commercial Permit and/or endorsement.

Sub-action 15B: Rigging and deployment requirements for dolphin and wahoo when using pelagic longline gear.

Alternative 1B (No Action). Currently there are no rigging or deployment requirements to use pelagic longline gear in the Dolphin Wahoo fishery. Do not establish requirements for rigging or deployment of pelagic longline gear on board vessels issued an Atlantic Dolphin/Wahoo Commercial Permit and/or endorsement.

Alternative 2B. If the total length of any gangion plus the length of any floatline is less than 100 meters, then the length of all gangions must be at least 10 percent longer than the length of the floatlines on board vessels issued an Atlantic Dolphin/Wahoo Commercial Permit and/or endorsement.

Alternative 3B. Cannot deploy a pelagic longline that exceeds 20 nautical miles in length in the Mid-Atlantic Bight as defined at 50 CFR §635.2 on board vessels issued an Atlantic Dolphin/Wahoo Commercial Permit and/or endorsement.

Sub-action 15C: Hook requirements for dolphin and wahoo when using pelagic longline gear.

Alternative 1C (No Action). Currently there are no hook requirements to use pelagic longline gear in the Dolphin Wahoo fishery. Do not establish hook requirements on board vessels with an Atlantic Dolphin/Wahoo Commercial Permit and/or endorsement when using pelagic longline gear.

Alternative 2C. Vessels with an Atlantic Dolphin/Wahoo Commercial Permit and/or endorsement must possess and/or use only corrodible (i.e., non-stainless steel) circle hooks when using pelagic longline gear.

Alternative 3C. Vessels with an Atlantic Dolphin/Wahoo Commercial Permit and/or endorsement must possess and/or use only 18/0 or larger corrodible (i.e., non-stainless steel) circle hooks with an offset not to exceed 10 degrees, and/or 16/0 or larger non-offset corrodible circle hooks when using pelagic longline gear.

Alternative 4C. Vessels with an Atlantic Dolphin/Wahoo Commercial Permit and/or endorsement must possess and/or use only 12/0 or larger non-offset circle hooks when using pelagic longline gear.

Alternative 5C. Vessels with an Atlantic Dolphin/Wahoo Commercial Permit and/or endorsement must possess and/or use only 14/0 or larger non-offset circle hooks when using pelagic longline gear.

Alternative 6C. Vessels with an Atlantic Dolphin/Wahoo Commercial Permit and/or endorsement must possess and/or use only 16/0 or larger non-offset circle hooks when using pelagic longline gear.

Sub-action 15D: Bait requirements for dolphin and wahoo when using pelagic longline gear.

Alternative 1D (No Action). Currently there are no bait requirements to use pelagic longline gear in the Dolphin Wahoo fishery. Do not establish bait requirements on board vessels with an Atlantic Dolphin/Wahoo Commercial Permit and/or endorsement when using pelagic longline gear.

Alternative 2D. Require the use of whole finfish and/or squid as bait on board vessels that are issued an Atlantic Dolphin/Wahoo Commercial Permit and/or endorsement when using pelagic longline gear.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Adding Bullet and Frigate Mackerel to the FMP as Ecosystem Component Species:

Amendment 12

The amendment would add bullet and frigate mackerel to the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan as ecosystem component species. The Committee was provided an update on the development of Amendment 12 and made the following motions:

MOTION #12: APPROVE THE IPT'S SUGGESTED PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT

The *purpose* and *need* is to add bullet mackerel and frigate mackerel to the Fishery Management Plan for the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery of the Atlantic as ecosystem component (EC) species to **safeguard** **acknowledge** their ecological role as forage fish **for wahoo**.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #13: APPROVE THE IPT'S SUGGESTED EDITS TO THE OPTIONS.

Option (No Action). There are no ecosystem component species in the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan **of the Atlantic**.

Preferred Option 2. Add bullet mackerel and frigate mackerel to the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan **of the Atlantic** and designate the two mackerel species as ecosystem component species.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #14: APPROVE DOLPHIN WAHOO AMENDMENT 12 FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS TO BE HELD AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING WITH COMMENTS BROUGHT BACK AT THE SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING WITH THE INTENT OF A VOTE ON FORMAL APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENT.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Update on the Dolphin Wahoo Participatory Workshops

The Committee was provided an update on a series of participatory workshops that took place with dolphin wahoo fishermen at locations in Beaufort, NC, Wanchese, NC, and Virginia Beach, VA in March 2020. These workshops sought to gather information on major factors affecting fisheries for dolphin and wahoo, risks to these fisheries, how changes in the ecosystem have affected fishing businesses and communities, and what targeted research is needed.

Mid-Atlantic representation on the Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel

In September 2019, the Council voted to add one seat with Mid-Atlantic representation to the Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel (DW AP). South Atlantic and Mid-Atlantic Council staff have been working to fill this seat and, in the process, have discussed asking whether the South Atlantic Council would like to add more than a single seat with Mid-Atlantic representation to the DW AP to diversify sector and/or geographic representation.

The Committee discussed this topic and made the following motion:

MOTION #15: ADD TWO MEMBERS TO THE DOLPHIN WAHOO AP THAT ARE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MID-ATLANTIC AND THAT WE WOULD ENCOURAGE A COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL MEMBER.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Other Business

There were no items discussed under Other Business.

Timing and Tasks:

MOTION #16: APPROVE THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASKS:

- CONTINUE WORK ON AMENDMENT 10 FOR REVIEW AT THE SEPTEMBER 2020 MEETING.
- CONTINUE WORK ON AMENDMENT 12 FOR REVIEW AT THE SEPTEMBER 2020 MEETING WITH THE INTENT OF HOLDING PUBLIC HEARINGS AND POTENTIALLY VOTING ON FORMAL APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENT.
- WORK WITH MID-ATLANTIC COUNCIL STAFF TO IDENTIFY TWO NEW DOLPHIN WAHOO AP MEMBERS FROM THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION.
- WORK ON DEVELOPING A NEW DOLPHIN WAHOO AMENDMENT THAT FOCUSES ON PROPOSED ACTIONS 14 AND 15 IN AMENDMENT 10.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL