

**SUMMARY REPORT  
DOLPHIN WAHOO COMMITTEE  
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
Webinar  
September 16, 2020**

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

**Adding Bullet and Frigate Mackerel to the Dolphin Wahoo FMP as Ecosystem Component Species: Amendment 12**

The amendment would add bullet mackerel and frigate mackerel to the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan and designate them as ecosystem component species. The Committee reviewed a summary of the effects for the amendment and the Council's rationale. The Committee made the following motion:

**MOTION #1:** APPROVE AMENDMENT 12 TO THE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE DOLPHIN WAHOO FISHERY OF THE ATLANTIC FOR FORMAL SECRETARIAL REVIEW AND DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE. GIVE STAFF EDITORIAL LICENSE TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY EDITORIAL CHANGES TO THE DOCUMENT/CODIFIED TEXT AND GIVE THE COUNCIL CHAIR AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS AND RE-DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

**Revise Dolphin and Wahoo Management Measures: Amendment 10**

Amendment 10 includes 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. The amendment also contains actions that implement various other management changes in the fishery including revising accountability measures, accommodating possession of dolphin and wahoo on vessels with certain unauthorized gears onboard, removing the operator card requirement, reducing the recreational vessel limit for dolphin, 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 #2:** SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE IN ACTION 1.

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

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

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

**MOTION#3:** SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS PREFERRED UNDER ACTION 2.

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

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

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

**MOTION #4:** MOVE ALTERNATIVES 2 AND 3 IN ACTION 3 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED SECTION.

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

**Alternative 2.** Allocate 93.95% 94.01% of the revised total annual catch limit for dolphin to the recreational sector. Allocate 6.05% 5.99% of the revised 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 not incorporate recreational landings from Monroe County, Florida.

**Alternative 3.** Allocate 94.91% of the revised total annual catch limit for dolphin to the recreational sector. Allocate 5.09% of the revised total annual catch limit for dolphin to the commercial sector. This is based on the total catch between 1994 and 2007.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

**MOTION #5:** APPROVE IPT SUGGESTED EDITS TO ALTERNATIVES 4, 5, AND 6 IN ACTION 3.

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

**Alternative 4.** Allocate 93.75% of the revised total annual catch limit for dolphin to the recreational sector. Allocate 6.25% of the revised total annual catch limit for dolphin to the commercial sector. This is based on approximately maintaining the current commercial annual catch limit of 1,534,485 pounds whole weight and allocating the remaining revised total annual catch limit to the recreational sector.

**Alternative 5.** Allocate 93.00% of the revised total annual catch limit for dolphin to the recreational sector. Allocate 7.00% of the revised total annual catch limit for dolphin to the commercial sector.

**Alternative 6.** Allocate 92.00% of the revised total annual catch limit for dolphin to the recreational sector. Allocate 8.00% of the revised total annual catch limit for dolphin to the commercial sector.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

**DIRECTION TO STAFF FOR ACTION 3:**

- Revise and simplify Alternative 1 (No Action)

**MOTION #6:** APPROVE IPT SUGGESTED EDITS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ALTERNATIVE 1 IN ACTION 4.

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

**Alternative 2.** Allocate 97.45% of the revised total annual catch limit for wahoo to the recreational sector. Allocate 2.55% of the revised 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 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.** Allocate 96.35% of the revised total annual catch limit for wahoo to the recreational sector. Allocate 3.65% of the revised total annual catch limit for wahoo to the commercial sector. This is based on the total catch between 1994 and 2007.

**Alternative 4.** Allocate 97.56% of the revised total annual catch limit for wahoo to the recreational sector. Allocate 2.44% of the revised total annual catch limit for wahoo to the commercial sector. This is based on approximately 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.

**Alternative 5.** Allocate 97.00% of the revised total annual catch limit for wahoo to the recreational sector. Allocate 3.00% of the revised total annual catch limit for wahoo to the commercial sector.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

**DIRECTION TO STAFF FOR ACTION 4:**

- Revise and simplify Alternative 1 (No Action).

**MOTION #7:** AMEND ALTERNATIVE 4 TO REFLECT A SMALL INCREASE IN THE COMMERCIAL ACL. REMOVE ALTERNATIVE 2 IN ACTION 4 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT SECTION.

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

~~**Alternative 2.** Allocate 97.45% of the revised total annual catch limit for wahoo to the recreational sector. Allocate 2.55% of the revised 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 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 4.** Allocate 97.56% 97.55% of the revised total annual catch limit for wahoo to the recreational sector. Allocate 2.44% 2.45% of the revised total annual catch limit for wahoo to the commercial sector. This is based on approximately 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

**MOTION #8:** REMOVE ACTION 5 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED SECTION.

~~*Action 5. 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.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

OTHER DIRECTION TO STAFF:

- The subsequent action (Action 6) that focuses on the commercial accountability measures for wahoo is not approved by the Committee and will not be further considered in Amendment 10.

**MOTION #9:** ACCEPT THE IPT SUGGESTED EDITS TO ACTION 7.

*Action 7. Revise the trigger for the post season recreational accountability measures for dolphin*

**Alternative 2.** Implement post season accountability measures in the following fishing year if 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.

**Alternative 3.** Implement post season accountability measures in the following fishing year if 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.

**Alternative 4.** Implement post season accountability measures in the following fishing year if recreational landings exceed the recreational sector annual catch limit in two of the previous three fishing years or exceeds the total (commercial and recreational combined) annual catch limit in any one year.

**Alternative 5.** Implement post season accountability measures in the following fishing year if the total (commercial and recreational combined) annual catch limit is exceeded.

**Alternative 6.** Implement post season accountability measures in the following fishing year if the recreational annual catch limit is exceeded.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

**MOTION #10:** ACCEPT THE IPT SUGGESTED EDITS TO ACTION 8 WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ALTERNATIVE 2.

*Action 8. Revise the post-season recreational accountability measures for dolphin*

**Alternative 2.** Reduce the recreational sector annual catch limit by the amount of the overage in the following year. Also reduce the length of the following recreational fishing season by the amount necessary to prevent the revised annual catch limit from being exceeded in the following fishing year. However, the recreational annual catch limit and recreational fishing season will not be reduced if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best available science, that it is not necessary.

**Alternative 3.** Reduce the length of the following recreational fishing season by the amount necessary to prevent the annual catch limit from being exceeded in the following year. However, the 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.** Reduce the bag limit in the following recreational fishing season by the amount necessary to prevent the annual catch limit from being exceeded in the following year. However, the bag limit will not be reduced if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best available science, that it is not necessary.

**Alternative 5.** Reduce the vessel limit in the following recreational fishing season by the amount necessary to prevent the annual catch limit from being exceeded in the following year. However, the vessel limit will not be reduced if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best available science, that it is not necessary.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

**DIRECTION TO STAFF FOR ACTION 8:**

- Add an alternative that would monitor for persistence in increased landings. Under this alternative, if landings are projected to be met, reduce the bag limit or vessel limit first and if needed reduce the length of the recreational fishing season by the amount necessary to prevent the annual catch limit from being exceeded.

**MOTION #11: ACCEPT THE IPT EDITS TO ACTION 9.**

*Action 9. Revise the **trigger for the post season** recreational accountability measures for wahoo*

**Alternative 2.** Implement post season accountability measures in the following fishing year if 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.

**Alternative 3.** Implement post season accountability measures in the following fishing year if 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.

**Alternative 4.** Implement post season accountability measures in the following fishing year if recreational landings exceed the recreational sector annual catch limit in two of the previous three fishing years or exceeds the total (commercial and recreational combined) annual catch limit in any one year.

**Alternative 5.** Implement post season accountability measures in the following fishing year if the total (commercial and recreational combined) annual catch limit is exceeded.

**Alternative 6.** Implement post season accountability measures in the following fishing year if the recreational annual catch limit is exceeded.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

**MOTION #12: ACCEPT THE IPT SUGGESTED EDITS TO ACTION 10 WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ALTERNATIVE 2.**

*Action 10. Revise the **post-season** recreational accountability measures for wahoo*

**Alternative 2.** Reduce the recreational sector annual catch limit by the amount of the overage in the following year. Also reduce the length of the following recreational fishing season by the amount necessary to prevent the revised annual catch limit from being exceeded in the following fishing year. However, the recreational annual catch limit and recreational fishing season will not

be reduced if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best available science, that it is not necessary.

**Alternative 3.** Reduce the length of the following recreational fishing season by the amount necessary to prevent the annual catch limit from being exceeded in the following year. However, the 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.** Reduce the bag limit in the following recreational fishing season by the amount necessary to prevent the annual catch limit from being exceeded in the following year. However, the bag limit will not be reduced if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best available science, that it is not necessary.

**Alternative 5.** Implement a vessel limit in the following recreational fishing season that would prevent the annual catch limit from being exceeded in the following year. However, the vessel limit will not be implemented if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best available science, that it is not necessary.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

*DIRECTION TO STAFF FOR ACTION 10:*

- Add an alternative that would reduce the bag limit or implement a vessel limit while monitoring for persistence in increased landings. Under this alternative, if landings met or were projected to meet the sector ACL with the reduced bag limit or vessel limit in place, an in-season closure would occur.

OTHER DIRECTION TO STAFF:

- In Action 12, revise the action to also accommodate spiny lobster traps.

**Dolphinfish Research Program Presentation**

Dr. Wessley Merten, Director of the Dolphinfish Research Program, presented on recent research into dolphin movements, migration patterns, and fisheries in the Western Atlantic. This presentation was meant to inform the Committee on recent research that has been conducted on the topics and address a previous request from the Committee for such information. This agenda item was a summarized version of the more detailed presentation provided at the Dolphinfish Research Program Seminar that took place on August 26<sup>th</sup> via webinar.

**Topics for the October 2020 Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel meeting and Other Business**

Due to time constraints, the Committee was not able to address the draft list of topics for the upcoming Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel (AP) meeting or Other Business. The Committee reviewed and approved the list of topics for the AP meeting during the Full Council session.

**Timing and Tasks:**

**MOTION #13: APPROVE THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASKS:**

- CONTINUE WORK ON AMENDMENT 10 FOR REVIEW AT THE DECEMBER 2020 MEETING.
- WRITE A FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO THE MID-ATLANTIC COUNCIL UPON SUBMITTAL OF AMENDMENT 12.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL