

**SUMMARY REPORT
DOLPHIN WAHOO COMMITTEE
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Kitty Hawk, NC
December 4, 2018**

The Committee approved minutes from the June 2017 meeting and the agenda.

Status of Commercial & Recreational Catches versus ACLs

NMFS Southeast Regional Office (SERO) staff delivered briefings to the Committee on the status of commercial and recreational landings of dolphin and wahoo relative to ACLs as of 11/27/18. Neither the commercial nor the recreational sectors were close to reaching their respective sector ACLs for either species. The Committee requested that future presentations of recreational landings also show revised recreational data from MRIP reflective of the new sampling methodology.

Potential for the addition of frigate and bullet mackerel to the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan

In March 2018, the Mid-Atlantic Council requested that the South Atlantic Council consider managing frigate mackerel and bullet mackerel as ecosystem components in the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan, acknowledging their role as prey species for both dolphin and wahoo. The Dolphin Wahoo Committee received a presentation on the presence of the two mackerel species in the diets of dolphin and wahoo and discussed the request from the Mid-Atlantic Council. The Committee decided to further investigate the topic and have a more in-depth discussion on the potential for adding bullet and frigate mackerel as ecosystem components at a future meeting. Guidance to staff is captured in the timing and tasks motion.

Proceeding with future Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan amendments: Actions from Amendment 10 and potential items for a future amendment

Development of Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10 was suspended until revised MRIP data are available, per guidance from the March 2017 Council meeting. With revised recreational data now available, Council staff provided an overview of Amendment 10 and potential future items that the Committee had identified for amendments to the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan, with the intention of receiving guidance on how to move forward with Amendment 10. The Committee discussed the amendment and decided to continue development of Amendment 10 with the addition of other items for the public's consideration including:

- **Action 1.** Revise the optimum yield (OY) definition for dolphin.
- **Action 2.** Modify the recreational annual catch target (ACT) for dolphin.
- **Action 3.** Establish a commercial annual catch target (ACT) for dolphin.
- **Action 4.** Allow adaptive management of sector annual catch limits (ACLs) for dolphin.
- **Action 5.** Revise the accountability measures for dolphin.
- ~~**Action 6.** Revise the acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rule for dolphin and wahoo.~~
- **Action 7.** Allow properly permitted vessels with gear onboard that are not authorized for use in the dolphin wahoo fishery to possess dolphin or wahoo.

- **Action 8.** Remove the requirement of vessel operators or crew to hold an Operator Card in the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery.
- **New Item:** Allow bag limit sales of dolphin for dually permitted for-hire and commercial permit holders.
- **New Item:** Modify gear, bait, and training requirements in the commercial longline fishery for dolphin and wahoo to align with HMS requirements (excluding monitoring).
- **New Item:** Reduce the recreational vessel limit to 40 fish for dolphin.
- **New Item:** Revise the ACLs of dolphin and wahoo to accommodate new MRIP data.
- **New Item:** Revise sector allocations for dolphin and wahoo.

The Committee provided the following guidance and made the following motions:

GUIDANCE:

- Remove Action 6 from Amendment 10 since this action is being pursued via Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 11, which is part of the generic ABC Control Rule Amendment.

Action 6. Revise the acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rule for dolphin and wahoo.

- For the potential reduction to the recreational vessel limit for dolphin, consider an additional range outside of 40 fish, focusing on vessel limits divisible by 6.

MOTION #1: ADD FOR-HIRE BAG LIMIT SALES OF DOLPHIN BY DUALLY PERMITTED VESSELS TO DOLPHIN WAHOO AMENDMENT 10.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #2: CONSIDER HMS GEAR AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS IN THE PELAGIC LONGLINE FISHERY FOR DOLPHIN AND WAHOO.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #3: ADD AN ACTION TO REDUCE THE RECREATIONAL VESSEL LIMIT FOR DOLPHIN TO 40 FISH.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #4: ADD AN ACTION TO REVISE THE ACL TO ACCOMIDATE NEW MRIP DATA.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #5: ADD AN ACTION TO REVISE SECTOR ALLOCATIONS.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #6:

APPROVE THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASKS:

- SEND A RESPONSE LETTER TO THE MID-ATLANTIC COUNCIL STATING THAT THE SOUTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL IS INTERESTED IN GATHERING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON BULLET AND FRIGATE MACKEREL AND FURTHER INVESTIGATING THE POTENTIAL TO ADD THE TWO SPECIES TO THE DOLPHIN WAHOO FMP AS ECOSYSTEM COMPONENTS.
 - PREPARE A WHITE PAPER FOR THE MARCH 2019 MEETING ON:
 - THE CONCEPT OF ADDING PREY SPECIES TO A FMP AS AN ECOSYSTEM COMPONENT AS WELL AS REGULATORY PERMAMETERS AND MECHANISMS FOR DOING SO.
 - HOW OTHER COUNCILS HAVE ADDRESSED UNMANGED PREY SPECIES THROUGH DESIGNATING THEM AS ECOSYSTEM COMPONENTS IN FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS AND POTENTIAL MANAGEMENT OPTIONS.
 - ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON FISHERIES FOR BULLET AND FRIGATE MACKEREL.
 - IDENTIFYING OTHER MAJOR PREY SPECIES FOR DOLPHIN AND WAHOO (FLYING FISH AND SQUID).
 - PREPARE AMENDMENT 10 FOR REVIEW AT THE MARCH 2019 MEETING.
- APPROVED BY COUNCIL