

**SUMMARY REPORT
DOLPHIN WAHOO COMMITTEE
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Jekyll Island, GA
March 8, 2022**

The Committee approved minutes from the September 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 was submitted to NMFS on October 19, 2021 and is in the rule making process.

Modifications to the minimum size limit, recreational retention limits, and reducing for-hire captain and crew bag limits for dolphin (DW Regulatory Amendment 2)

Measures in this amendment would extend the applicable geographic range of the minimum size limit, modify recreational retention limits, and remove or reduce captain and crew bag limits for dolphin.

The Committee was provided an update on recent actions enacted by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission that modify recreational dolphin retention limits for the east coast of Florida. The Committee reviewed an options paper on the amendment, provided the following guidance on the initial range of options to consider in the amendment, and made the following motion:

DIRECTION TO STAFF:

1. Modify the applicable 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

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.
 - Continue consideration of different bag limits by mode (private, charter, and headboat vessels).

3. Modify the recreational vessel limit for dolphin

- Consider a range of options for a vessel limit of 30 to 60 dolphin per vessel.
 - Include increments divisible by 6.
 - Add an option that would remove vessel limits.

- Continue consideration of 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.

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

- Continue consideration of removing or reducing captain and crew bag limits for dolphin.
 - Include a range of options for a bag limit of 2 to 10 dolphin per person if the bag limit is reduced.
- Consider a regional option.
 - Off of Florida only.

5. Other options

- Add options that would include a vessel limit or bag limit, whichever is greater instead of whichever is more restrictive.

MOTION #1: APPROVE REGULATORY AMENDMENT 2 (MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT AND RECREATIONAL RETENTION LIMITS FOR DOLPHIN) FOR SCOPING.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Topics for the Spring 2022 Dolphin Wahoo AP meeting

The Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel (AP) is scheduled to meet from April 20-21, 2022 in Charleston, SC. The following is an approved list of topics for the AP’s agenda:

- Update on Amendment 10 (Revise dolphin and wahoo management measures)
- Regulatory Amendment 2 (Modifications to the minimum size limit, recreational retention limits, and reducing for-hire captain and crew bag limits for dolphin)
- Fishery Performance Report for Dolphin
- Other Updates: Citizen Science and Climate Change Scenario Workgroup
- Other topics as appropriate

Obtain additional input on the following items if there is time:

- Previously, Council members have discussed the potential need to examine:
 - Regional management needs
 - Changing the commercial trip (currently 4,000 lbs whole weight once 75% of the sector ACL is landed)
 - Making the commercial dolphin wahoo permit a limited access permit
 - Ensure the AP has before them the goals and objectives of the DW FMP

Other Business

There were no items discussed under other business.

Timing and Tasks

MOTION #2: ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASKS:

- 1) Conduct scoping meetings for Regulatory Amendment 2.

2) Continue developing Regulatory Amendment 2 for review at the June 2022 meeting.
APPROVED BY COUNCIL