

**SUMMARY REPORT
DOLPHIN WAHOO COMMITTEE MEETING
Jekyll Island, GA
March 7, 2017**

Following approval of the agenda and minutes of the December 2015 meeting, the Committee received an update on preliminary 2016 and 2017 commercial landings for dolphin and wahoo in comparison to the sector ACL from SERO staff. The Committee also received an update on Dolphin Wahoo Regulatory Amendment 1, which is expected to become effect March 21, 2017.

The Committee then reviewed the decision document for Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10. The amendment includes actions that cover redefining optimum yield for the dolphin fishery, modifying the recreational annual catch target (ACT) for dolphin and establishing a commercial ACT for dolphin, allowing adaptive management of sector annual catch limits for dolphin, revising accountability measures for dolphin, revising the acceptable biological catch control rule for dolphin and wahoo, allowing vessels with gears onboard that are not authorized for use in the dolphin wahoo fishery to possess dolphin or wahoo, and removing the Operator Card requirement from the dolphin wahoo fishery. The Committee discussed the actions in the amendment and provided direction to staff. Additionally, the Committee discussed the potential implications of revised recreational landings data from the Marine Recreational Information Program that are expected to be available in late in 2017 or early in 2018.

In other business, the Committee discussed how to better differentiate landings of dolphin taken by pelagic longline on commercial vessels that possess a permit to land HMS species using pelagic longline gear and commercial vessels that do not possess such permits. There was further discussion on the different regulatory requirements of vessels that do and do not have the necessary HMS permits to fish pelagic longline gear. The Committee directed staff to work with the Southeast Fisheries Science Center to examine a mechanism to better determine the amount of dolphin landed using pelagic longline gear by vessels that do and do not possess the HMS pelagic longline related permits.

The Committee made the following motions:

MOTIONS

MOTION #1: ACCEPT IPTS EDITS TO ACTION 1 WITH CHANGE TO ALTERNATIVE 4.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Action 1. Revise the optimum yield (OY) definition for dolphin.

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 **total ACT sum of the commercial and recreational ACTs.**

MOTION #2: APPROVE WORDING IN ACTION 2.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Action 2. Modify the recreational annual catch target (ACT) for dolphin.

MOTION #3: APPROVE WORDING IN ACTION 3.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Action 3. Establish a commercial annual catch target (ACT) for dolphin.

MOTION #4: APPROVE REVISED WORDING IN ACTION 4 AS DISCUSSED.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Action 4: Allow adaptive management of sector annual catch limits (ACLs) for dolphin.

Alternative 4. If the recreational ACL is not met in a given fishing year, the unused ACL may be carried forward to the next fishing year only. The carried-forward balance shall not exceed a given percentage (Sub-alternatives 4a-4c) of the recreational sector ACL.

Sub-alternative 4a: The carried forward balance shall not exceed **5 1%** of the total recreational sector ACL.

Sub-alternative 4b: The carried forward balance shall not exceed **10 2.5%** of the total recreational sector ACL.

Sub-alternative 4c: The carried forward balance shall not exceed **20 5%** of the total recreational sector ACL.

MOTION #5: ACCEPT WORDING FOR ACTION 5 WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ALTERNATIVE 2.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Action 5. Revise the accountability measures for dolphin.

~~**Alternative 2.** Neither the commercial or recreational sector will face an in-season closure unless the total ACL is met or projected to be met. Both sectors will close when the total ACL is met or projected to be met. However, if the landings of one or both sectors are estimated by the SRD to have exceeded the sector ACL then:~~

~~**Sub-alternative 2a.** The AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, at or near the beginning of the following fishing year, to reduce the length of the fishing season for the commercial sector that year by the amount estimated to prevent that sector's ACL from being exceeded.~~

Sub-alternative 2b. The AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, at or near the beginning of the following fishing year, to reduce the length of the fishing season for the recreational sector that year by the amount estimated to prevent that sector's ACL from being exceeded.

Sub-alternative 2c. Implement a trip limit for the commercial sector the following fishing year, if applicable, by the amount estimated to prevent that sector's ACL from being exceeded.

Sub-alternative 2d. Implement a bag limit reduction for the recreational sector the following fishing year, if applicable, by the amount estimated to prevent that sector's ACL from being exceeded.

MOTION #6: APPROVE WORDING IN ACTION 6 AS REVISED.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Alternative 3. Revise the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rule for dolphin and wahoo by adding a carry-over provision. If the Overfishing Limit (OFL) is unknown, then the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for dolphin and wahoo can be increased by carrying over unused ABC from the previous year. The revised ABC will remain in place for no more than one year and may not exceed a certain percentage of the original ABC (Sub-alternatives 3a through 3c).

Sub-alternative 3a: Revised ABC may not exceed ~~101~~ X% of the original ABC.

Sub-alternative 3b: Revised ABC may not exceed ~~102.5~~ X% of the original ABC.

Sub-alternative 3c: Revised ABC may not exceed ~~105~~ X% of the original ABC.

MOTION #7: APPROVE WORDING IN ACTION 8.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

DIRECTION TO STAFF

- In Action 4, direct the IPT to examine ways of merging Alternative 3 and Alternative 5, where Alternative 3 would take place initially and Alternative 5 would occur afterwards if needed. Also, modify Alternative 4 to include a carried forward balance of unused recreational ACL that is not to exceed 1%, 2.5%, and 5% of the recreational sector ACL.
- In Action 5 Alternative 4 and Alternative 5, further specify what is being referenced by "available uncaught sector ACL".
- In Action 6, direct the IPT to incorporate the proposed roll-over of unused commercial ACL and the revised roll-over of unused recreational ACL in respect to the sub-alternatives of Alternative 3.
- In Action 7, incorporate wording from Alternative A into the Action and add a geographic component to the alternatives. Also work with FWC staff to incorporate language that would

allow other pot and trap gear to be onboard a vessel possessing dolphin or wahoo. Use the wording of “incidental limit” instead of “recreational limit”, similar to wording in CMP 26.

TIMING AND TASKS

MOTION: APPROVE THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASK:

- REQUEST THAT THE SSC EXAMINE THE MAXIMUM PSE ABOVE WHICH RECREATIONAL CATCH ESTIMATES WOULD BE UNRELIABLE FOR MANAGEMENT PURPOSES, PARTICULARLY FOR COMPARING CATCH TO ACLS AND TRIGGERING AMS.
- DRAFT MEMO TO THE SOUTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER TO EXAMINE A MECHANISM TO BETTER DETERMINE PELAGIC LONGLINE LANDINGS OF DOLPHIN THAT OCCUR ON VESSELS THAT POSSESS PERMITS TO LAND HMS SPECIES WITH PELAGIC LONGLINE GEAR AND ON VESSELS WITHOUT SUCH PERMITS BUT HOLD A DOLPHIN/WAHOO PERMIT.
- ~~CONTINUE TO DEVELOP DOLPHIN WAHOO AMENDMENT 10 AS MODIFIED FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW AT THE JUNE 2017 COUNCIL MEETING.~~

APPROVED BY COUNCIL