

**SUMMARY REPORT  
FROM THE DOLPHIN WAHOO COMMITTEE**

**Hilton Head Island, SC**

**September 14, 2015**

The Dolphin Wahoo Committee met September 14, 2015 and received updates on the status of commercial and recreational landings for dolphin and wahoo species. The Committee then discussed a report on recent landings trends and ACL tracking for dolphin. The commercial dolphin fishery met its ACL and was closed by NMFS on June 30, 2015. The report showed an increase of longline trips with high landings in 2014 and 2015.

The Committee discussed ways to consider keeping the commercial fishery open longer. The Committee discussed previous commercial trip limit actions considered by the Council and the increase in commercial ACL sector reallocation increase from Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 8 not yet in effect. The Committee did not take immediate action to affect the 2016 fishing year; however, the Committee discussed the possibility of beginning new an amendment to the Dolphin Wahoo FMP. Additionally, the committee discussed reviewing the FMP's Purpose and Need to consider any needed updates. Possible actions for a new amendment could be:

- Trip limit options:
  - Commercial trip limits that last all season,
  - No trip limit until a percent of the commercial ACL is reached, then implement a trip limit for the rest of the season or until the entire commercial ACL is reached.
- Adopting a trip range which the council can set a default limit but be able to have NMFS change via announcement in the federal register rather than via a framework amendment.
- Commercial gear sector allocations for (longline and hook and line)
- Make the commercial dolphin wahoo permit limited entry
- Establish a common pool allocation, reserve category allocation or rollover option of unused commercial quota
- Consider a circle hook requirement for the dolphin fishery
- Consider temporary allocation shifts between commercial and recreational sectors (such as in GMFMC Amendment 26)

The Committee discussed the need for a new Control Date if the permit was modified to be limited entry, the last Control Date was in 1999.

Should a new amendment be developed, the Committee recommended that they would like to make sure the amendment includes summaries showing temporal (monthly)/spatial (throughout the range) landings history for dolphin and an analysis of dolphin permit holders that longline and have HMS permits and those that do not.

**The Committee had no motions to recommend to the Council.**

**MOTION TO DIRECT STAFF TO PREPARE A REG AMENDMENT THAT CONSIDERS A STEP DOWN AT 65%, 70%, AND 75% OF THE COMMERCIAL ACL TO A TRIP LIMIT OF 1,000 LBS WW, 2,000 LBS WW, 3,000 LBS WW, AND 4,000 LBS WW.**

**MOTION APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

**MOTION TO AMEND THE MOTION TO ADD AN ALTERNATIVE OF 4,000 LBS WW TRIP LIMIT.**

**MOTION APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

**MOTION TO SET A CONTROL DATE FOR THE DOLPHIN WAHOO COMMERCIAL PERMIT AT THE DATE OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE.**

**A SUBSTITUTE MOTION WAS MADE TO SET A CONTROL DATE FOR THE DOLPHIN WAHOO COMMERCIAL PERMIT AS OF JUNE 30, 2015.**

**MOTION APPROVED BY COUNCIL TO MAKE THIS MOTION AS THE MAIN MOTION**

**MAIN MOTION APPROVED BY COUNCIL**