



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Melvin Bell, Chair | Stephen J. Poland, Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA **Full Council Session I** **Via Webinar**

Monday, June 14, 2021 - 1:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M. (Times subject to change)

Call to order and introductions

Adoption of agenda

Approval of minutes

1. Reports (state agencies, Council liaisons, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, US Coast Guard) (*Attachments 1a and 1b*)
2. South Atlantic Research Priorities (*Attachments 2a and 2b*)
 - a. Status of research to meet 2019 priorities – Clay Porch, SEFSC
 - b. Approval of 2021-2022 South Atlantic Research Priorities – Chip Collier
3. Southeast Longline Surveys Presentation (*Attachment 3*) – TBD, SEFSC
4. Commercial Electronic Logbook Update (*Attachment 4*) – Julie Brown
5. Dolphin Participatory Workshops (*Attachment 5*) – Mandy Karnauskas and Matt McPherson, SEFSC
6. Recreational Workgroup Updates
 - a. Joint Workgroup with the GMFMC on Section 102 – Steve Poland
 - b. SAFMC Workgroup on private Recreational Reporting (*Attachment 6*) – Spud Woodward
7. HMS Advisory Panel and ICCAT Update (*Attachments 7a and 7b*) – Anna Beckwith
8. Protected Resources Report (*Attachment 8*) – Jennifer Lee

Attachments:

Attachment 1a. Gulf liaison report

Attachment 1b. NOAA OLE Report (*in Late Materials*)

Attachment 2a: SEFSC Research Activities

- Attachment 2b:** Draft South Atlantic Research Priorities (2021-2022)
- Attachment 3:** Presentation on pilot deepwater longline surveys in the South Atlantic
- Attachment 4.** SEFSC Commercial e-Logbook Reporting Update Presentation
- Attachment 5:** Dolphin Participatory Workshops Presentation
- Attachment 6.** Private Recreational Workgroup Summary Report May 2021 (*in Late Materials*)
- Attachment 7a.** ICCAT Working Group Reports
- Attachment 7b.** 2020 ICCAT Correspondence Decision-Making Process
- Attachment 8.** Protected Resources Brief

Staff Lead: John Carmichael (john.carmichael@safmc.net)

OVERVIEW

Full Council Session I

1. Reports (*Attachments 1a and 1b*)

State representatives, Council liaisons, NOAA OLE, and the USCG will provide reports to the Council.

2. South Atlantic Research Priorities (*Attachments 2a and 2b*)

Staff from the SEFSC will present an overview of research conducted in the region based on the 2019 SAFMC Research Plan (*Attachment 2a*). The MSA requires that Councils provide research and monitoring needs to the NMFS on a regular basis. SAFMC plans are reviewed and submitted biannually. The draft plan provided for consideration at this meeting (*Attachment 2b*) was prepared by staff based on the prior plans and considering current needs and reviewed by the SSC in April and May 2021.

Required Committee Action: Review and approve the research and monitoring plan.

3. Southeast Longline Surveys Presentation (*Attachment 3*)

The SEFSC will give a presentation on the 2020 Cooperative South Atlantic Deepwater Longline Survey. The 2020 survey was conducted by two commercial longline vessels and successfully conducted 72 sets, capturing 166 tilefish, 38 blueline tilefish, 29 snowy grouper, 36 mutton snapper and 11 red snapper demonstration proof of concept to conduct this type of survey. The presentation will give further details on the 2020 survey as well as the plans for continuation and expansion of the survey for 2021.

4. Commercial E-Logbook Update (*Attachment 4*)

Julie Brown, SEFSC, will provide an update on the development of a commercial electronic logbook for the South Atlantic region.

5. Dolphin Participatory Workshops (*Attachment 5*)

In March 2020, the NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC), along with South Atlantic Council staff, conducted a series of participatory workshops with Dolphin Wahoo fishermen at locations in Beaufort, NC, Manteo, NC, and Virginia Beach, VA. A similar set of workshops was planned for locations in South Florida for the summer months of 2020 but were delayed and eventually cancelled due to complications related to COVID-19. In the spring of 2021, SEFSC and SAFMC staff made the decision to move the in-person workshops to a virtual format, first seeking input via phone from individuals involved in the Dolphin Wahoo fishery from the South Florida region, and then bringing a larger group together over a webinar as a replacement for the in-person workshops. This information was used to develop a social-ecological system conceptual model of the human dimensions and environmental factors that influence the fisheries in the regions.

To supplement information from the participatory workshops, SEFSC staff conducted an analysis of pictures posted on social media to collect information on for-hire vessels involved in the Dolphin Wahoo fishery including the seasonality of catch, variations in the general size of Dolphin and Wahoo landed, and other species commonly caught on for-hire trips.

Additionally, SEFSC staff analyzed environmental data, landings trends, imports data, and pelagic longline logbook data to provide additional insights into the hypotheses developed and questions raised during the workshop phase. This research, when combined with findings from the data collected during the participatory workshops and other sources, has been used to identify emerging themes in the fishery and provide in-depth biological, social, and economic information not previously available on the Dolphin Wahoo fishery.

An overview of the research findings will be presented (*Attachment 5*) by SEFSC researchers Dr. Mandy Karnauskas and Dr. Matt McPherson. In addition to giving a brief summary of the workshop findings, the presenters will provide information on roles that Dolphin and Wahoo serve in fisheries across the region, a potential explanation for the drastic change in Dolphin abundance in South Florida in recent years, economic factors in the commercial and for-hire fishery, and information related to the scope of expanding recreational effort. This agenda item will be a summarized version of the more detailed presentation provided at the SAFMC Seminar Series Webinar that took place on May 11, 2021. A recording of this presentation, as well as other details on the research conducted, can be found on the Council's website by clicking [HERE](#).

In addition to welcoming comments on the research, the presenters will request feedback from the Council on the following items:

- a) Are the interactive conceptual models useful for conveying the information gained?
 - Click [HERE](#) to see the conceptual model for North Carolina and Virginia.
 - Click [HERE](#) to see the conceptual model for South Florida and the Florida Keys.
- b) Which hypotheses are priority for further investigation?
- c) Are there any other major questions/ hypotheses for further investigation?

6. Recreational Workgroup Updates

- **Joint Workgroup with the GMFMC on Section 102:** The Council will receive an update from Steve Poland regarding the June 3, 2021, webinar meeting of the Joint Council Workgroup on Section 102 of the Modern Fish Act. This workgroup has been exploring alternative management strategies for recreational fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic regions.
- **Private Recreational Reporting Workgroup (*Attachment 6*):** The Council created the workgroup in November 2020. The workgroup's overall goal is to develop recommendations for coordinated state-federal data collection and permitting programs to improve estimates of catch and effort for private recreational snapper grouper fishing activities. The workgroup convened on May 26, 2021 and received presentations on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's reporting program for Tilefish, the HMS recreational permit and reporting program, and MRIP's Large Pelagic Survey. Spud Woodward will provide a summary to the Council.

7. HMS Advisory Panel and ICCAT Update (*Attachments 7a and 7b*)

Anna Beckwith will provide an update on recent meetings of the Highly Migratory species (HMS) Advisory Panel (AP) and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). ICCAT related background information is

included in *Attachments 7a* and *7b*. Items reviewed at the May 2021 HMS AP meeting can be obtained by clicking [HERE](#).

8. Protected Resources Report (*Attachment 8*)

Jennifer Lee, SERO, will provide an update on topics related to the Protected Resources Division.