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**SUMMARY REPORT  
FROM THE JOINT DOLPHIN WAHOO AND SNAPPER GROUPER COMMITTEE**

**Jekyll Island, Georgia**

**March 8, 2016**

The Joint Dolphin Wahoo and Snapper Grouper Committee met March 8, 2016 and received updates on the status of commercial and recreational landings for dolphin and wahoo species. It was noted that in 2015, while the commercial sector was closed on June 30, 2015 because they had met their sector ACL, the recreational sector landings had increased by nearly 2 million pounds over 2014 landings. The Committee discussed the status of four recent dolphin wahoo amendments.

The Committee then received a report from Deputy Executive Director for Science, John Carmichael on the history of how the current OY, ABC, and ACL were set for the dolphin fishery. This was followed by a discussion by the Committee about whether OY should be the same for both the commercial and recreational sectors. It was pointed out that the Council can adjust the ACL or ACT to achieve conservation goals.

The Committee discussed potential actions that could be in Joint Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/Snapper Grouper Amendment 44. Topics discussed included:

- Commercial gear separation in the dolphin fishery (hook/line and longline)
- Temporary allocation shifts between sectors similar to current Action 8 in CMP Amendment 26. However, while CMP 26 Action 8 refers to temporary allocation shifts from the recreational sector to the commercial sector, the Committee wanted any action in this amendment to allow temporary allocation shifts from either sector to the other.
- Common pool allocations where either sector can draw from the pool as needed.
- Institute a rollover reserve. If a sector does not harvest all of its allocation in one year, it could be made available to that sector in the next year. The Council may want to consider the percent of a sector's ACL that could be rolled over.
- Have a single ACL for the fishery – no sector ACLs. For species that are not overfished or experiencing overfishing such as dolphin, once a percent of the total ACL is reached in one fishing season, sector ACLs could be instituted in the following season.
- Temporary allocation shifts such as in the bluefish fishery. The current temporary allocation shift in the bluefish allocation is as follows: *If 17 percent of the TAL is less than 10.5 million lb (4.8 million kg) and the recreational fishery is not projected to land its harvest limit for the upcoming year, the commercial fishery may be allocated up to 10.5 million lb (4.8 million kg) as its quota, provided that the combination of the projected recreational landings and the commercial quota does not exceed the TAL.*
- Include all other options discussed in the white paper in the March 2016 briefing book for the Joint Dolphin Wahoo/Snapper Grouper Committee not discussed above.

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The Committee discussed waiting until June 2016 to decide which items to consider including in the amendment and to send the amendment out for scoping in August 2016.

The Committee also discussed dolphin bag limit sales by properly licensed, for-hire permitted vessels and whether it should be included in a dolphin wahoo FMP amendment.

**The Committee voted on the following motions as recommendations to the Council:**

**MOTION: CONSIDER A SINGLE ACL FOR DOLPHIN AND YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER AS AN ACTION FOR DW10/SG44.**

**MOTION APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

**MOTION APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

**MOTION: CONSIDER FOR SCOPING GEAR TYPE ALLOCATION FOR THE COMMERCIAL FISHERY FOR DOLPHIN.**

**MOTION APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

**MOTION APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

**Timing and Task Motion:**

**Motion: In June the Joint Dolphin Wahoo/Snapper Grouper Committee would like to see all of the items they approved for scoping at the March 2016 meeting, plus a listing of the other additional dolphin management actions in the December 2015 white paper.**

**MOTION APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

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