

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

Charleston, SC

September 18, 2014

The Joint Dolphin Wahoo and Snapper Grouper Committee met September 18, 2014 and received updates on the status of commercial and recreational landings for dolphin and wahoo species. The Committee received a presentation from Phil Steele on the Operator Permit which is currently required for the dolphin wahoo and rock shrimp fisheries. The Committee was reminded of the purpose of the permit and was given information regarding, number of permits issued, and history of violations regarding operator permits. The Committee discussed their recommendation for the future of the permit. The Committee then discussed Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7/Snapper Grouper Amendment 33 (Fillets from The Bahamas) and Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 8/Snapper Grouper Amendment 34 (Generic AM and Dolphin Allocation Amendment).

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

MOTION 1: MOVE THE DISCUSSION TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE TO EXPLORE MODIFICATIONS TO THE OPERATOR CARD REQUIREMENTS.

**MOTION APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
MOTION APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

**Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7/Snapper Grouper Amendment 33
(Fillets from The Bahamas):**

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

MOTION 2: ACCEPT THE IPT RECOMMENDED WORDING CHANGE

**APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
MOTION APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

***Purpose:** The purpose of these management measures is to allow recreational fishermen to bring dolphin and wahoo fillets from The Bahamas into the U.S. EEZ and update regulations that currently allow recreational fishermen to bring snapper grouper fillets from The Bahamas into the U.S. EEZ.*

***Need:** The management measures are needed to increase the social and indirect economic benefits to recreational fishermen by allowing the possession of fish in the U.S. EEZ that were legally harvested in Bahamian waters.*

ACTION 1

MOTION 3: REMOVE THE LANGUAGE THAT “A rod and reel must be removed from the rod holder and stowed securely on or below deck.”

**APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
MOTION APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

**MOTION: MOVE TO TABLE DISCUSSION OF DW7/SG33 UNTIL DECEMBER 2014.
MOTION APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

**MOTION 4: ACCEPT THE IPT’S WORDING CHANGES EXCEPT FOR THE
PREVIOUSLY REMOVED SENTENCE.**

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 1: Exempt dolphin and wahoo harvested lawfully in The Bahamas by recreational fishermen from U.S. regulations that require them to be landed with head and fins intact in the U.S. EEZ.

Alternative 1 (No Action): Dolphin and wahoo in or from the Atlantic EEZ must be maintained with head and fins intact. Such fish may be eviscerated, gilled, and scaled, but must otherwise be maintained in a whole condition.

Preferred Alternative 2: Allow dolphin and wahoo lawfully harvested in The Bahamas and brought into the U.S. EEZ from The Bahamas as fillets. The vessel must have stamped and dated passports to prove that the vessel passengers were in The Bahamas, as well as valid current Bahamian cruising and fishing permits onboard the vessel. The vessel must be in continuous transit in the U.S. EEZ when dolphin and/or wahoo fillets are onboard. A vessel is in transit through the South Atlantic EEZ when it is on a direct and continuous course through the South Atlantic EEZ and no one aboard the vessel fishes in the EEZ. All fishing gear must be appropriately stowed while in transit. Two fillets of dolphin or wahoo, regardless of the size of the fillet will count as 1 fish towards the possession limit.

Note: This action applies only to the recreational sector as there is no commercial harvest of dolphin and wahoo by U.S. vessels allowed in Bahamian waters. Fishing gear appropriately stowed means--

Terminal gear (i.e., hook, leader, sinker, flasher, or bait) used with an automatic reel, bandit gear, buoy gear, handline, or rod and reel must be disconnected and stowed separately from such fishing gear. Sinkers must be disconnected from the down rigger and stowed separately.

ACTION 2

**MOTION 5: ACCEPT IPT’S RECOMMENDED WORDING CHANGES FOR ACTION
2.**

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 2. *Exempt dolphin and wahoo harvested lawfully from The Bahamas from the bag and possession limits in the U.S. EEZ. Vessels may possess onboard 2 wahoo per person and 10 dolphin per person with a maximum of 60 dolphin.*

Alternative 1 (No Action): *The bag limit for the possession of dolphin and wahoo lawfully harvested from The Bahamas, is 10 dolphin (60 dolphin per boat)/2 wahoo per person per day, in the U.S. EEZ. These limits currently also apply to fish lawfully harvested from The Bahamas.*

Alternative 2: *Exempt dolphin lawfully harvested in The Bahamas from regulations for bag limits in the U.S. EEZ.*

Preferred Alternative 3: *Exempt wahoo lawfully harvested in The Bahamas from regulations for bag limits in the U.S. EEZ.*

ACTION 3

MOTION 6: ACCEPT IPT'S RECOMMENDED WORDING CHANGES FOR ACTION 3.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION 7: CHANGE "OR SCALES" TO "AND SCALES" IN ACTION3.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 3: *Require fillets of dolphin, wahoo, and snapper grouper species brought into the U.S. EEZ lawfully harvested from The Bahamas to have the skin intact.*

Alternative 1 (No Action): *Snapper grouper fillets possessed in the U.S. EEZ from The Bahamas are currently not required to have skin and scales intact.*

Preferred Alternative 2: *Snapper grouper fillets brought into the U.S. EEZ from The Bahamas must have the skin intact.*

Preferred Alternative 3. *Dolphin and wahoo fillets brought into the U.S. EEZ from The Bahamas must have the skin intact.*

ACTION 4

MOTION 8: ACCEPT IPT'S RECOMMENDED WORDING CHANGES FOR ACTION 4.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 4: *In addition to possessing valid Bahamian cruising and fishing permits, require stamped and dated passports to prove that vessel passengers were in The Bahamas if the vessel is in possession of snapper grouper fillets in the U.S. EEZ.*

Alternative 1 (No Action): Vessels bringing snapper grouper fillets into the U.S. EEZ from The Bahamas are required to have valid current Bahamian cruising and fishing permits onboard the vessel.

Preferred Alternative 2: Vessels bringing snapper grouper fillets into the U.S. EEZ from The Bahamas are required to have stamped and dated passports to prove that the vessel passengers were in The Bahamas, as well as valid current Bahamian cruising and fishing permits onboard the vessel. All fishing gear must be appropriately stowed while in transit.

ACTION 5

MOTION 9: MODIFY Action 5, Preferred Alternative 2:

Two fillets of snapper grouper species, regardless of the size of the fillet, will count as one fish towards the U.S. possession limit. Fishermen must abide by both U.S. and Bahamian bag and possession limits, in other words, the more restrictive of the two, when in the U.S. EEZ.

MOTION APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

****NOTE**** - The Council needs to make a motion regarding the recommended wording highlighted in yellow in the description of the action and for Alternative 1 (No Action).

Action 5: Specify the number of snapper grouper fillets lawfully harvested in The Bahamas that may be brought into the U.S. EEZ.

Alternative 1 (No Action): 60 lbs, or 20 fish of snapper grouper species lawfully harvested in The Bahamas may be brought into the U.S. EEZ. Fishermen must abide by U.S. bag and possession limits for snapper grouper species, as well as Bahamian bag and possession limits for fillets brought into the U.S. EEZ.

Preferred Alternative 2: Two fillets of snapper grouper species, regardless of the size of the fillet, will count as one fish towards the U.S. possession limit. Fishermen must abide by both U.S. and Bahamian bag and possession limits, in other words, the more restrictive of the two, when in the U.S. EEZ.

ADDITIONAL MOTION

MOTION 10: APPROVE DOLPHIN WAHOO AMENDMENT 7 AND SNAPPER GROUPER AMENDMENT 33 FOR SECRETARIAL REVIEW, AND DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE. GIVE STAFF EDITORIAL LICENSE TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY EDITORIAL CHANGES TO THE DOCUMENT/CODIFIED TEXT AND GIVE THE COUNCIL CHAIR AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS AND RE-DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT.

MOTION APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Generic Accountability Measure and Dolphin Allocation Amendment:

TASK AND TIMING MOTION

MOTION 11: DIRECT STAFF TO PREPARE THE COMP AM AND DOLPHIN ALLOCATION AMENDMENT FOR FINAL APPROVAL AT THE DECEMBER 2014 COUNCIL MEETING.

**MOTION APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
MOTION APPROVED BY COUNCIL**