

**SUMMARY REPORT
FROM THE JOINT DOLPHIN WAHOO/ SNAPPER GROUPER/
MACKEREL COBIA COMMITTEE**

Atlantic Beach, NC

December 6, 2016

Following approval of the agenda and minutes of the September 2016 meeting with edits, the Committee received an update on commercial and recreational landings for dolphin and wahoo in comparison to the sector ACLs from SERO staff. The Committee also received an update on Dolphin Wahoo Regulatory Amendment 1, which is currently under review at SERO.

Presentation on the Status of 2015 Commercial Yellowtail Snapper Catch

Dr. Bonnie Ponwith presented the status of finalized 2015 commercial yellowtail snapper landings and the discrepancy that occurred between the landings reported by the Commercial Landings Monitoring (CLM) System and the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) due to a coding error for commercial landings from a portion of the lower Florida Keys. The Committee further discussed the coding area error and potential implications. The coding error has been occurring since 2008 so there may be implications on allocations for yellowtail between the SA and Gulf Councils (and perhaps other species) since the formula to determine the jurisdictional allocation of the acceptable biological catch between the South Atlantic and Gulf Councils used landings through 2008. The Committee made the following motion:

MOTION #1: REQUEST STAFF TO WORK WITH FWC TO CORRECT LANDINGS FOR SPECIES LANDED IN SOUTH FLORIDA THAT MAY AFFECT THE COMPREHENSIVE ACL AMENDMENT JURISDICTIONAL ALLOCATIONS.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/Snapper Grouper Amendment 44 (Dolphin and Yellowtail Snapper)

The Committee reviewed actions that would potentially redefine optimum yield (OY) in the dolphin fishery and modify allowable gears while in the possession of dolphin and wahoo. Additionally, the Committee discussed actions that would modify sector Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) and accountability measures (AMs) for dolphin and yellowtail snapper that are intended to add flexibility in how ACLs are managed as well as prevent harvest closures. The Committee made the following motions:

ACTION 1. REVISE THE DEFINITION OF OPTIMUM YIELD (OY) FOR DOLPHIN.

MOTION #2: MOVE TO MODIFY ALTERNATIVE 4 IN ACTION 1 AS SHOWN BELOW AND CREATE ACTIONS TO DEFINE ACTS FOR THE RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL SECTORS INDIVIDUALLY.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

“**DRAFT Alternative 4.** Optimum yield (OY) is the long-term average catch, which is not designed to exceed the total ACL, and will fall between the total ACL (15,344,846 lbs ww) and ACT (ACT equals $[\text{sector ACL} * (1 - \text{PSE})]$ or $[\text{ACL} * 0.5]$, whichever is greater.”

ACTION 2. REVISE AUTHORIZED GEAR TYPES FOR THE HARVEST OF DOLPHIN OR WAHOO.

MOTION #3: DIRECT STAFF TO DEVELOP AN ALTERNATIVE IN ACTION 2 THAT WOULD ALLOW MULTI-GEAR TRIPS FOR LEGALLY PERMITTED VESSELS IN THE DOLPHIN WAHOO FISHERY AND RETITLE ACTION TO REFLECT THIS ALTERNATIVE.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

“**Action 2.** Allow mutli-gear trips for legally permitted vessels in the dolphin and wahoo fishery.”

ACTION 3. REVISE SECTOR ALLOCATIONS AND ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES FOR DOLPHIN.

MOTION #4: MOVE ALTERNATIVE 2 IN ACTION 3 TO CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED SECTION.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #5: REWORD ALTERNATIVE 4 OF ACTION 3 TO STATE IF THE COMMERCIAL 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 X PERCENT OF THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR ACL. SUB ALTERNATIVES RANGING FROM 5%, 10%, 20%.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

“Alternative 4: If the commercial 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 commercial sector ACL.

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

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

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

MOTION #6: MOVE ALTERNATIVE 5 IN ACTION 3 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED.

MOTION FAILED DUE TO LACK OF SECOND

ACTION 4. REVISE SECTOR ALLOCATIONS AND ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES FOR SOUTH ATLANTIC YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER.

MOTION #7: MOVE TO RESTRUCTURE ALTERNATIVE 5 IN ACTION 4 TO BE SIMILAR TO THE LANGUAGE IN ALTERNATIVE 4 OF ACTION 3.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

“Reword Alternative 5 of Action 4 to state if the commercial 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 x percent of the commercial sector ACL. Sub alternatives ranging from 5%, 10%, 20%.”

“Alternative 5: If the commercial 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 5a-5c) of the commercial sector ACL.

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

Sub-alternative 5b: The carried forward balance shall not exceed 10% of the total commercial sector ACL.

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

MOTION #8: MOVE ALTERNATIVE 2 IN ACTION 4 TO CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED SECTION.

MOTION FAILED (8 OPPOSED)

MOTION #9: MOVE ALTERNATIVE 3 IN ACTION 4 TO CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED.

MOTION FAILED (7 OPPOSED)

OTHER MOTIONS

MOTION #10: ADD AN ACTION TO COMBINE GULF AND SOUTH ATLANTIC ACL FOR YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: SEPARATE YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER INTO ITS OWN AMENDMENT AND REMOVE CARRYOVER ALTERNATIVE AND APPROVE FOR PUBLIC HEARING IN JANUARY 2017.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #11: ADD AN ACTION TO REMOVE REQUIREMENT TO HAVE THE OPERATOR CARD FOR THE CHARTER HEADBOAT FLEET IN THE DOLPHIN WAHOO FMP.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #12: ACCEPT IPT SUGGESTED EDITS FOR ACTIONS 1-4.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 11/Snapper Grouper Amendment 45/Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 31 (Charter/Headboat Permit Limited Entry)

Council staff reviewed public comments received on limited entry for charter/headboat permits and the control date of June 15, 2016. This was followed by Committee discussion on potential options for developing limited entry for the three for-hire permits under the purview of the Council: the Snapper Grouper Charter/Headboat Permit, the Dolphin-Wahoo Charter/Headboat Permit, and the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Charter/Headboat Permit.

MOTION #13: STOP MOVING FORWARD WITH SCOPING FOR LIMITED ENTRY IN THE DOLPHIN WAHOO FOR-HIRE PERMIT.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #14: REMOVE FROM CONSIDERATION LIMITED ENTRY FOR THE COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS CHARTER-HEADBOAT PERMIT AT THIS TIME.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

***MOTION #15: CONTINUE MOVING FORWARD WITH DEVELOPMENT OF LIMITED ENTRY IN THE SNAPPER GROUPEr CHARTER-HEADBOAT PERMIT.
MOTION FAILED (7 OPPOSED)***

MOTION: DEVELOP SCOPING DOCUMENT WITH OPTIONS TO MOVE FORWARD WITH LIMITED ENTRY FOR THE FOR-HIRE SECTOR IN SNAPPER GROUPEr.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: MOVE FORWARD WITH A WORKSHOP TO EXPLORE LIMITED ENTRY OPTIONS FOR THE FOR-HIRE SECTOR IN SNAPPER GROUPEr INSTEAD OF SCOPING.

SECOND SUBSTITUTE MOTION: DIRECT STAFF TO DEVELOP A WHITE PAPER TO EXPLORE LIMITED ENTRY OPTIONS FOR THE FOR-HIRE SECTOR IN SNAPPER GROUPEr TO BE DISCUSSED.

MOTION PASSES 9 IN FAVOR-3 OPPOSED

SECOND SUBSTITUTE MOTION BECOMES MAIN MOTION

MOTION CARRIES WITH 3-OPPOSED AND 1 ABSTENTION

Direction to Staff

- Make corrections to the September Committee meeting minutes.
- Work with FWC to examine commercial landings for species that may have experienced coding issues over the years that were used to establish jurisdictional allocations for these species.
- Revise purpose and need statement of DW10 and SG44 to better reflect the scope of the actions and that the carry over ACL provisions are not allocation.
- In Action 1, consider “long-term average” as a 10-year dynamic timeframe.
- In Action 2, remove Alternatives 2 and 3 and allow IPT to modify action appropriately.
- In title of Action 3, remove “revise sector allocations” and re-title to reflect quota sharing aspect of alternatives.
- In Alternative 5 of Action 3 and Alternative 6 of Action 4, remove “at the beginning of the fishing year”.
- For action combining the Gulf and South Atlantic ACLs for yellowtail snapper, develop alternatives for AMs and other management actions as appropriate.
- Draft white paper on options to develop limited entry in the snapper grouper charter-headboat permit.

Timing and Tasks

MOTION #16: APPROVE THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASKS:

- POSTPONE SENDING OUT TO PUBLIC HEARINGS IN JANUARY/FEBRUARY AND CONTINUE TO DEVELOP DOLPHIN WAHOO 10/~~SNAPPER-GROUPER~~ 44 AMENDMENT, AS MODIFIED. BRING BACK REVISED DOCUMENT FOR REVIEW BY THE COUNCIL AT THE MARCH 2017 MEETING.
- PREPARE YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER AMENDMENT AS MODIFIED FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS IN JANUARY 2017.
- DEVELOP WHITE PAPER FOR LIMITED ENTRY IN THE FOR HIRE SNAPPER GROUPER FISHERY FOR REVIEW BY THE COUNCIL IN MARCH.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL