

Public Reporting

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council



Public Comment Form

Meeting

Nov. 2023 Dolphin Wahoo AP Meeting

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold meetings of its Dolphin Wahoo AP on November 6th-7th.

Submit Date	Submitted By	Location	Affiliation	Comment
11/8/2023	First Name: Alana Last Name: Harrison Email: alanaharrison22@gmail.com	City: Hatteras State: North Carolina	Commercial, Wholesale/Dealer /Retail	<p>The commercial fleet in NC is not targeting dolphin/wahoo at all. It is insulting for the AP - without any commercial representatives - to say the commercial fleet is to blame. We are not filling our meager 8% of the quota as is, much less contributing to or causing the overfishing problem of dolphin in any way. The pelagic longline fleet has not targeted dolphin for the past couple years because those sets do not apply to their individual bluefin quota. The PLL boats are given quote based on the number of sets they complete, the dolphin sets do not count so the fleet is not fishing for dolphin. They have switched their effort to swordfish which does count towards individual quota.</p> <p>I would personally like to see the dolphin fishery recovered as soon as possible for the charter fleet of Dare County. This is the number 1 charter fishery for the OBX and a lot of tourist look forward to coming here for that. But I believe they would understand the problem if it was explained to them. The fishery off North Carolina truly does seem different from the fishery in Florida so it is unfortunate we bear the burden of their poor fishery but that is the boat we are in. I would like to see a recreational size limit put in region wide as well as a reduced bag limit. We need the dolphin fishery rebuilt ASAP and it can be done, it would be amazing to see so why not try?</p>
11/8/2023	First Name: jeff Last Name: oden Email: slshcrkwrwks@aol.com	City: Hatteras State: North Carolina	Commercial	<p>As a recent participant in the Dolphin Wahoo webinar on 11/7/23 that was disallowed the opportunity to respond since they bypassed public comment which was on the agenda.....here's my two cents.</p> <p>As a PLL fisherman of 32 years, a former HMS a.p. member for 10 years, and a webinar participant that heard more than a few false accusations thrown at our industry and the so called "council" boats, i am here to finally set the record straight. First, the commercial sector as of Nov/08/2023 has caught 10% of their ACL. Thats both PLL and so called "Council" boats. As and industry we have a paltry 7% of this quota overall which was a take down from 10% a few years back. So to say it's a little upsetting to hear charter vessel participants out of my inlet complain about industry participation impacting their livelihoods is to say the least a bit maddening. It was stated at the most recent A.P. that we impact their livelihoods when there is and abundance of mahi in the area. I guess the question is....is 93 % of the fishery not enough. The commercial industry has only approached our ACL once. This past summer two council boats out of our inlet spent two three day trips for a party 300lbs. In my case i gave it up about 6 years ago.....and it was only marginally better then. And the bottom line is most everybody in the industry has (or will) soon. So one really needs to ask those that want to blame our industry to have a look in the damned mirror.</p> <p>A real valid question is, how much of a 10 per person rec trip limit with no size limit gets either thrown in the trash or fed to the cat because of freezer burn? To call that necessary to promote their business seems pretty counterproductive in light of the continuing decline. But then again, when you can blame the 7% WHY do anything?</p> <p>For the record, the PLL fleet and the American consumer, are largely being take-out of the mahi equation. The PLL fleet now finds itself in a situation where even though we have history in the fishery we find ourselves facing a landscape where we DO NOT GET CREDIT for making a mahi set which is important to us since we only get BLUEFIN IBQ quota for making pelagic sets....something a mahi set is not considered. Furthermore, when i mahi fished, i made two and a half sets a day. Starting next August we in this industry will be paying \$280 a set to a company that monitors our cameras. You reckon that isn't going to have another major impact?????</p> <p>So at the most recent a.p. the rec. participants focused on the council boats as the pending problem that needed council attention, or the only commercial activity that will likely ever again have a chance of catching a small portion of the commercial ACL. The bottom line is, WHAT BUSINESS is it of theirs how or what a council boat does. One thing for sure they will have that the rec community won't is a circle hook. Enough said.....</p> <p>The bottom line is, we personally in industry have had it being the designated fall guy. It's time to put the blame where it counts.....and it CERTAINLY isn't the commercial industry! America's working waterfronts and the American consumers they represent certainly deserve better!</p>