



## **SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

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Jessica McCawley, Chair | Mel Bell, Vice Chair  
Gregg T. Waugh, Executive Director

### **AGENDA**

#### **Dolphin Wahoo Committee**

Westin Jekyll Island  
110 Ocean Way  
Jekyll Island, GA 31527

#### **Monday, March 4, 2019 – 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

Approval of Agenda – Anna Beckwith

Approval of December 2018 Dolphin Wahoo Committee Minutes – Anna Beckwith

1. Status of commercial landings vs. the ACL (*Attachment 1*) –
  - a. Presentation – NMFS SERO
  - b. **Committee Action:** Discuss and take action as necessary – Anna Beckwith
  
2. Amendment 10 (Revise Dolphin and Wahoo Management Measures) (*Attachments 2a and 2b*)
  - a. Overview – John Hadley
  - b. **Committee Action:** Review and consider approval for scoping – Anna Beckwith
  
3. Bullet mackerel, frigate mackerel, and other potential ecosystem component species for the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan (*Attachments 3a-3c*)
  - a. Overview – John Hadley
  - b. **Committee Action:** Discuss and take action as necessary – Anna Beckwith

Other Business – Anna Beckwith

Adjourn – Anna Beckwith

**Committee Members**

Anna Beckwith, Chair	Doug Haymans, Vice-Chair
Chester Brewer	Kyle Christiansen
Chris Conklin	Roy Crabtree
Tim Griner	Jessica McCawley
Steve Poland	David Whittaker
Art Sapp	LCDR Jeremy Montes
Mid-Atlantic Liaison, Tony DiLernia/Dewey Hemilright	
New England Liaison, Rick Bellavance	

**Attachments:**

**Attachment 1:** NMFS SERO Commercial ACL Report for Dolphin and Wahoo

**Attachment 2a:** Decision document for Amendment 10

**Attachment 2b:** Comparison of dolphin and wahoo landings using original and revised recreational data

**Attachment 3a:** White paper on potential ecosystem component species for the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan

**Attachment 3b:** Letter from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council requesting consideration of managing frigate and bullet mackerel as an ecosystem component in the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan and response letter from the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

**Attachment 3c:** Response letter from the National Marine Fisheries Service to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council regarding frigate and bullet mackerel

**Staff:** John Hadley

# OVERVIEW

## Dolphin Wahoo Committee

The Committee will approve the agenda for the March 2019 Committee meeting and minutes from the December 2018 meeting.

1. **Status of commercial landings vs. the ACL (*Attachment 1*) –**

**Description:** National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Regional Office (NMFS SERO) staff will update the Committee on the status of commercial and recreational landings of dolphin and wahoo relative to their respective ACLs.

**Required Committee Action:** None.

2. **Amendment 10 (Revise Dolphin and Wahoo Management Measures) (*Attachments 2a and 2b*)**

**Description:** Amendment 10 previously included actions to revise the definition of optimum yield for dolphin, allow adaptive management of sector annual catch limits (ACLs), allow possession of dolphin and wahoo when non-authorized gears in the dolphin wahoo fishery are onboard a vessel, and remove the operator card requirement for vessel operators or crew members. Development of the amendment was suspended pending the availability of revised recreational data from the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP), per guidance from the March 2017 Council meeting. With revised recreational data available, the Council directed staff at the December 2018 meeting to start work again on the amendment with the inclusion of additional items that would allow bag limit sales of dolphin for dually permitted for-hire and commercial permit holders, modify gear, bait, and training requirements in the commercial longline fishery for dolphin and wahoo to align with Highly Migratory Species requirements, reduce the recreational vessel limit for dolphin, revise ACLs to accommodate new recreational data, and revise sector allocations.

Council staff will provide an overview of the actions that the Committee has identified for the amendment. Additionally, when discussing new Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) levels (Action 1 in Amendment 10), the Committee will be asked to provide guidance to the SSC on whether to consider the inclusion of recreational landings from Monroe County for dolphin and wahoo when the SSC provides their ABC recommendations for the Council. In the past, it has been standard procedure to exclude recreational landings for unassessed species from Monroe County due to difficulties in splitting the landings between the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico, however the revised MRIP dataset and methodology may now make this a more feasible process.

**Status of Amendment:** At the December 2018 meeting, the Committee directed staff to begin work again on the amendment.

**Required Committee Action:** Discuss and provide guidance to staff on how to proceed with the development of Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10, including whether to send the amendment out for scoping. Additionally, guidance will be requested on whether to ask that the SSC consider including recreational landings of dolphin and wahoo from Monroe County when providing updated ABC recommendations for the two species.

3. **Bullet mackerel, frigate mackerel, and other potential ecosystem component species for the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan (*Attachments 3a – 3c*)**

**Description:** At the December 2018 meeting, the Committee received a presentation on the presence of bullet and frigate mackerel in the diets of dolphin and wahoo and discussed the request from the Mid-Atlantic Council to manage the two species as ecosystem component (EC) species in the Dolphin Wahoo FMP. The Committee decided to further investigate the topic and have a more in-depth discussion on the prospect of adding bullet mackerel, frigate mackerel, and potentially other prey species as ecosystem components at the March 2019 meeting. Council staff will present a white paper on mechanisms and regulatory parameters for EC species, ways that other Councils have addressed EC species in FMPs, as well as background information on fisheries for bullet mackerel, frigate mackerel, and other major prey species for dolphin and wahoo.

**Status of Amendment:** This management topic is not currently in an amendment.

**Required Committee Action:** Discuss and provide guidance to staff on how to proceed with developing EC species for the Dolphin Wahoo FMP.

**Other Business**