



## 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

Town and Country Inn  
 2008 Savannah Highway  
 Charleston, SC 29407

### Wednesday, September 18, 2019 – 8:30 am – 3:45 pm

Approval of Agenda – Anna Beckwith

Approval of June 2019 Dolphin Wahoo Committee Minutes – Anna Beckwith

1. Status of commercial landings versus ACLs – Rick DeVictor, NMFS SERO  
*(Attachment 1)* –
  - a. Presentation – NMFS SERO
  - b. **Committee Action:** Discuss and take action as necessary – Anna Beckwith
2. Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel (AP) Report *(Attachment 2)* (Note: This will be included in the Late Documents folder before the September 2019 Council meeting)
  - a. Overview – Ray Rosher
  - b. **Committee Action:** Discuss and take action as necessary – Anna Beckwith
3. Review of the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan goals and objectives *(Attachment 3)*
  - a. Overview – John Hadley
  - b. **Committee Action:** Review and provide guidance to staff – Anna Beckwith
4. Amendment 10 (Revise Dolphin and Wahoo Management Measures) *(Attachment 4)*
  - a. Overview – John Hadley
  - b. **Committee Action:** Review and consider approval for scoping – Anna Beckwith
5. Amendment 12 (Bullet and Frigate Mackerel as Ecosystem Component Species) *(Attachment 5)*
  - a. Overview – John Hadley
  - b. **Committee Action:** Review and provide guidance to staff – Anna Beckwith

Other Business – Anna Beckwith

Adjourn – Anna Beckwith

**Committee Members**

Anna Beckwith, Chair

Chester Brewer

Chris Conklin

Tim Griner

Steve Poland

Art Sapp

Mid-Atlantic Liaison, Tony DiLernia/Dewey Hemilright

New England Liaison, Rick Bellavance

Doug Haymans, Vice-Chair

Kyle Christiansen

Roy Crabtree

Jessica McCawley

David Whittaker

LCDR Jeremy Montes

**Attachments:**

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

**Attachment 2:** Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel (AP) Report (Note: This will be included in the Late Documents folder before the September 2019 Council meeting)

**Attachment 3:** Discussion document for revising the goals and objectives of the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan

**Attachment 4:** Amendment 10 (Revise Dolphin and Wahoo Management Measures) decision document

**Attachment 5:** Amendment 12 (Bullet and Frigate Mackerel as Ecosystem Component Species) options paper

**Staff:** John Hadley

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Dolphin Wahoo Committee**

The Committee will approve the agenda for the September 2019 Committee meeting and minutes from the June 2019 meeting.

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

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

**Required Committee Action:** Discuss and take action as necessary.

2. **Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel (AP) Report (*Attachment 2*)** (Note: This will be included in the Late Documents folder before the September 2019 Council meeting)

**Description:** The Dolphin Wahoo AP met via webinar on August 22, 2019. The AP discussed and provided recommendations on the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan (FMP) goals and objectives as well as Amendment 12 (Bullet and Frigate Mackerel as Ecosystem Component Species). Ray Rosher, AP Chair, will deliver a summary of the AP's comments and recommendations.

**Required Committee Action:** Discuss and take action as necessary.

3. **Review of the goals and objectives of the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan (*Attachment 3*)**

**Description:** The Fisheries Allocation Review Policy (NMFS Policy Directive 01-119) issued in July 2016 encourages the use of adaptive management in respect to allocation revisions, which includes “*periodic re-evaluation and updating of the management goals and objectives to ensure they are relevant to current conditions and needs.*” As part of the Council's process for creating an Allocation Review Trigger Policy, the goals and objectives of FMPs that include sector allocations will be reviewed and updated as appropriate.

The goals and objectives of the Dolphin Wahoo FMP were implemented in the original plan that went into place in 2004 and have not been updated since that time. The Dolphin Wahoo Committee initiated review of the FMP goals and objectives at the June 2019 meeting. Council staff will provide an overview of revised FMP goals and objectives which incorporate the Committee's previous comments and guidance.

**Status of Amendment:** Changes to the Dolphin Wahoo FMP goals and objectives will be implemented as part of the next plan amendment, which will likely be Amendment 10 or Amendment 12.

**Required Committee Action:** Discuss and provide guidance to staff on how to proceed with revisions to the Dolphin Wahoo FMP goals and objectives.

4. **Amendment 10 (Revise Dolphin and Wahoo Management Measures) (*Attachment 4*)**

**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. In March 2019, the Committee reviewed the actions in the amendment and added a potential item to explore the addition of buoy gear as an authorized commercial gear type in the dolphin wahoo fishery. At the June 2019 meeting, the Committee voted to remove an action that would allow bag limit sales of dolphin for dually permitted for-hire and commercial dolphin wahoo permit holders, added an action that would allow the for-hire fleet North of the Virginia/North Carolina border to fillet dolphin at sea, moved actions that would revise recreational accountability measures from the Recreational Accountability Measure Modifications Amendment to Amendment 10, and provided guidance on the remaining actions in Amendment 10.

**Status of Amendment:** The revised amendment has not been approved for scoping.

**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.

5. **Amendment 12 (Bullet and Frigate Mackerel as Ecosystem Component Species)**  
(Attachment 5)

**Description:** At the June 2019 meeting, the Dolphin Wahoo Committee reviewed scoping comments and directed staff to start work on Amendment 12 that would explore various options for adding bullet and frigate mackerel to the Dolphin Wahoo FMP as ecosystem component species.

**Status of Amendment:** The Committee will discuss options to include in the amendment for further development.

**Required Committee Action:** Discuss and provide guidance to staff on how to proceed with Amendment 12.

**Other Business**