



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

Hotel Ballast
301 N. Water St.
Wilmington, NC 28401

Tuesday, December 3, 2019 – 1:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Wednesday, December 4, 2019 – 8:00 am – 12:00 Noon

Approval of Agenda – Anna Beckwith

Approval of September 2019 Dolphin Wahoo Committee Minutes – Anna Beckwith

1. Status of commercial and recreational landings versus ACLs –Rick DeVictor, NMFS SERO (*Attachments 1a and 1b*) –
 - a. Presentation – NMFS SERO
 - b. **Committee Action:** Discuss and take action as necessary – Anna Beckwith
2. Review of the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan goals and objectives (*Attachment 2*)
 - a. Overview – John Hadley
 - b. **Committee Action:** Review and provide guidance to staff – Anna Beckwith
3. Amendment 10 (Revise Dolphin and Wahoo Management Measures) (*Attachment 3*)
 - a. Overview – John Hadley
 - b. **Committee Action:** Review and consider approval for scoping – Anna Beckwith
4. Amendment 12 (Bullet Mackerel and Frigate Mackerel as Ecosystem Component Species) (*Attachment 4*)
 - a. Overview – John Hadley
 - b. **Committee Action:** Review and provide guidance to staff – Anna Beckwith
5. Input on modifications to the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary from the Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel (*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

Art Sapp, Vice Chair

Chester Brewer

Chris Conklin

Tim Griner

Steve Poland

Spud Woodward

Mid-Atlantic Liaison, Tony DiLernia/Dewey Hemilright

New England Liaison, Rick Bellavance

Carolyn Belcher

Mel Bell

Kyle Christiansen

Roy Crabtree

Jessica McCawley

David Whittaker

LCDR Jeremy Montes

Attachments:

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

Attachment 1b: NMFS SERO Recreational ACL Report for Dolphin and Wahoo

Attachment 2: Discussion document for revising the goals and objectives of the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan

Attachment 3: Amendment 10 (Revise Dolphin and Wahoo Management Measures) decision document

Attachment 4: Amendment 12 (Bullet Mackerel and Frigate Mackerel as Ecosystem Component Species) decision document

Attachment 5: Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel recommendations for proposed modifications to the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

Staff: John Hadley

OVERVIEW

Dolphin Wahoo Committee

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

1. **Status of commercial landings and recreational landings vs. the ACLs (*Attachments 1a and 1b*)**

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: Discuss and take action as necessary.

2. **Review of the goals and objectives of the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan (*Attachment 2*)**

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 and provided additional guidance on ways the goals and objectives should be updated at the September 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.

3. **Amendment 10 (Revise Dolphin and Wahoo Management Measures) (*Attachment 3*)**

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 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, added an action that would allow the for-hire fleet north of the Virginia/North Carolina border to fillet dolphin at sea, and moved actions that would revise recreational accountability measures from the Recreational Accountability Measure Modifications Amendment to Amendment 10. In September 2019, the Committee provided guidance on further development of actions in Amendment 10.

Committee discussion on many actions in Amendment 10 has been delayed pending revised catch level recommendations from the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC). The SSC provided these recommendations for dolphin and wahoo at their October 2019 meeting. With this information available, the Committee can discuss Amendment 10 in its entirety and provide guidance on how to move forward with development of the amendment.

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.

4. **Amendment 12 (Bullet Mackerel and Frigate Mackerel as Ecosystem Component Species) (*Attachment 4*)**

Description: Amendment 12 would add bullet mackerel and frigate mackerel to the Dolphin Wahoo FMP as ecosystem component species. At the September 2019 meeting, the Committee discussed the amendment and initially intended to explore regulatory measures to compliment listing the species as ecosystem components, but eventually decided to delay further discussion on these regulatory measures until more information could be provided at a later date on the ability of the Council to implement such measures. Such guidance is expected to be presented to the Committee at the March 2020 meeting.

Status of Amendment: The Council approved a single action in the amendment that would add bullet mackerel and frigate mackerel as ecosystem component species in the Dolphin Wahoo FMP. Inclusion of other potential actions is pending guidance from the National Marine Fisheries Service.

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

5. **Input on modifications to the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary from the Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel (*Attachment 5*)**

Description: The Dolphin Wahoo AP met via webinar on October 29, 2019 to discuss and provide recommendations on proposed modifications to the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary regulations and boundary.

Required Committee Action: Discuss and take action as necessary.

Other Business