



## **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**

Hutchinson Island Marriott  
555 NE Ocean Boulevard  
Stuart, FL 34996

#### **Wednesday, June 12, 2019 – 1:30 pm – 3:45 pm**

Approval of Agenda – Anna Beckwith

Approval of March 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 goals and objectives of the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan (*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) (*Attachments 3a and 3b*)
  - a. Overview – John Hadley
  - b. **Committee Action:** Review and consider approval for scoping – Anna Beckwith
4. Scoping comments on adding bullet and frigate mackerel as ecosystem components in the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan (*Attachments 4a-4c*)
  - 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  
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 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 3a:** Decision document for Amendment 10
- Attachment 3b:** Letter from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council requesting an exemption for the regulation prohibiting filleting of dolphin at sea onboard for-hire vessels in the waters north of Cape Hatteras
- Attachment 3c:** SEFSC analysis of PLL landings of dolphin by vessel permit type
- Attachment 4a:** Summary of scoping comments on bullet and frigate mackerel as ecosystem component species in the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan
- Attachment 4b:** Scoping document on bullet and frigate mackerel as ecosystem component species in the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan
- Attachment 4c:** Presentation for scoping of bullet and frigate mackerel as ecosystem component species in the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan

**Staff:** John Hadley

# **OVERVIEW**

## **Dolphin Wahoo Committee**

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

1. **Status of commercial 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 all fishery management plans (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 revised since that time. The Dolphin Wahoo Committee is being asked to review the Dolphin Wahoo FMP goals and objectives and suggest changes as necessary to reflect the Committee’s contemporary vision for management of the fisheries for dolphin and wahoo.

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

**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) (*Attachments 3a and 3b*)**

**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.

Council staff will provide an overview of the actions and items that the Committee has identified for the amendment (*Attachment 3a*). Of particular note is Action 9 that would revise accountability measures (AMs) for dolphin. Recreational AMs for dolphin and wahoo are currently being examined in the Recreational Accountability Measure Modifications Amendment (Dolphin Wahoo Regulatory Amendment 2) and partially in Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10 through Action 9. As part of the discussion of Action 9, the Committee will be asked for direction on how to address the current scenario where the AMs for dolphin are being examined over two separate amendments and whether or not to consolidate actions addressing AMs for dolphin and wahoo into one amendment (Amendment 10).

Additionally, a letter was recently received from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council requesting “*that the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and Southeast Regional Office provide an exemption for the regulation prohibiting filleting of dolphinfish (mahi mahi) in the waters north of Cape Hatteras*” (*Attachment 3b*). This exemption is intended to apply only to for-hire vessels. Recommended regulations for filleting of dolphin at sea that are provided in the letter include:

- 1) A requirement that a 1 inch by 1 inch piece of skin remain on each fillet.
- 2) Crew must retain the racks (frames) of the fish.
- 3) Crew must be able to present two fillets which are the equivalent to one fish.

This letter will be presented for review at the end of the Amendment 10 discussion to gather guidance on how the Committee would like to address the Mid-Atlantic Council’s request.

**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. Additionally, guidance will be requested on how the Committee would like to address the consideration of changes to the AMs for dolphin and wahoo across multiple amendments and how to address the Mid-Atlantic Council’s request for an exemption to the regulations prohibiting filleting of dolphin at sea in the waters north of Cape Hatteras.

#### 4. **Bullet mackerel and frigate mackerel as ecosystem component species in the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan (*Attachments 4a-4c*)**

**Description:** At the March 2019 meeting, the Committee discussed a white paper on mechanisms and regulatory parameters for adding ecosystem component (EC) species to a FMP, ways that other Councils have addressed EC species in FMPs, as well as background information on fisheries for bullet mackerel and frigate mackerel. The Council voted to send the topic of adding bullet and frigate mackerel to the Dolphin Wahoo FMP as EC species out for scoping in the spring of 2019. Council staff will review the scoping comments received.

**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 adding bullet and frigate mackerel as EC species in the Dolphin Wahoo FMP.

**Other Business**