

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

DOLPHIN WAHOO ADVISORY PANEL

Webinar

October 28, 2020

TRANSCRIPT

Dolphin Wahoo AP Members

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Observers/Participants

Erika Burgess

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Other observers and participants attached.

The Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council convened via webinar on October 28, 2020 and was called to order by Chairman Ray Rosher.

(The recording starts in the middle of introductions and does not include the Adoption of Agenda or Approval of the August 2019 AP Minutes)

MR. ROSHER: Thank you all for being here, and I appreciate all your input, and I know there's lot of backgrounds represented here, and so I'm glad to have the diversity. I wanted to get back to that question about public comment, and is there anybody attending this meeting that is interested in public comment?

MR. HADLEY: If you would like to, you can just raise your hand, and we will unmute you.

MR. ROSHER: The reason I ask is I just want to make sure that we agree on what's the right format, whether we comment now, and they can make their comments and leave, if they don't want to be here for the duration of the meeting, or if we want to call on them at the right time, when we're on that subject, and so I just wanted to know who was on the call. Go ahead, John, and I don't see any -- Do you see anybody raising hands for public comment?

MR. HADLEY: No, I'm not seeing any raised hands for public comment.

MR. ROSHER: Okay, and so do you want to jump into the report with Anna?

MS. BECKWITH: Hi, folks. This is Anna Beckwith. As most of you know, I'm the Chair of the Dolphin Wahoo Committee at the council, and I just wanted to take a couple of minutes and, one, thank you guys all for taking the time to be here, especially those that are terming out. Spending nine years in this process is quite the commitment, and it's really important for me to express to you guys how much your feedback and opinions matter.

Sometimes it probably feels like you guys spend time, and maybe the council doesn't always jump on all the things that the AP might bring to us, but I want to make sure that you guys know that we do consider everything that comes out. At this moment, you have four council members listening in that will spend the whole day really taking note of what you guys are talking about and considering and the opinions that you guys are bringing to the table, and so I just really want to express how important what you guys tell us really is to us.

In general, I just wanted to note that, during the last council meeting, we did -- We were able to vote up the Amendment 12, which John will speak to in a moment, but that was when we added bullet and frigate mackerel to the FMP as an ecosystem species, and our main focus, at the committee at the council at the moment, is Amendment 10, which you guys will spend the bulk of your time talking about.

Amendment 10 has been with us for, I would fathom, two or three years at this point, because of all the starts and stops with the ACLs coming from our Scientific and Statistical Committee and different things that have been discussed and taken out and moved into different amendments and

to be considered later. I think the version that you guys have before you today is a workable version that we are hoping to vote up or down in its entirety, hopefully at the June meeting.

Some of you might know that I am also terming out of the council, and this is my last few meetings, and so it's become a bit of a focal point for me to see this amendment through the process prior to me going, and so, again, I just wanted to thank you guys for your time, and I will be here throughout the duration of the meeting, to answer questions and to help stuff along as I am able to, and so thank you, guys, for your time.

MR. HADLEY: All right. Thank you, Anna. We appreciate that.

MR. ROSHER: I didn't hear you, John. Did you say something to me?

MR. HADLEY: I was just thanking Anna for addressing the AP, and, with that, I will jump into the update of amendments.

MR. ROSHER: Okay. Thank you, Anna, for your service.

MR. HADLEY: Okay. I just wanted to take a minute to update the AP on some of the upcoming and recent regulation changes and status of amendments, and this is just a handful of what the council has had on their plate lately, but I'll just kind of cherry-pick a few of the items that I thought would be of interest.

We have Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10. As Anna mentioned, this is something that the council has been working on and put a lot of work into, and I'm not going to spend too much time on it now, because we're going to spend a good chunk of the morning getting into the nitty-gritty details of it, but, overall, this amendment looks at accommodating revised recreational data coming from the Marine Recreational Information Program by updating and revising the annual catch limits and sector allocations for dolphin and wahoo.

It also looks at changing the recreational accountability measures, accommodating possession of dolphin and wahoo on vessels with certain unauthorized gears onboard, such as lobster pots, and removing the operator card requirement, potentially reducing the recreational vessel limit for dolphin, and allowing filleting of dolphin at-sea in the Mid-Atlantic and New England regions, and so the area north of the North Carolina/Virginia border.

There again, we'll really dive into the details of each of those actions here soon, but the timing of this meeting is really key to this amendment, because this amendment will likely -- The council hasn't made any decisions yet, but it will likely move along fairly quickly, and the council is looking at likely voting to send it out for -- At the December meeting, they will be looking at potentially selecting preferred alternatives and sending it out to public hearings. The expected final vote on this for secretarial approval is June of 2021, and so this amendment is moving along.

Also, as Anna mentioned, Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10 was recently approved by the council, at the September 2020 meeting, and this designates bullet mackerel and frigate mackerel as ecosystem component species in the fishery management plan. There is no regulatory measures that go along directly with this designation, but it is expected -- Based on comments from the Mid-Atlantic Council, they may be able to use this ecosystem component designation to add those two

mackerel species, bullet mackerel and frigate mackerel, to their list of unmanaged forage species, and, with the associated regulatory measures, it sort of freezes the footprint of the current fishery and prevents a large, unexpected ramp-up in the fishery for two important forage mackerel species that are highly important to particularly wahoo. That is kind of the latest amendment that's been approved by the council.

One thing that I will mention is that -- Because I know that this AP has had several discussions on longlines, and, particularly at the last meeting, I know we had a pretty good discussion on it, and I just wanted to update you on where that stands with the council. In Amendment 10, the council was looking at ways to match the HMS pelagic longline regulations in the dolphin wahoo fishery, in the longline component of the dolphin wahoo fishery I should say, and they wanted to move along with this, but there's a lot of decision points that go along with it, as far as if there will be a special endorsement to a permit, which regulations will be mirrored from HMS and which will not, and so they decided to move these.

Since it's a fairly involved issue, they decided to pull this topic out of Amendment 10 and move it into its own separate amendment, and this will be -- The timing of this hasn't been specified, but that's why, when we go over Amendment 10, you won't see the actions related to longlines in there. It's been moved out into its own separate amendment, and so I thought I would just mention that to the AP. Then that's it for dolphin wahoo specifically.

Two more amendments that I wanted to mention and update everyone on is we had Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 29, which includes best fishing practices and powerhead regulations, and I know this covers the snapper grouper fishery, but we're not -- Obviously, everyone fishes in several different fisheries, and I know the snapper grouper fishery is near and dear to many of your hearts, and many of you are heavily involved in it, and so I just wanted to mention this, that the council has approved Amendment 29, and this requires a descending device to be onboard a vessel fishing for or possessing snapper grouper species.

The use of the descending device is not required, and so you don't have to descend each fish, but it just -- The idea is to help preserve some of the fish that you see floating away, at least having the device onboard and ready to use, if need be. It also requires the use of non-offset, non-stainless circle hooks when fishing for snapper grouper species with natural bait north of 28 degrees North latitude, and so just south of Cape Canaveral, Florida.

It requires the use of non-stainless-steel hooks to fish for snapper grouper species throughout the South Atlantic region, and it also allows the use of powerheads to harvest snapper grouper species off of North Carolina, and this is just to bring consistency to the regulations for powerheads throughout the South Atlantic region. That went into effect fairly recently, on July 15.

Then last, but certainly not least, is the South Atlantic for-hire electronic reporting amendment, and I believe there was an update on this at the last meeting, but this amendment has gone forward, and the amendment requires weekly electronic reporting for charter vessel operators that hold either the snapper grouper, dolphin wahoo, and/or coastal migratory pelagic permits, and, really, this amendment has been in the works for quite a while, but we do have an expected implementation date of January 4 of next year.

I know that everyone that has a permit will be hearing more about this, and it's expected that the National Marine Fisheries Service will be sending out an information packet later on in November that shows the approved applications, and it's kind of meant to be a toolkit, so to speak, to help with the for-hire electronic reporting, and so more to come on that, but that will be effective fairly soon. With that, I will take a break, and I don't know if there are any questions on any of the recent amendments or actions that I covered.

I am not seeing any hands, and so, with that, we will move along to the next item in the agenda, unless there's any questions, to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Citizen Science Program Update.

MS. BYRD: Hi, John. Good morning. I am going to steal control and make sure you guys can see my screen. Good morning, everyone. My name is Julia Byrd, and I'm the Program Manager for the council's Citizen Science Program, and so I really appreciate the opportunity to update you guys on what's been going on with this program over the past few years.

Since this is kind of the first opportunity that I've had to kind of share information about the program with the Dolphin Wahoo AP, I first wanted to give just a quick background on the development of the program and then kind of update you guys on what's been happening within this program this year and then specifically get into a few more details on our two pilot projects that are underway now, SAFMC Scamp Release and the FISHstory project.

The council first became interested in citizen science back in kind of 2015 or 2016, and, you know, they became interested in citizen science because the council had a lot of longstanding data needs, but there are limited resources to fill those needs, and so they were really interested in seeing if citizen science could be used as a tool to help kind of fill those needs, and we have consistently been hearing from fishermen, for a long time, that they want to be more involved in helping collect the data that are used to manage their fisheries, and they want to share kind of what they're seeing on the water, and so citizen science could provide an opportunity to do that.

The council's efforts to develop a citizen science program really began back in 2016, when we held a citizen science program design workshop, and so we brought in over kind of sixty fishermen and scientists and managers and some citizen science experts, Rick Bonney and Jennifer Shirk, to a workshop, where we really kind of brainstormed, if we had a citizen science program in our region, what would it look like, and what would we want it to do, and so, at the end of that meeting, we had what we called a program blueprint, and that basically just laid out the framework for the citizen science program based on all the input we got from workshop participants.

The council's overall approach to citizen science is that we really want to support projects that fill data gaps and address kind of prioritized research needs. We want to make sure that we're kind of complementing existing kind of data collection programs and partnerships, and we don't want compete with or replace them, and we really want to have intentional project design.

One thing that we heard kind of loud and clear, throughout the development of the program, is people really want the data collected through the program to be used for science and management decisions, and so we want to think about how we want the data to be used when we're developing the project, so that it's set up in a way that the data will kind of meet that intended use, and we really think it's important to have fishermen and scientists kind of collaborating throughout the

life of a project. Scientists can really provide kind of the information and background, so that the data collected can meet its intended use, and fishermen provide a lot of valuable kind of information on kind of what they can collect on the water realistically within their kind of normal fishing activities.

Through the program, we have developed a list of prioritized research needs, and the two pilot projects that I'm going to be talking about later -- One of them is to collect more discard information, and one of them uses kind of historical fishing photos to collect information, and so those are the two kind of prioritized research needs that our projects are addressing right now.

That's just a little bit of background on kind of how the program got started, and now I want to switch gears a little bit and talk about what's been happening in the program kind of this calendar year, and so one of the things that we have been working on is kind of developing a way that we can kind of evaluate the program moving forward, and so talking a lot about kind of the goals of the programs, the objectives of the programs, kind of what we want the program to do, and then figuring out a way that we can make -- You know, kind of evaluate how we're doing, so that we can make sure that the program is meeting its goals and that it's doing what the council and what all of our partners want it to do.

We also have two citizen science kind of advisory panels, and one is called the Operations Committee, and they are kind of folks who provide insights on kind of the policies and procedures, kind of oversight of the program, and they have met multiple times this calendar year, and they have worked a lot on this kind of program evaluation plan that we're putting together and that will be kind of shown to the council in December, and then the other advisory panel group we have is called the Projects Advisory Committee, and this is a group that's made up of representatives from many of the different advisory panels of the council, and so many of the species APs as well as the Habitat and kind of Outreach and Communication AP, and so Jon Reynolds is the representative for the Dolphin Wahoo AP in this group, and they will be meeting this fall, for the first time this year, in November.

We have also been working and hosted a symposium at the American Fisheries Society meeting, with some of our NOAA colleagues, and the symposium really focused on kind of figuring out ways to better incorporate citizen science data into kind of stock assessments and management, and so we had kind of twelve presenters who participated in this symposium, and it was held in September, and so we kind of learned a lot from different groups who have been doing citizen science kind of from across the country, and we had kind of a diverse group of participants, and so it was great to kind of talk with them about best practices and kind of using citizen science for kind of decision-making.

Then we've also been putting together a manuscript that we're trying to get published in *Bioscience* about the development of the council's program, and we also have been pulling together a citizen science social media strategy, and Allie Iberle, who is the Citizen Science Program's Project Coordinator, is kind of taking the lead on that social media strategy, and so, if you any of you guys kind of follow the council on Instagram, Twitter, or Facebook, you may notice that, every Friday, there is information on the Citizen Science Program, with the hashtag #citscifri.

It's a way for us to kind of highlight programmatic activities, projects, and kind of volunteers, and so, if you guys are interested in keeping up with the program, this is a great way to do it, and then

the last thing that I wanted to mention is that we also have a citizen science email distribution list, and we are working to send out monthly updates to folks, every other month, and so we're hoping to grow that list, and so, if the council's citizen science program is something you're interested in, joining that email distribution list is a great way to keep kind of up-to-date on what's going on with the program, and, if anyone is interested in doing that, you can just shoot me an email, and I can add you to the list.

That's a quick programmatic update, and the next thing I wanted to do is kind of update you guys on projects that we have going on and also let you know about some projects and collaborations that are under development now, and so there are two projects, pilot projects, that I will talk about in a few minutes, SAFMC Scamp Release and FISHstory, but, first, I wanted to talk about a couple of projects that we have under development now and then one collaboration that I think you all will be interested in and that you'll be hearing more about later this afternoon, at the AP meeting.

There are kind of two projects that we have under development now, and the first one is to kind of develop an app and a website where fishermen and other folks who are on the water can report rare species observations, and so the idea with this project is that hopefully these observations could help serve as an early-warning system for kind of shifting species, and so we have submitted a couple of proposals, and we haven't had one funded yet, and we're kind of looking for other opportunities to get this project off the ground.

Then the second project that's under development that I wanted to quickly mention is one that we're working on with REEF and SECOORA, and what we're trying to do here is work with recreational divers to collect information on some data-limited species, and, in particular, to try to get some length estimates for a few data-limited species, and we would be piloting this in the Florida Keys, and so we would be focusing on things like hogfish and some of the grouper species. We have submitted a couple of grant proposals to try to get funding for this project, and we haven't gotten funded yet, but we will be submitting another proposal at the end of November, to try to get this project off the ground.

Then I also wanted to mention one collaboration that we've been working on with the Southeast Fisheries Science Center, which is this series of dolphin wahoo participatory workshops, and so these efforts are being led by Mandy Karnauskas and Matt McPherson with the Southeast Fisheries Science Center, and you will be hearing from them a little bit later this afternoon, and they will provide you with kind of a more detailed overview of what we're doing with these workshops and some information that we've learned already from the workshops, but, to give just a quick snippet of what they are, we are really trying to hold these workshops to develop kind of a conceptual model of the dolphin wahoo fishery.

We want to hear from fishermen and other folks in the fishing community about kind of what they think the major factors are that are affecting the fishery, what are the major risks to the fishery, what people value in the fishery, and kind of map all of that out and figure out how all of those things are connected to one another.

The idea is that we would hold a series of workshops in the North Carolina/Virginia area and then another series of workshops in the Florida Keys, and we were able to hold the workshops in North Carolina and Virginia in March, right before things really shut down for COVID, and a I know that a number of AP members actually attended those meetings, which was wonderful, and we

were really grateful that you guys came and kind of shared your kind of knowledge and expertise with us.

From Mandy and Matt this afternoon, you will hear some of the preliminary results that we have learned from those workshops. We were originally supposed to hold workshops in the Florida Keys this summer, but, with kind of impacts from COVID, those had to be postponed, and we're still kind of working on when we would be able to kind of safely hold those workshops, and I think Mandy and Matt will say a little bit more about this this afternoon as well.

Now to switch gears a little bit and talk about our two pilot projects. The first project is called SAFMC Scamp Release, and this project is focused on collecting information on scamp discards using a mobile app called SAFMC Release, and this project is really focused on kind of collecting data to fill data gaps, and so we really have very limited information on the length of released fish and on information that can help inform discard mortality, things like the depth fish were caught, whether or not a descending device was used, whether the fish was vented before it was released, things like that.

We are working with commercial, recreational, and for-hire fishermen in this project to help us collect this information. The app launched last June, in 2019, and so we have been working on recruiting and retaining kind of fishermen to collect information on released scamp over the past year. We celebrated kind of our year anniversary this summer, and so we provided an annual update to our participants, and then the data collected through the app thus far was provided for the SEDAR 68 Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic scamp data workshop.

A couple of other exciting things about this project that I wanted to kind of share with you guys as well is, right now, we have a grant that is underway that is going to allow us to kind of expand the SAFMC Release app to collect information not just on scamp grouper, but on all shallow-water grouper species, and we're doing that by kind of combining this SAFMC Release app with an app in North Carolina called Catch U Later, which was based off of the Release app, and we're combining them into one kind of citizen science kind of discard sort of app.

That combination is going to kind of let us expand to collect information on more grouper species, and then, as another part of this grant, we are hosting a series of scoping meetings, to try to develop a citizen science customizable app, and so what the customizable app would do is it would kind of allow you to build an app on the fly, based on kind of specified data fields, and so, right now, every time we want to kind of develop a project, we often kind of invest and have to develop an app, and pay for the development of an app, to have an easy data collection tool that a lot of folks can use on the water, and so the development of this customizable app will allow us to kind of build an app on the fly, so it will be able to be built much more quickly and much more cost effectively, so that we're easily able to create a tool for different types of projects.

We are hosting a series of scoping meetings to kind of plan what we want to include in that customizable citizen science app, and we're looking for fishermen who may be interested in participating in that process, and so, if any of you guys are kind of interested in helping us figure out what information we should include in this app, I would love to hear from you, and we would love to get you involved in that process.

One last thing that I wanted to mention about this project is that we're also working with a College of Charleston graduate student, Nick Smilie, and, as part of his research, he will be interviewing folks with SAFMC Release accounts, to get their perceptions of the app and to try to identify ways to improve kind of recruitment and retention of app users. That's a quick overview of SAFMC Scamp Release.

Then the last project that I wanted to kind of update you guys on is a project that's called FISHstory, and, as many of you guys probably know, there is really limited recreational fisheries data prior to the 1970s, and so kind of the Southeast Regional Headboat Survey started in the early to mid-1970s, and the MRIP program that collects information on charter and private sectors began in the 1980s, and so there's really very little information prior to the 1970s, and so, as many of you are familiar with, for-hire fleets have had a tradition of kind of coming back and displaying the catch on the dock for commemorative photos, and so these historic photos are really an untapped source of data that can help fill in those gaps back prior to the 1970s.

The FISHstory project uses these kind of historic dock photos to estimate for-hire catch and length composition, and so we're trying to figure out what people were catching back in this historic period and what the size of the fish were back in that historic time period. The project has over 1,300 color and black-and-white photos from the Daytona Beach, Florida area from the 1940s to 1970s, and the photos for this pilot project were provided by Rusty Hudson, who has really been a key partner, and the photos represent his family's kind of fishing fleet.

There are three components to the project, and the first is actually kind of digitizing these historic fishing photos, and that part of the project is complete. Rusty has scanned in all 1,300 photos, and, more importantly, he's provided a lot of background information on the photos to us, and so things like the date of each of the trips, the vessel names, the captain names, the homeport of the vessel, all of that kind of information, and so we've created kind of a photo archive that houses the photos along with all of that corresponding background information. Then the two other components of the project, the for-hire catch composition and then developing a method to estimate length composition in the photos, are underway now, and I will talk more about those in a few minutes.

For the for-hire catch composition, we're using an online crowdsourcing platform called Zooniverse, and so Zooniverse is kind of an online website that allows you to kind of upload photos and create projects where members of the public can help you kind of analyze the data in these photos, and so it's really kind of a cool website. They have hundreds of projects on a variety of topics, and so they're getting members of the public to help kind of count the number of animals from African trail cameras, or you can identify galaxies, using photos from space, and you can help count and identify different kinds of birds or bird behaviors, and so it's a really wide variety of projects, and it's a great platform to use to get members of the public involved in helping you analyze kind of images or photos.

For the FISHstory project in Zooniverse, we're basically training volunteers to identify and count fish and kind of fishermen in these historic photos, and so we've developed a lot of kind of online tutorials and training materials, and so, even if someone isn't that familiar with fish identification, they can still participate in the project. We have multiple volunteers that classify each photo, and then we also have a validation team that is made up of fishermen and scientists that help kind of verify the identification and counts in the photos when the volunteers disagree with one another.

In a few minutes, I will turning things over to Allie Iberle, who kind of really helped build our project in Zooniverse, and she'll give you kind of a live demo of what the FISHstory project looks like online.

This for-hire catch composition portion of the project launched in Zooniverse in May of 2020, and we have been really blown away by all the interest we've had in the project. I looked at our kind of stats last night, and, as of now, we have over kind of 1,500 volunteers who have participated in the project, and they have made over 25,800 classifications, and so we've been really lucky to have so many people be interested in participating in this project.

Now I wanted to quickly talk about the last component of the project, where we're actually trying to estimate the length of fish from these historic photos, and what we're doing is we're trying to develop a methodology to do that, and, to do that, we're using kind of the lumber in the leaderboards, the two-by-fours and the two-by-sixes, where the fish are hanging as a scale, and so we are developing a protocol using a software called ImageJ, and that kind of allows us to kind of estimate the length, in pixels, of the two-by-fours or two-by-sixes, and then we're able to use those as a scale to get an estimate of the length of fish, and so, after we're kind of measuring fish within each photo, we're developing another methodology to produce kind of a length composition for the different years from the 1940s to the 1970s, and we're pilot testing these methods on king mackerel, to see how well they work.

We actually just presented kind of the methodology that we developed to the council's Scientific and Statistical Committee last week, and we've also shared this methodology with the lead assessment analyst for king mackerel in the South Atlantic, and both groups have really been supportive and think that this information would really be helpful and will be great to consider in the next king mackerel assessment moving forward.

Then the last thing that I wanted to mention before kind of turning things over to Allie to do kind of a live demo for you guys on FISHstory is just mention a little bit about kind of outreach and promotion for this project.

Both the FISHstory team and the council's outreach team have been working hard to kind of share information about the project with a variety of different audiences, and we've been really lucky to have the project featured in a number of blogs or podcasts or newsletters, and we even did kind of a virtual field trip, to try to get FISHstory into kind of educational classrooms, and so we have links to many of these different features here, and so, if any of you guys are interested in kind of reading more about the project or finding out more about these different kind of communications or ways that we've been able to promote the project, I would encourage you to kind of visit these links and check them out. That's all that's on my end. Allie, are you ready to kind of take over and walk folks through the actual FISHstory project in Zooniverse?

MS. IBERLE: Yes, and I'm going to go ahead and take control. Thank you guys for allowing me to present the project, and so, when you log into FISHstory on Zooniverse, this is what you'll see, and this is kind of like our main page, and it kind of gives you a quick rundown of what you're going to be doing on the FISHstory project, a little bit of information on the tasks that we want our volunteers to complete, and it gives you a quick kind of dashboard that looks at the progress of the project, where we are in completeness, and how many volunteers have participated. Then just a little bit more about FISHstory and an amazing quote from Rusty, and, again, this project wouldn't

be possible without Rusty, and so we wanted to make sure that he was highlighted throughout our Zooniverse page.

If you click on the About tab, we have kind of curated a lot of information that we think is pertinent that our volunteers would want to know, and so, again, a little bit more about the photos and what these photos represent and how the project got started. Then a little bit about the council, who we are and what we do and how the data from the FISHstory project is going to be used in management, and then there's a little bit about the history, and so where these people are fishing, and, again, all of this information was provided by Rusty, and it's just a little bit more about the nostalgia. Who were the people fishing, what vessels were they fishing on, and he even provided us with newspaper articles that actually kind of described the captains, and so we used those to really put people into 1965 as they read about these captains.

Then, if we scroll back up and hit the Classify tab, this is where the volunteers will actually go through and identify the species within each photo, and so Zooniverse provides the volunteer with a photo, and you're able to zoom and kind of pan around, and then they're given instructions on what we want them to do, and so you're given four of the kind of main species, the most popular species that we've identified in the photos, that you see most often, and you're able to click on them and identify them with ease, so that you're not having to count.

Once you're done with that, and also obstructed fish, and so, if you can't tell what it is, because there's a human blocking it, you can mark that as well. Then, once you're done with that portion, we give you a list of other species that you might see, and they tend to be a little bit less frequent, and we give you additional photo examples of these species and a description, and then you can identify how many are in the photo.

Julia mentioned that we built training materials, and so, when the volunteer enters this for the first time, a tutorial will pop up, and this kind of just walks them through how to use Zooniverse and then how the project is set up and what we want them to do, but then the bulk of our training materials that we've created are in the field guide, and the field guide kind of lives on the side of Zooniverse.

Here, we have created just tips and tricks to help people, to make sure that the terms that we're using in those species descriptions make sense to people, and some of the things that they'll see in the photos, like discoloration, and then we give them a rundown of each species that we are asking them to identify, as well as some practice photos.

When you click into a certain species, such as red snapper, you're given a description and then more photos from the actual photo set, and we didn't think that providing you with color photos to identify fish in a black-and-white photo would be helpful, and so we really tried to stick with helping people identify them in the photos with the tools that they're given, and so we run down kind of how to identify those fish, and then, in that second portion, with those kind of less-common fish, where you're given that list, the same thing, and we have a lot of photos from the project that will help people identify those fish as well.

Then the last thing that I wanted to mention was the talk words, and so Zooniverse is really great, because it allows us to interact with our volunteers. They can ask us questions, pool interesting photos, and we are able to interact with them and answer any questions and really help people get

better at identifying fish, because it is difficult in these black-and-white photos, and so we're able to kind of help them here and really make sure that the volunteers are feeling engaged by us and have their questions answered. That's pretty much it for my rundown of the project. If anybody has any questions for Julia and I, I think we would be happy to answer them. Julia, I don't know if you wanted to add in anything else on the end here.

MS. BYRD: No, and thanks, Allie, for running through that. We would love to answer any questions you have on either of these projects or kind of other work we're doing, and I guess the other thing that I will note too is, if any of you guys feel like you would be interested in participating in these scoping meetings to develop this customizable citizen science app that you can build on the fly, so to speak, we would love to hear from you about that as well, and so thanks so much for your kind of time this morning, and, like Allie said, we're happy to answer any questions or provide any additional information that you all might be interested in. John, I don't know if you want to take it back, so that you can see the raised-hands bar, or take control back.

MR. HADLEY: Sure, and, in the meantime, I see that Jon Reynolds has his hand up.

MR. REYNOLDS: Thanks. I don't really have any questions, but I've been following this as much as I can and being involved to whatever degree that I can so far, and I just really wanted to say that I think this is a really good project, and you guys are doing an amazing job. I think this is really important, especially just fishermen's reports through excitement, or just relying on pure memory alone to remember what it was like, or effort, or what you actually caught, or sizes of fish, and they're so distorted. Once you bring actual photos with size measurements and amounts of fish, attached to time and location, I just think it gives a lot better idea of the actual historic levels of fishing and stuff, and so that's all I wanted to say. I think this is amazing, and I think you guys are doing a really, really good job, and thank you very much.

MS. BYRD: Thanks so much, Jon, and the other thing that I will mention too about FISHstory is, you know, we are -- Right now, the kind of funding that we have is working on this wonderful collection of photos that Rusty was able to provide us, but we're hoping to kind of find additional funding to kind of expand the project, so that we're able to use photos like this, not just from the Daytona Beach, Florida area, but from different areas along the South Atlantic region, because I think there are likely many other people who kind of have photos like this that they may be willing to contribute to the project, and we've heard from some people, after kind of launching, that they do have kind of photosets that are similar, and so we're hoping to, in the future, be able to find additional funding so that we can kind of expand this work more kind of geographically.

MR. HADLEY: All right. I am not seeing any additional hands raised, and thank you, Allie and Julia. I appreciate that presentation, and I will mention that -- I will send out a follow-up email after this, after the meeting, for those of you that are interested in helping out with some of those scoping meetings that Julia mentioned, and it will have her contact information on there, so that you can follow-up. Ray, I see you have your hand up.

MR. ROSHER: Julia, I was just going to let you know that a guy that I started fishing with in the late 1970s is retired now, but he is sharp as a tack, and he has pictures going back into the 1950s, and he's kind of our local historian, and so, if you end up with funding and you want to contact him, reach out to me, and I will connect you.

MS. BYRD: That's amazing. Thanks so much, Ray, and we will definitely reach out to you to get his name, particularly if we're able to find funding, but we're also trying to just get a kind of bank of names of people who may have some of these photos, and so I will probably follow-up with you after this webinar, if you don't mind.

MR. ROSHER: No problem, and is the purpose of this program related to fishery management, or is it just historical?

MS. BYRD: The Citizen Science Program in general is trying to kind of collect data that can be used for kind of stock assessment or kind of management decisions, and so the program itself is broader than that, and so, for instance, this SAFMC Scamp Release project is trying to collect kind of modern -- Today's data on discarded scamp grouper, and so kind of the FISHstory project is really focused more on that kind of historic time period where we don't have any information about the start of the fishery, the recreational fishery in particular, and, during that time period, that seems to be when it was really ramping up, and so the FISHstory project is focused on that historic time period, but I think there are opportunities for the program, or even using kind of photos to collect more kind of modern information, and does that answer your question?

MR. ROSHER: Yes, and the only reason that I mention it is it's a little dangerous to look back at these photos, and of course there is some great catches, but Bill reminds me that they had their share of slow days, too. I would hate to see some of this comparison drawn, where we say, oh my goodness, we've got to shut everything down, and look at how many fish they used to catch, but you've got to remember that these are the highlight films, and they didn't have GPS, and there were many, many fewer boats. I mean, there were a fraction, a small fraction, of boats, and so I can't argue that the fishing was better, but it just scares me a little bit when you start extrapolating and saying we're catching 1 percent of what they used to catch.

MS. BYRD: Another thing that may be worth noting is I don't think -- I don't think these photos can give us an idea of kind of the landed catch, like landings information, and I think it's more -- At least the way we're kind of talking about it now, it's more kind of -- For the size information, we're looking to see if there are kind of changes in the size of fish that have been kind of caught over time, and then kind of the for-hire catch piece -- We're kind of trying to figure out what people were catching and what kind of frequencies, and then you might be able to put together kind of a relative index of abundance or if you see changes over this historic time period, but, I mean, I think there are a lot of caveats that would be associated with that.

The other thing I will say is, right now, we have a bank of fishing photos from Daytona Beach, Florida, and so it's not necessarily representative of the entire region, and that's why we would like to kind of expand the project moving forward, so we can have kind of a better geographic spread.

MR. ROSHER: Bill has got pictures of manatees and bottlenose dolphin and turtles all over the dock back in the 1950s, and so -- He does have individual pictures, and, back then, that was the wild west, you know, and they were seeing what was in the ocean, and so it's kind of interesting. I do find it super interesting to look back at the pictures. The one thing that I noticed was warsaw groupers were more common and much bigger, and goliath groupers and so on, but, anyway, thanks for your help, and I won't slow it down anymore.

MS. BYRD: Thanks so much, Ray.

MR. HADLEY: Thank you. Unless there are any more questions or comments on that, we'll jump into the next agenda item, Amendment 10. I will just take a moment before I get into that, and I'm going to load up a presentation to help orient everyone where this amendment stands, and, also, I wanted to mention that, schedule-wise, we'll try to take a break in the middle of this amendment, because it is a fairly lengthy discussion.

Also, we will be taking a break for lunch, and we're shooting for around noon, from noon to 1:00, and we're looking to take a break, so everyone can go get lunch and catch up on any calls or emails or what have you that you need to, and then we'll try to come back around 1:00, and so we're looking at an hour break in there, and so that's just the intended schedule, moving forward. With that, I will jump into the kind of orienting presentation here.

Amendment 10, as was alluded to earlier, this is kind of the major item for this meeting, and it's one of the major items that has been on the council's work schedule lately, and I just wanted to provide a little bit of background information and update the AP on where this amendment stands and what it encompasses in general and then what is expected from this meeting.

Looking at where the amendment stands right now, some of you may recall reviewing this at the 2017 meeting, Amendment 10, and it has changed quite a bit since then, but, really, the staff started looking at revising many of the dolphin and wahoo management measures in March of 2016. This was originally part of a joint snapper grouper and dolphin wahoo amendment. It was scoped -- Initially, it was looking at potential gear allocations within the commercial sector and adaptive management of sector ACLs, and the council worked to develop this, but then they sort of hit a roadblock, where we had new recreational information coming out, and so, essentially, MRIP, the Marine Recreational Information Program, essentially revised its methodology for estimating effort and landings.

This is a really major overhaul, and it's been several years in the making, and they changed their survey methodology, and this was -- Knowing that this change was coming, and that the dolphin and wahoo fisheries have such a large recreational component, the council decided to put this amendment on hold in the spring of 2017, in anticipation of that new information, and so, eventually, the MRIP revisions, so to speak, and so the new recreational data stream, was put in place, and the council took up work on the amendment again at the end of 2018, at their December meeting.

They have really been working on it since then, and there's been quite a few updates to it, and they've kind of added a few things and removed a few things and changed the amendment overall, and we'll get into the details of it, certainly, in a little bit, but, as I mentioned earlier, at the upcoming December meeting, the council will likely be selecting preferred alternatives and potentially approving the amendment for public hearings.

These public hearings would occur sometime, likely, in January or February of 2021, and the council would be looking at final approval of this amendment sometime at the June 2021 meeting, with any regulatory changes going into place sometime in 2022, and so that's the timeline, and the council has an important decision point right now, that the council will have at the upcoming

December meeting, and so that's one of the reasons that we're bringing it to the AP at this time to get your input on it.

A little bit of background, just to remind everyone on some of the changes -- On what initially spurred the development of Amendment 10 and some of the regulatory changes that have occurred since then. As many of you may recall, in June, at the end of June, in 2015, the commercial sector met its ACL for dolphin and closed for a good chunk of the year, and it remained closed until January 1 of 2016. In that same year, the recreational sector harvested over a little bit of half of its sector ACL, and so, in essence, you ended up with a good chunk of the total dolphin ACL going unharvested.

In the meantime, Amendment 8, which became effective in early 2016, went into place and increased the commercial allocation for dolphin from 7.54 percent to 10 percent of the total ACL, and that added approximately 377,000 pounds to the commercial ACL, and it set that commercial ACL close to the original soft cap that was implemented with the initial Dolphin Wahoo FMP, which was approximately 1.5 million pounds.

Since then, Regulatory Amendment 1 also has gone into place and established a 4,000-pound trip limit once 75 percent of the commercial sector ACL is reached, and so, there again, it's intended -- If there is a year of elevated commercial landings, it's kind of putting the brakes on, so to speak, to try to avoid the ACL being met and an in-season closure occurring. However, since then, neither the commercial nor the recreational sectors have harvested their respective ACLs, and, really, the conditional trip limit for the commercial sector has not been triggered.

Moving forward, kind of the interim between the time when the council was waiting for the new recreational information and how they've developed Amendment 10 since then, the Scientific and Statistical Committee has been heavily involved in the development of Amendment 10, and, really, in doing so, they have provided new catch level recommendations, and we'll get into the details of it, but several actions in the amendment are dependent on these new catch level recommendations from the SSC, and they provided these recommendations, and so ABC, annual biological catch, and recommendations for dolphin and wahoo at their October and April 2020 meetings.

They recommended -- There is two different kind of moving parts to this. One is they recommended using the revised recreational landings data for setting the ACLs, and, also, including recreational landings from Monroe County, and those would be used for setting the ABCs and tracking ACLs, annual biological catch and annual catch limits, and I will mention the reason that the recreational landings were not included for Monroe County initially was that it was kind of a decision made across-the-board for all species that do not have stock assessments. They made that recommendation because there are some issues with differentiating landings between the Gulf and South Atlantic, and so the decision previously was to just not include or monitor those landings.

In this case, with the new recreational data stream, and the new recreational data collection methods, you can differentiate those landings a bit better, and so, in this case, you have the new accounting method for recreational data, and you also have landings from Monroe County being incorporated into the ABC, and so that's the catch limit recommendation.

The SSC discussed how to set the catch limit recommendation, since there is not a stock assessment for dolphin or wahoo, and they decided to use the third-highest total landings from baseline years between 1994 through 2007, and so, in essence, what this did was increase the annual biological catch, the ABC, from approximately fifteen million pounds to twenty-four million pounds for dolphin, and it increased the ABC for wahoo from approximately 1.8 million pounds to approximately 2.9 million pounds overall, and so this is looking at the total catch for the fishery.

Looking at the actions in the amendment, there is twelve actions in total, and they can be broken down into four major categories. The Actions 1 through 4 accommodate revised recreational data and catch level recommendations. There are also actions that change the recreational accountability measures, and then actions that implement various management revisions in the dolphin wahoo fishery.

As I mentioned, Actions 1 through 4 would revise the total annual catch limits. Actions 1 and 2 revise the total annual catch limits for dolphin and wahoo. Actions 3 and 4 revise the sector allocations for dolphin and wahoo. The next set of actions change recreational accountability measures, and the council took sort of a two-step approach for each species in setting recreational accountability measures. One is looking at the triggers, and so when it would go in place, and then one is specifying what the actual accountability measure would be, and, there again, we'll get into the details of these when we go over them, but I just wanted to provide an overview of what we'll be looking at.

Then, last, but certainly not least, you have four actions that cover sort of various management revisions, and so looking at allowing properly-permitted commercial vessels with trap, pot, or buoy gear onboard to be able to possess dolphin or wahoo. Currently, those are not authorized gears in the dolphin wahoo fishery. Therefore, if those gears are onboard, a vessel is not authorized to -- It's not legal, under the current regulations, to possess dolphin or wahoo.

Action 10 would look at removing the operator card requirement in the dolphin wahoo fishery, and Action 11 looks at potentially reducing the recreational vessel limit for dolphin, and Action 12 is looking at allowing filleting of dolphin at-sea onboard charter or for-hire vessels in the Mid-Atlantic or New England regions, and so north of the Virginia/North Carolina border.

What we'll be looking at this meeting is I will be going through the decision document that was included in your briefing book, and we'll go over the actions and alternatives, and I will explain what the council is considering for each one of those, and we're looking for comments or recommendations for the council's consideration. There again, thinking about the timing of this amendment, this will help with the council selecting preferred alternatives at their upcoming December meeting. There again, I will get into the details of each action, but, before doing so, I just wanted to -- I will be happy to field any general questions on the amendment. Chris Burrows.

MR. BURROWS: Regarding Action 11, what exactly has been proposed?

MR. HADLEY: Sure. Action 11, and we'll certainly get into the details of that, but what's being proposed is looking at a vessel limit reduction, either across the entire Atlantic, which is the jurisdiction of the fishery management plan for dolphin and wahoo, and so looking at essentially Key West through Maine, a potential reduction, or just a reduction off of Florida.

I will certainly get into the details of that, and that's something that the council has been considering, based on some input that they have received. Keep in mind that, for each one of these actions, there is a no action alternative that is available, and the council does not have to take action, but these are the potential actions that they are considering at this time.

MR. BURROWS: Thank you.

MR. HADLEY: Sure.

DR. CHEUVRONT: I am not seeing any other hands raised right now, John.

MR. HADLEY: All right. Thank you. With that, I will start going through the various actions and alternatives, and this is where we get into the details of what the council is currently considering. There again, we'll work through this document for a little while, and we'll take a break in the middle, and I know that this one -- At times, the information can be fairly dense, and so we'll try to take a break in the middle of it, just to keep everyone's mind fresh.

With that, I will jump into Action 1. This looks at revising the total annual catch limit for dolphin, and this is to reflect the new acceptable biological catch, or annual biological catch, that was received from the SSC, and, really, currently, I will specify it as ACL, since the annual catch limit is equal to the ABC, the acceptable biological catch, level, and what the council is looking at right now is Alternative 2, which they have selected as preferred, where, essentially, the ACL would be equal to the ABC. The annual catch limit for dolphin would be equal to the updated biological catch level that they have received from the SSC.

Alternatives 3 and 4 would provide a little bit of a step-down there, a buffer, if you will, between the ACL, the annual catch limit, and the ABC, the acceptable biological catch, level, and so Alternative 3 looks at a 95 percent, sort of a 5 percent step-down there, and so the ACL would equal 95 percent of the ABC. In Alternative 4, the ACL would equal 90 percent of the ABC, and so kind of a 10 percent buffer in there.

I will just go over a few figures here and tables, to show you kind of what -- To visualize what's going on. Figure 1 in the decision document shows the landings, both commercial and recreational and total landings, since the mid-1980s, and you can see the solid black bars here represent the time series that the SSC used in setting the ABC for dolphin, and, over here towards the right, you have sort of the solid-blue line, which is total landings, and then you have these horizontal lines here that show what the new ACLs, annual catch limits, would be.

You can see the Preferred Alternative 2 here, and the annual catch limit is set at the highest level, and then you have Alternative 3 and Alternative 4, which, there again, it's a little bit of a step-down from the ABC. Overall, in most years, there is a pretty good buffer between what would be the new ABCs and what has been exhibited in the catch of the fishery, and so total landings from the fishery.

There is one exception there from 2018, where there is a pretty good spike in landings, but, overall, depending on what -- If you want to see how these will compare to how the fishery currently operates, you can have different assumptions, and so the table here, Table 2, looks at what the buffer would be using a five-year average, a three-year average, or just comparing to the most

recent landings, and you can see, in most years, there would be a pretty good buffer there. You're looking at approximately a five to six-million pound, upwards of a fourteen-million-pound buffer, there between what the fishery is landing and what the annual catch limit would be.

There again, it would be a little bit different, depending on the different alternatives, and then, projecting forward and seeing how this would compare whether or not the ACL would be reached under different assumptions, and when that would occur, if you look at the five-year and three-year average landings, the fishery would not reach the ACL under any of the alternatives. If you take sort of an extreme approach and look at the highest landings within the past five years, and so keeping in mind that that spike in 2015 is really what's being used here, when the ACL would have been reached under -- You're looking at likely mid-September to mid-October overall, and so it would be likely be met sometime in the fall.

With that, really, we're looking for any AP comments or recommendations on Action 1, and I will scroll back up here to the actions and alternatives, and I will remind you that the council did select -- For Actions 1 and 2, those are the only actions that they've selected their preferred alternatives so far, and, right now, they're setting the annual catch limit equal to the new acceptable biological catch level that they received from the SSC. I will hand it over to the AP, if there are any comments or suggestions on this action.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Jon Reynolds has his hand raised.

MR. REYNOLDS: When I'm looking at this -- I mean, I don't understand how we're not going to get in trouble trying to reach optimum yield in a fishery if we raise this to the updated acceptable biological catch level, but we've only come anywhere near the old level in one year, and then we're going to be, legally, working towards optimum yield, with such a high catch target, and, unless we're putting in hard targets on both the commercial and the recreational side, they would have to be hard targets, or else we're aiming at something that is almost unreachable, and we're never going to hit optimum yield, and it wouldn't make any sense. I mean, I would just say we might want to recommend no action on this, and that's all I've got.

MR. HADLEY: To that point, if I could, a couple of points that I forgot to mention, one being that -- Well, actually, I will let Anna go ahead and speak, and I see that she has her hand raised.

MS. BECKWITH: I was going to just mention that the council is working on a new definition of optimum yield, and we originally had it in this amendment, but, because we are going to have to look at the definition of optimum yield kind of across all of our fisheries, we decided to pull that and consider it in its sort of totality across the FMPs, but I don't have the working definition of optimum yield that we previously had sort of up right now, but I can find it, and we can share it with you, but the idea is that we can consider optimum yield as sort of the average, the catch.

Well, let me pull it up specifically, and I will come back and read it to you, but my point is we've considered that, and we recognize that's an issue, and, for dolphin in particular, dolphinfish, we recognize that the goals of the recreational fishery and the commercial fishery are different, and the definition of optimum yield that will be considered, one of the options, does take into account that abundance is important in dolphinfish and that the goal of the recreational fishery is not to catch every last fish, but to have enough fish out there for ease of catch and having lots of interactions with those fish, but let me pull up that definition, and I will be back with you shortly.

MR. HADLEY: If I could, a couple of -- I should have mentioned this before, but the council discussed this action quite a bit at the September meeting in selecting their preferred, and they -- So, regarding Action 1, that involves the old, so to speak, recreational data stream, and it's not inclusive of Monroe County landings. For now, there's a conversion factor that kind of -- Think of it as converting currencies, dollars to euros, let's say, and there's a conversion factor between new MRIP and old MRIP, if you will.

Alternative 1 uses the old MRIP, and it's okay, because those programs worked side-by-side for a little while, for several years, and there's a conversion factor, but, the further you get out in time, the more -- The Marine Recreational Information Program, MRIP, is not using their old methodology anymore, and so, the further you get away from when they stopped using that old methodology, the more uncertain that conversion factor becomes, and so the revised MRIP methodology has been deemed best available science, and so that's why the council -- That's one of the reasons the council was leaning towards Alternative 2 as preferred.

Also, part of their discussion is they have heard a lot of input from concerned fishermen about the status of dolphin, and, in this case, rather than set the ACL lower, with that buffer under Alternative 3 or 4, that 5 percent buffer or 10 percent buffer, they thought that they would set the annual catch limit at the highest available level and maybe address some of those conservation concerns further down in the document through other actions, either in this amendment or in future amendments, to look at maybe slowing down certain catches in general, and so that's kind of how their discussion revolved around coming to the conclusion of selecting Alternative 2 as preferred.

MR. ROSHER: What I was going to say is -- We're going to get into this further down in the action, where we talk about recreational and commercial, and we'll get more detailed with it later, but the risk I see is let's just use -- For example, fourteen million pounds now, and twenty-four million pounds, when you include Monroe County, I don't think the ten million pounds is what Monroe County is harvesting, and there's some other methodologies that created that extra ten million pounds, but the challenges is, if the commercial ACL grows, those are real numbers. Those guys weigh their fish in, and they are documented. The recreational is still a little fuzzy, with MRIP and trying to estimate what was harvested. We just need to focus on what we're agreeing to, in terms of ACLs, and I'm really appreciating Anna's input here, because she's been such a part of it, and so go ahead, Anna, whenever you can go.

MS. BECKWITH: What I was going to share with you is one of the options that the council will eventually consider as a definition for optimum yield that sort of accounts for this concern that people have that we're trying to get to an unreachable catch level, but the definition would read: Optimum yield is the long-term average catch, which is not to exceed the total annual catch limit, and will fall between the total annual catch limit and the sum of the commercial and recreational annual catch targets.

That basically means like you acknowledge that maybe, potentially, you would go in and say the recreational catch target for dolphin is 50 percent, or 75 percent, or whatever, and that's your soft catch target, and you don't necessarily have to have any accountability measures associated with that, but that's sort of what you're trying to achieve, and, the rest of those fish, you're leaving in the water for abundance and ease of access and sort of interactions and that sort of thing.

That's not going to be considered in this amendment, and it is going to be considered in a different amendment, but I just wanted to share with you guys the fact that we are thinking about that, and we do acknowledge, particularly with dolphinfish, that there is a need to not -- The goal is not for the recreational to catch every fish out there.

MR. REYNOLDS: Thank you for clarifying, Anna. Thank you very much.

MR. ROSHER: Thanks, Anna.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Jon lowered his hand, and so I don't know if that means that he doesn't want to speak now. He had it raised a little while ago.

MR. REYNOLDS: I got what I needed out of that, and I think, if we move forward with every action, it will make sense. All of this will start making sense more for what I was addressing. Thank you.

MR. HADLEY: All right, and I will mention that, just as far as expectations on this, you don't have to have a recommendation for every action. Any input, we'll capture it in the report, as far as think about this perspective and think about that perspective, when deciding which way to go on this. If you feel strongly on which alternative would be the best one, we can certainly make motions here, and we've done that in the past, and I will type those up, but it's certainly up to you, and you don't have to have a recommendation for every action, but, if you do feel strongly, and the AP feels strongly, that they want to recommend certain things to the council, please speak up, and we'll get that on the screen here.

I will move on to Action 2, and we can always come back, unless there's any further questions or discussion points on Action 1, but I'm not seeing any raised hands. All right. Moving along to Action 2, this is a similar action, but we're looking at wahoo instead of dolphin, and so the council is looking at revising the total annual catch limit for dolphin to reflect the updated acceptable biological catch, and, currently, the annual catch limit is set to the existing acceptable biological catch. There again, this uses the old MRIP data, if you will, and it's also not inclusive of Monroe County recreational landings.

The council has selected Alternative 2 as their preferred, similarly, as they did in Action 1, where it would set the total ACL equal to the updated acceptable biological catch that they received from the SSC, and, there again, this would use the new data stream, the new methodology, from MRIP, which it's going to be the same methodology that's applied going forward, and so there's not that concern of the conversion factor, and it has been deemed best available science and suggested by the SSC.

There again, Alternatives 3 and 4 look at providing a little bit of a step-down there between the annual catch limit and the acceptable biological catch. Alternative 3 would set the annual catch limit at 95 percent of the acceptable biological catch, and so, there again, that catch level recommendation from the SSC, and Alternative 4 would set the ACL equal to 90 percent of the acceptable biological catch.

As of now, as I mentioned, the council has selected Preferred Alternative 2, which would set the ACL at the maximum landings at this point, and so it would be equal to the acceptable biological

catch, and I will just show -- Just to orient everyone on what the landings show and how they would -- How the different alternatives would play out in comparison to the recent landings in the fishery, and, here again, wahoo is very much, from a landings perspective and a fishery perspective, dominated by the recreational sector, and you can see the black-dotted lines are recreational landings, and the kind of brown-reddish lines here at the bottom are the commercial landings overall, plotted on the same scale, and then the solid-blue line are total landings for the fishery.

Then the horizontal lines here with the circles, squares, and triangles, show what the different alternatives for the ACLs would be in comparison to recent landings, and so you can see, in most years, the average year for the fishery operates well below any of the annual catch limits that are being proposed in this action. However, there is the exception in recent years, and there was a spike in recreational landings in 2014, 2015, and 2016, and you saw the elevated landings from the recreational sector. However, landings have dropped back down since then, below what would be the new annual catch limits.

Looking at a similar set of tables here, comparing the different ACLs and so this column here on the left to various -- The averages in recent landings, and, if you use the five-year average landings, these ACLs would potentially be restrictive on the fishery, and you're looking at a -- This shows the difference between the ACL and the landings. If you look at the average landings over the past three years, you would have a buffer in there, and the ACL would not be met, or, if you just look at the most recent landings, the most recent landings are well below any of the different alternatives.

Projecting forward, using a five-year average and a three-year average of landings and then the highest landings within that five-year timeframe, and so kind of an extreme scenario, and looking at when the ACL would be met, and this is looking at the total fishery. Looking at Preferred Alternative 2, under the assumption of using the five-year average landings, the ACL would be met sometime in late December, and, using the three-year average, the different ACLs would not be met.

Then, using the highest landings, and so that scenario where the fishery is really operating at its peak, based on recent landings anyway, we're looking at hitting the ACL sometime in late summer or early fall. There again, we're just looking for any comments or recommendations on this action from the AP on -- As I mentioned, the council currently has selected Alternative 2 as preferred, which is set the ACL for wahoo equal to the acceptable biological catch, and, there again, that's kind of that highest level, that highest horizontal line, that you saw in the figure. I will turn it over to the AP.

MR. ROSHER: John, would you like us to see if we want to make any action or recommendation to the council? Is that the next step?

MR. HADLEY: Yes, and, if you have any recommendations or the previous action, and we can go back to it. As I mentioned, the AP doesn't have to provide a recommendation for every one, but, if you feel strongly that one is a preferable alternative, or a preferred action, certainly speak up.

MR. ROSHER: Okay. I think Jon has a comment.

MR. REYNOLDS: Just a general idea of the differences between wahoo and dolphin, I mean, dolphin are a lot more -- You know, they're dumber, and they're easier to target for any fishery, and so I think we need to be more cautious, and there's a lot more effort leaning towards dolphin, whereas wahoo, even with technology growing, and maybe effort spiking some, they're just a lot harder to target, and I think there's a lot less concern for overfishing overall.

I think it's a lot less consistent of the availability of anyone targeting wahoo on a consistent basis with large catches, and so I think more cautious on the side of dolphin and wahoo, and the preferred alternative would probably suit it pretty well, and I don't know if anyone agrees with that, but I just know, from all of my experience and my years of fishing, wahoo are a much harder species to target, in general, on a regular basis, and anyone exerting more effort towards dolphin could probably land more dolphin in an easier fashion.

MR. ROSHER: Don't call my dolphin dumb now. I've seen a few make me scratch my head, but anyways, I think that's correct, Jon. I think there is more challenges in meeting these limits on wahoo. Would you like to make any -- Go ahead, Brice.

MR. BARR: I can agree and disagree with both sides of this. I can tell you one thing that we're seeing in the wahoo fishery bigtime is now an influx of divers, and I don't know if other areas are having the same issues that we're having, but they are pretty easily attaining limits of wahoo on certain days, obviously, when the fish are prolific and when they're there in big schools and whatever.

As far as what the actual what the divers are shooting and actually landing, I think the mortality rate is pretty high on fish that are actually pulling off and getting away and everything else, but I just wanted to bring to your attention that this is a pretty big issue where we are now. We are getting more and more divers that are coming at certain times of the year, on the moons and things like that, and it's getting to where literally it's difficult to even target the wahoo for the divers that are in the water, and there are so many different styles and techniques to attempt to catch these fish, but I think that there is a whole new pressure that's being put on these fish that maybe a lot of people aren't realizing, and I just wanted to bring that back to your attention.

MR. ROSHER: Brice, that's an excellent point, and you're 100 percent right. Those are spawning fish, typically, and a couple of my crew have shot them, and they talk about how many they had to shoot before they were able to retrieve a fish, and I think there's some mortality that doesn't really get talked about, and that happens a lot more in the Keys than it does here in Miami, and so I think that's a great point, and thanks for bringing it up. I think we have another comment from Tim.

MR. SCALISE: Going back to -- I concur with what Jon said, as far as we need to be more cautious with dolphin, and I guess these numbers include the commercial sector, because -- I mean, is there really a commercial fishery for wahoo? I mean, I don't know of any. There is maybe a small amount of bycatch, or people may go trolling, fast trolling, if they have permits to catch them, and I don't know. I would think the spike we saw the wahoo make -- Because I know that, here, participation, i.e., weather, is probably the biggest factor in catching wahoo. I mean, I think they're always there, and we know where they are, but it's just a matter of can you get there, and so that's all I have to say, really.

MR. ROSHER: You're absolutely right, Tim. Jon, I think you had a comment?

MR. REYNOLDS: Thanks. Brice is right. A lot of different species actually this is going on with, with diving and spearfishing, especially in the Keys a lot more, and African pompano is -- Yes, there's a number of other species, and I tend to forget about that sometimes, but I'm glad that Brice brought that up, because, yes, that's true, and this has happened to us a lot recently, and this is why we have these meetings, because everyone refreshes everyone's memory and brings different points.

Historically, you wouldn't ever see that effort, and so I forget about how much it has increased recently, but, just the other day on the wreck, I mean, there was probably half-a-dozen or eight different spear fishermen getting off their boats at wrecks, on different boats, and they were all, on a calm day, trying to target spawning wahoo.

MR. ROSHER: With this in mind, does anybody want to recommend any action to the council? John, it doesn't sound like anybody wants to make a recommendation, and so if you want to move on to the next action.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Chris just raised his hand.

MR. ROSHER: Okay. I didn't see that. Go ahead, Chris.

MR. BURROWS: **I make a motion that we accept the Preferred Alternative 2 on both Action 1 and 2.** I believe that allows us to fish the longest, which is I think all of our goal, ultimately.

MR. ROSHER: John Hadley is typing it up. Thank you.

MR. HADLEY: Does that adequately cover it? You are proposing to endorse the alternative, Alternative 2, for Actions 1 and 2, and so that sets the ABC equal to the ACL.

DR. CHEUVRONT: John, I think I would put in there to endorse Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative. There you go.

MR. HADLEY: All right. We have a motion. Is there anybody that would like to second the motion? I see Harris, and, Harris, I'm assuming that -- If you want to speak up, but I'm assuming that's for a second.

MR. HUDDLE: I will second that motion.

MR. HADLEY: Okay. Great. Ray, this is where we usually have any discussion on the motion, before voting.

MR. ROSHER: Is there any discussion or any questions or thoughts? Go ahead, Jon.

MR. REYNOLDS: I would agree with this as long as -- I don't know how we would put this in there, but as long as we have the council understand what we talked about earlier too and landings that were not -- Especially with dolphin, that abundance is more important and that we're not trying

to raise landings, and this is only so that we're not going to shut down a fishery during a season, is the objective of this, I guess is what everyone is saying, but we're going to have to have other actions and alternatives that are going to address large landings, if we're going to do this.

MR. ROSHER: Jon, one thing we've done in the past, in certain circumstances, is have a -- Kind of a notification if we reach 70, 80, or 90 percent of a limit, and that helps extend a season, by a reduction in a daily limit, and that's just a thought, and I don't know if that's worth talking about at this point, but there are ways to not just come up against a wall and say it's over. John, what's the right terminology, or Anna?

MR. HADLEY: So giving a little bit of kind of a buffer there, and I will mention that we're going to get into discussions of the accountability measures, and I think that would be really helpful in that discussion, because the council is -- Again, we'll get into this, into the details of this, but the council is looking at ways to avoid an in-season closure, but, if the brakes need to be put on the fishery, where you want -- You know, you don't want to overfish the stock, and what are they looking at doing, and so that could be one of the measures that they consider within that, and we will be discussing that.

To Jon's other point, I just wanted to mention that I am taking notes on the discussion, and the points on dolphin and the points on wahoo -- When this report is made from the AP, there will be -- Those notes will be included, in addition to the motion, and so the motion is not the only thing that the council will see. If there are different opinions on something, or if just the council should consider X, Y, and Z for dolphin versus wahoo, as you discussed, that will be captured in the report, but the motion really shows -- The motion shows the AP's preference overall, and so I hope that makes sense, but there will be comments, and then the motion is kind of the preference.

MR. ROSHER: That sounds good. Thanks, John. Do we want to take a vote on this motion, and then we can get into more details later?

MR. HADLEY: We can take a vote on this, and just to mention to everyone that, since we're not in the room, not everyone can raise their hand, and so it's not visual, and the way that we'll try to -- The way that we'll pass motions is initially Ray can call for a consensus vote, and so essentially call for opposition. If there is no opposition, then that motion will be approved, but, if you are opposed to it, feel free to speak up, and then, if there is opposition to a motion, I will go through and call each person's name, each AP member on the webinar, and you can give a yea or nay vote. That's just the way we'll handle motions over the webinar. With that, I will turn it back over to you, Ray.

MR. ROSHER: Okay. I guess we want to just see if we have any opposition to this motion, and no opposition would result in a unanimous vote. **Is there any opposition?**

MR. HADLEY: I am not seeing any hands raised.

MR. ROSHER: I don't see any.

MR. HADLEY: **All right, and so that motion will stand approved.** Moving along into -- We're jumping out of the annual catch limits for the fishery as a whole, and we're discussing the specifics

of how that annual catch limit will be divided up between the recreational and commercial sectors, and so look at sector allocations, and just keeping in mind that there is two moving parts to this.

One is the percent, and so that's the allocation of the total ACL, and the other is what that percent ends up being in pounds, and so there's two sides to that, and I will demonstrate that a little bit further down in the document, but, currently, if the council were to take no action, the existing 90 percent to the recreational and 10 percent to the commercial sector split would occur, and it would apply to the preferred alternative in Action 1, and so that new ACL.

The council is looking at different alternatives, and, in doing so, they wanted to look at alternatives that would potentially keep the commercial sector where it is on a pound basis, but they didn't want to look at any alternatives that would reduce the commercial sector allocation. Part of that discussion is not penalizing, so to speak, the commercial sector for a new accounting of recreational landings, and so that's the council's approach that they took to both dolphin and wahoo. In this action, we're looking at the sector allocations for dolphin specifically.

Alternative 2 would change the allocation to 93.75 percent to the recreational sector and 6.25 percent to the commercial sector, and this is based on approximately maintaining the commercial where it is on a pound basis and then allocating of the revised annual catch -- The rest of the revised annual catch limit to the recreational sector, and so that's how it would break down on a percent basis.

The council initially wanted to examine two other alternatives sort of in between the Alternatives 1 and 2, and Alternative 3 would allocate 93 percent of the ACL for dolphin to the recreational sector and 7 percent to the commercial sector, and Alternative 4 would allocate 92 percent of the ACL for dolphin to the recreational sector and 8 percent to the commercial sector.

Looking at how this would play out, the various ACLs are shown here in Table 8, and so you're looking at a twenty-two to twenty-three-million-pound ACL for the recreational sector and approximately 1.5 to 2.5-million-pound ACL for the commercial sector, on a pound basis, depending on the alternative that is chosen.

In Table 9, it shows how the commercial sector ACL would change on a pound basis under the different alternatives that the council is considering. If they took no action and applied the new total ACL to the existing allocation, the commercial sector ACL would increase by approximately 900,000 pounds. Under Alternative 2, the commercial ACL would slightly increase, by approximately 1,000 pounds, and that should be zero, but it isn't, due to rounding errors, and we can only go out to two decimal points on these allocations, and so it's never exactly zero, but it's approximately -- The ACL for the commercial sector would stay approximately the same under Alternative 2. Alternative 3, the commercial ACL would increase by approximately 185,000 pounds, and, in Alternative 4, the commercial ACL would increase by approximately 431,000 pounds.

A look on how these different sector allocations would play out in comparison to recent landings, and so you're looking at landings over the past ten years, and the dotted line here shows those landings. In Figure 3, it's for the recreational sector specifically and then the different potential alternatives, and you can see they are stacked fairly close together, but, in most years, the recreational landings are well below any of the proposed alternatives, with the exception of that

one year in 2015, where there was a spike, but, usually, there's approximately a five -- About a five-million-plus-pound buffer between recreational landings and what the new ACLs would be.

Figure 4 switches over to the commercial sector, and this shows the commercial landings in comparison to the different alternatives that the council is considering for dolphin, and, here again, all of the alternatives are above the commercial landings over the past ten years, regardless of the alternative that would be chosen by the council.

With that, it's no surprise, if you look at how the landings stack up against the different sector allocations and sector ACLs, using a three-year, five-year, or a maximum landings scenario, if you use a three-year or five-year landings, neither the commercial or recreational sector is expected to meet the ACL. If you use that kind of maximum landings scenario, and so those exceptional years within the past five years of landings data, the commercial sector still is not anticipated to meet its ACL. However, the recreational sector, there again, using that maximum landings scenario, would meet the sector ACL sometime in late September or early October. Here again, we're looking for any recommendations from the AP, or comments, and the council has not selected preferred alternatives here, and, with that, I will turn it over to the AP to discuss.

MR. ROSHER: Does anybody have any questions or comments? Jon.

MR. REYNOLDS: I would definitely lean towards Alternative 2. I mean, just in recent years, we've already raised the commercial ACL on dolphin, and this was just a few years back, but, historically, it was always at about a million pounds, 1.1 million pounds, and we've already raised it another 400,000 pounds in recent years, and so I think we're trying to stay away, in the dolphin fishery at least, from additional harvest and be more conservation minded, for additional harvest from either sector, and so that's why we're talking about ACTs and buffers in the recreational sector, and we don't want to harvest more, necessarily, but we want more abundance in the water, and our vision for the fishery, what we're trying to visualize this fishery looking like and its socioeconomic importance and everything else, and I don't know if there's any other alternative that would be reasonable.

MR. ROSHER: Thanks, Jon. Chris, if we can get your comment.

MR. BURROWS: Jon, I agree with you there. I think the problem is, if you increase the commercial sector allocation, at some point, we've got to bring the idea of trips back to the table, because we're having an issue with localized depletion in North Carolina, and I think Jay Kavanagh can speak more to that effect, and he's seeing it a lot more than I am, but I think, if we increase any sector allocation, or the commercial sector allocation, without any kind of a measure to limit these trips, you're doing a lot of damage to the charter boat industry, especially in the springtime.

MR. ROSHER: Sounds good. Thank you. Anna, did you have a thought?

MS. BECKWITH: I just wanted to point out that the historic cap was actually 1.5 million pounds for the commercial, and that's what was in the original FMP, and the increase that we did, whatever amount of years back, was sort of to bring them back up, officially, to that historic cap, and so Alternative 2 does maintain that, and so that's a totally fine choice, but I just wanted to make sure that, for the record, that the historic cap was always 1.5 million for the commercial.

MR. ROSHER: Thank you for that reminder. Jay, you had a comment?

MR. KAVANAGH: Yes, we do see some localized depletion, and, usually in May, when we see the first waves of gaffers come through, and my belief is it's from longline pressure. They don't usually catch their quota, and their catch data, overall, is not really -- It doesn't reflect this, because they target the first waves of the large fish, and so the overall catch data does not really reflect -- It doesn't show this localized depletion, but we do experience it, yes.

MR. ROSHER: Thanks for that. Any other comments or thoughts before we make a motion, or, if you guys want to make a motion, you can. Go ahead, Jon.

MR. REYNOLDS: **I will make a motion to choose Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative of choice, or however we want to word that. Choose Alternative 2 in Action 3.**

MR. HADLEY: Is that choose Alternative 2 as the preferred in Action 3, and does that read okay?

MR. REYNOLDS: That looks good to me.

MR. ROSHER: Okay, and if anybody wants to second that.

MR. BURROWS: I will second it.

MR. ROSHER: Okay. We have Chris. **Any opposition or thoughts on this motion?** Now would be a good time.

DR. CHEUVRONT: I am not seeing any raised hands or discussion.

MR. ROSHER: **All right, and so we'll take that as unanimous approval.**

MR. HADLEY: All right. The motion passes, assuming there is no opposition, and we're not seeing any hands raised in opposition. We will move along to the next action, and this is a similar action, and so we're looking at sector allocations, but specifically for wahoo, instead of dolphin. Here again, the current sector allocation, and so if the council took no action, the current sector allocation is 96.07 percent to the recreational sector and 3.93 percent to the commercial sector.

The council, again, has three additional alternatives that they are considering beyond the no action alternative. Alternative 2 looks at using the landings within the fishery between 1994 and 2007, and the reason that those years were chosen is those are the years that were examined by the SSC when setting the acceptable biological catch, the ABC, and so, if the council used this same set of years to set the sector allocations, it would end up with 96.35 percent of the ACL for wahoo going to the recreational sector and 3.65 percent of the ACL for wahoo going to the commercial sector, and that's for Alternative 2.

Alternative 3 uses the rationale of maintaining the current commercial annual catch limit on a pound basis, and so the idea is to not change the commercial ACL very much anyway and keep it the same, make it remain in place, and then allocate the revised additional ACL to the recreational sector. This would result in 97.55 percent of the ACL going to the recreational sector and 2.45

percent of the ACL going to the commercial sector, and so, there again, while the sector allocation, on a percent basis, is decreasing for the commercial sector, on a pound basis, it would remain approximately the same.

Then Alternative 4 would allocate 97 percent of the ACL for the recreational sector and 3 percent of the ACL to the commercial sector. There again, this is just based on the council's intent to explore alternatives for sector allocations that don't decrease the current pounds available to either sector, with the kind of discussion of not penalizing, so to speak, the commercial sector for a difference in accounting of recreational landings, and so that's Alternative 4.

Looking at how these would play out on a pound basis, you have the -- In Table 12, you have the sector ACLs, ranging from approximately 2.7 to a little over 2.8 million pounds for the recreational sector and approximately 70,000 pounds to upwards of 113,000 pounds for the commercial sector. If you look specifically at the commercial sector, and this is in Table 13, under Alternative 1, the commercial sector annual catch limit would increase by approximately 43,000 pounds. Under Alternative 2, it would increase by approximately 35,000 pounds, and Alternative 3 would change by 148 pounds, and, there again, that's fairly close to zero, and we can't get it exactly to zero, due to rounding issues, but it's the idea of maintaining it relatively where it is right now and allocate the remaining ACL to the recreational sector. Then Alternative 4 would increase the commercial sector ACL by 16,000 pounds.

This is a similar set of figures as you saw for dolphin, but for wahoo. Figure 5 looks at recreational wahoo landings over the past ten years, and you can see that all of the alternatives are stacked pretty tight there, pretty close together, just due to the axis, and you're looking at a zero to five-million-pound axis here, and so they're pretty close together, but, under most years, the commercial fishery, or the recreational fishery rather, for wahoo has operated under what would be the new ACLs for wahoo, with the exception of that spike in landings in 2015, 2016, and 2017, and, afterwards, the landings have dropped down below what would be the new ACLs.

Figure 6 shows the commercial landings over the past ten years of wahoo, and all of the alternatives being considered are above recent commercial landings, with the exception of Alternative 3, and, there again, that looks at maintaining the commercial ACL at its current level, on a pound basis, and, in most years, the commercial fishery operates below an ACL, with the exception of 2019, where it was slightly above.

This is a similar set of projections. As we saw before, using how these different annual catch limits, sector annual catch limits, would stack up against average landings or maximum landings in recent years, using a five-year average or a three-year average, and the commercial sector ACLs would not be expected to be met. If you take that maximum landings scenario, under most alternatives, it still would not be met by the commercial side, with the exception of Alternative 3, where, if you use that maximum landings scenario, it would have been met on November 23.

For the recreational sector, and so this bottom portion here on the table, add them to the five-year average -- If you use the five-year average landings, the sector ACLs, the new sector ACLs, would be met. However, it's relatively late in the year, and you're looking at towards the end of December. If you use the assumption of the past three years, and so a three-year average, then the landings would not be -- The recreational sector would not meet its annual catch limit, and then, again, if you take that maximum landings scenario, and so where the fishery is operating at its

peak, at least in recent years, the ACL would have been met sometime in mid-September. It's a similar situation here, and we're looking for comments or recommendations on the action, and this covers sector allocations for wahoo. I will turn it over to the AP.

MR. ROSHER: Does anybody have any comments or thoughts or questions on these actions?

DR. CHEUVRONT: I am not seeing any hands just yet.

MR. ROSHER: Go ahead, Jon.

MR. REYNOLDS: Just kind of echoing what we just went through, I don't think there's any reason to try to increase harvest, that I know of, and I don't know what direct fisheries are with wahoo, and so I would think Alternative 3 would keep it where it is landings-wise, and that would make the most sense.

MR. ROSHER: Would you like to make a motion to that effect?

MR. REYNOLDS: Okay. **In Action 4, choose Alternative 3 as the preferred alternative.**

MR. ROSHER: Thanks for that, John. Any seconds?

MR. BURROWS: Second.

MR. ROSHER: **Any opposition on this choice? I think, John, we can say this passes.**

MR. HADLEY: All right. Seeing no opposition, this motion is approved. All right. Ray, I don't know. Do we want to keep going, or do you want to take a short break?

MR. ROSHER: It's up to you guys.

MR. HADLEY: What do you guys think? Would you like to take a short break or keep moving through?

MR. REYNOLDS: I'm okay to keep moving through.

UNIDENTIFIED: Yes, let's keep going.

MR. ROSHER: Okay.

MR. HADLEY: All right. We're keep rocking and rolling. Thank you for that, and so we're going to switch gears here, and this is probably the biggest brain teaser of this amendment, and this is something that's had a lot of discussion, and we're going to talk about the recreational accountability measures for both dolphin and wahoo, and so that's the next set of four actions.

Just keeping in mind that the accountability measures are meant as a way to prevent overfishing and sort of put the brakes on a fishery to keep a species from becoming overfished and depleting a stock. These kick in in years that you have -- When the fishery is operating under elevated landings, and so they're not scenarios that -- They're not permanent management measures that

happen year after year after year. They are meant to put the brakes on, so to speak, if needed, with the intent of keeping a sector within its sector allocation, and the end intent is maintaining the stock long-term, and so, with that thought in mind, the way that -- I mentioned earlier that the way that the council is addressing this is looking at the trigger, and so what would trigger the accountability measure and then specify what the actual accountability measure would be.

With that, Action 5 looks at the trigger for the accountability measure for dolphin, and I should mention that the council's intent is to not have an in-season accountability measure for the recreational sector. For the commercial sector, there is an in-season closure when the ACL is met, and that would be maintained, going forward, for both dolphin and wahoo. For these actions, we're looking specifically at the recreational sector, and the council has determined that they don't want to have in-season closures, or any in-season measures, as an accountability measure, and they want to look at post-season, and so, basically, the following fishing year, what would happen if the recreational sector exceeded its ACL.

Really, one of the main reasons they're looking at this is that the recreational sector does not have a viable accountability measure for dolphin or wahoo at the moment, and it really stems around some language in the accountability measure that says the accountability measure will only take place if the species is deemed overfished.

Dolphin and wahoo do not have stock assessments, and so, in that case, there's not really a mechanism there to make them change to an overfished status, and, since that's not the case, there is no way that the accountability measure would ever be put in place, and so it's not necessarily viable, and so that's what the council has been working through with these accountability measures.

Currently, under the no action alternative, if the recreational ACL is met, then, during the following fishing year, the recreational landings are monitored for the persistence in increased landings. If the annual catch limit is exceeded, then there will be a reduction in the fishing season the following year and as well as a reduction in the ACL overage, and so sort of a payback provision there.

The council didn't really want to have any sort of payback provision for dolphin or wahoo for the recreational or commercial sector really, and so they didn't consider -- They're not considering that going forward, and, there again, they were looking at a post-season accountability measure, however not including that overfished status language, because that's kind of the crux of the issue and what they're trying to address at the moment.

So they've come up with a series of alternatives for what would trigger the recreational accountability measure, and so Alternative 2 looks at a three-year mean of landings, where, if the three-year mean of recreational landings exceeds what the recreational sector ACL -- Where it is set, then that would be the trigger for the accountability measure to go into place, and so, in Alternative 2, you're looking at a three-year geometric mean, and a so three-year average, essentially, of landings.

Alternative 3 looks at the trigger for the accountability measure occurring if you look at the summed total of landings for the past three years for the recreational sector and compare that to the summed total of the ACL, and so essentially, if the summed total of the landings exceeds the

summed total of the past three years for the recreational ACL, then the accountability measure would be put in place.

Alternative 4, the trigger would be if the recreational sector exceeds its ACL in any two of the previous three fishing years or if it happens to exceed the total annual acceptable biological catch in any single year. Alternative 5, the trigger would if the total annual catch limit is exceeded, and so the combined commercial and recreational landings are in excess of the annual catch limit, then the AM, accountability measure, would go into place. Last, but not least, Alternative 6 is, if the recreational sector exceeded its sector annual catch limit, sector allocation, then, in the following year, an accountability measure would go into place.

Really, those are the major triggers that the council is considering. Some of the discussion has centered around how to address those single years of increased landings that we've seen. You know, you saw that, if you recall, that spike, that 2015 spike. However, in recreational landings for dolphin that we saw, it didn't take place in future years, and so how to accommodate that one year without, quote, unquote, penalizing the fishery, but you still need to have a viable accountability measure in place. With that, I will turn it over to the AP for any questions on these or any clarifying comments, and I would certainly welcome any recommendations on which one of these triggers for the accountability measures would be preferable.

MR. ROSHER: Any thoughts or questions? Jay, go ahead.

MR. KAVANAGH: I would say definitely one of the alternatives that takes multiple years into account, and we've experienced it in recreational fishing, that we have a really, really great year on the fish, and then the year before and the year after may be much less abundant, and so I would say that Alternative 2, that incorporates a three-year geometric mean, or some of the other ones that I read that take into account more than one year.

MR. ROSHER: I've seen the same thing, and I think that was 2015, when the commercial quota was met at the end of June, and I thought for sure the next year was going to be fantastic, and it was just an average year. Go ahead, Jon.

MR. REYNOLDS: I was going to pretty much say what Jay said, and so I think he captured everything that I was going to say.

MR. ROSHER: Okay. Does anybody want to make a motion or take any action?

MR. HADLEY: I will say that what I've written down for this is -- The discussion is centered around focusing on those multiyear triggers.

MR. ROSHER: Do you think that's sufficient to present that to the council, or should there be a motion?

MR. HADLEY: I think that's helpful. It helps narrow them down, but, if you want to -- If the AP wants to make a motion, absolutely, and we can select a series of alternatives, or, if you prefer one alternative over the other, if one really stands out, we can look at that as well, but that's the guidance that I have for now, is to consider the multiyear alternatives.

MR. ROSHER: Okay. Anna, any thoughts from your perspective?

MS. BECKWITH: No, and this is a tough one for us as well, and so we were definitely interested in seeing what the AP had to offer.

MR. ROSHER: Okay. Thank you. Is the AP satisfied with just the notes being given to the council, or does anybody have a thought for a specific alternative that they would like to make a motion for?

MR. HADLEY: I am not seeing any raised hands, and so, unless anyone has a desire to pass a motion, I can move along, and we can always come back to this too, if you get down the road and if you feel like let's go back to that, and now this makes sense, or that makes sense, and we can always come back to it, and, as I said, I do have -- That's the information that will be passed forward to the council.

MR. ROSHER: Okay. Thank you, John.

MR. HADLEY: Okay. Thank you for that. We looked at the triggers, and so what would trigger the accountability measure, the exceptional years of the fishery, and Action 6 moves into specifying what is the actual accountability measure for dolphin, and so what would take place as that post-season AM if you hit that trigger.

The council has a series of alternatives here that they're examining, the first being Alternative 2. In the following year, the fishing season would be reduced by the amount necessary to prevent the annual catch limit from being exceeded. I will mention that all of these preserve this language that says along the lines of, however, the accountability measure, essentially, would not go into place if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best available science, that it is not necessary.

The council wanted to preserve that language for each one of these accountability measures, in case there is some noted anomaly in the data that is well specified that there could be an exception there, and so that's the reason that you see this language at the very end. However, the recreational season will not be reduced if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best available science, that it is not necessary, and you see that repeated over and over again, but that's what the council wanted to do. They wanted to preserve that language, in case there is something odd going on with the data.

Alternative 2 focuses on reducing the recreational fishing season to maintain the recreational annual catch limit. Alternative 3 would look at reducing the bag limit in the following fishing season to prevent the annual catch limit from being exceeded, and Alternative 4 would look at reducing the vessel limit the following season, to prevent the ACL from being exceeded, and Alternative 5 is sort of a hybrid of these, and this is something new that the council discussed quite a bit in September, and this is a variation of what they discussed kind of in an alternative form, but what they were looking to do here is, there again, they are trying to prevent a total closure in the fishery, with the idea that a reduction in the bag limit, or a reduction in the vessel limit, is preferable to a total closure where there is no harvest allowed, and so they're trying to prevent that.

However, they do need to prevent overfishing and maintain the long-term viability of the stock, and so that's what they're thinking in Alternative 5, is that there wouldn't be anything that goes

into place -- The accountability measure is triggered, and there wouldn't be anything that goes into place, but, if it looks like the landings are still elevated, and are projected to meet the sector ACL, a reduction for the bag limit and/or a reduction for the vessel limit would be implemented to maintain the recreational sector ACL during that fishing season, and, if necessary, if that wasn't enough, then there would be a shortening of the season, and so it would be closed sometime before December 31.

Those are the -- It varies a little bit, and we'll get into it again with wahoo, and it's slightly different, but the concept here is monitoring landings, and, if need be, that the bag limit and vessel limit would be reduced to prevent the recreational sector from exceeding its ACL, and, again, this would only take place for one year. Assuming the recreational sector stayed within its ACL the following year, it would kind of reset, and things would go back to normal.

With that, I went through the different alternatives, and I had a few additional questions here and requests of the advisory panel, and so the council -- In a couple of these alternatives, or, in three of the alternatives, they are considering a bag limit reduction, a vessel limit reduction, or a combination of that.

In doing so, if the council chooses an alternative that will reduce the bag limit as part of the accountability measure for dolphin, is there a minimum number that should be specified, and so, in other words, the bag limit will not go below X number of fish. The way it's stated now, it could be anywhere from maintain it at ten fish per person all the way down to one fish per person, and is there something in the middle that, really, people can live with and that the bag limit really shouldn't go below that number, keeping in mind that this is a single-year provision and just preventing the fishery from going over its sector ACL and just preventing long-term overfishing.

Similarly, if the council chooses an alternative that would reduce the vessel limit as part of the AM, is there a number of fish that the council shouldn't go -- Is there a number of fish that the vessel limit shouldn't go below overall, and so, out of the bag limit reduction and vessel limit reduction, is one more palatable than the other? Then, really, does the AP have any other comments or recommendations? With that, I will scroll back up to the alternatives and turn it over to the AP.

MR. ROSHER: This obviously is getting into the meat and potatoes, and so any comments? Go ahead, Jon.

MR. REYNOLDS: Thanks. I mean, nothing seems real scary here with the way the wording is, and I think mostly, if I was going to suggest anything, and, from what I've heard from all the guys I know, for the most part, a vessel limit would probably be more preferred, I guess, just to reduce any really large catches overall, and I don't know. Going below, I think that would be more of a discussion for the whole AP, where we would want to be, where we never had a bottom line or something like that, and so, in this action, I guess Alternative 4. In the previous action, maybe, as these go together, and you see them both, now I would probably be on Alternative 2, and then Alternative 4 here, and that's just the way I feel.

MR. ROSHER: Thanks, Jon. Jay, did you have a comment?

MR. KAVANAGH: Part of my reason for being here is dolphin is probably single most important fish to my business, and that being said. Bailer dolphin are probably the single most important fish for us during the tourist season, July and August, that's what we catch, and we catch a lot of them. That being said, our limit, our current limit, of sixty is around 200 pounds of fish, and so, any time me and my fellow North Carolina fishermen, charter fishermen, hear of any action like this, everyone starts to freak out, and so, that being said, our business is dependent upon the ability to catch a large catch of bailer dolphin in the summertime. That's all I have.

MR. ROSHER: I got a couple of phone calls, and so I know where you're coming from, and I am obviously sympathetic to the charter -- The challenges of charter fishing, and I'm a big fan of the revenue that charter fishing brings. There is so many facets to charter fishing that are important, and one of those facets is tourism, but another one is developing interest with new fishermen, and so a lot of people that today own boats started out chartering a boat and having a good time, and so I feel you, and I know that that's an important point. Anyway, thanks for your comments, and Anna has some comments. Go ahead, Anna.

MS. BECKWITH: I actually want you guys to finish your discussion on this, but, before moving on to the next action, I want to sort of circle back to this point, but I want you guys to finish this discussion before I introduce something different.

MR. ROSHER: Okay. Keep in mind that there are provisions for different regulations in various regions, and so you guys might think about that in terms of a motion, where you can preserve one standard in a certain area and another standard in another, and this is -- I mean, this meeting is about interchanging ideas, and so whoever wants to think about how to manage this situation is invited to speak up. Go ahead, Jon.

MR. REYNOLDS: I don't know how Jay feels. I mean, overall, we're talking about three years of -- This would only be -- Accountability measures would only go into place with three years of exceeding the ABC, and, if we're already moving for preferred alternatives and increasing the ABC, with the new MRIP numbers, the likelihood of that is pretty low, and then something would only go into place if determined, and a reduction in vessel limit, and so I don't know how fearful we need to be of any of this even going into place, really, but I guess, if I was going to suggest anything, maybe a reduction in the vessel limit only, if this ever even went through, after three years of exceeding an ABC, and I don't know what Jay thought about that, or the guys up the way.

MR. ROSHER: We can also circle back, as John Hadley as mentioned. If you guys want to dig a little deeper into this matter, and maybe circle back to it, you can, or, if you want to make a recommendation that's unique to a region, Jay, you can do that, or we can move on, and I think we're going to talk in more detail in the future here soon.

MS. BECKWITH: I am going to save my comments for when we discuss the vessel limits and the bag limits, and so I will restrain myself for now.

MR. ROSHER: Okay. Thanks, Anna. All right. Well, if the AP would like to make any recommendations, now is a good time, and, like I said, if we want to hold off until we digest more of it, then we can do that too, and so whatever you guys would like to do.

MR. HADLEY: I am not seeing any raised hands, and so I will take that as a note to move forward.

MR. ROSHER: Okay.

MR. HADLEY: There again, we could always come back to it. All right. In Actions 7 and 8, we're looking at the same trigger and specifying the trigger and specifying the accountability measure, but this time for wahoo instead of dolphin. Action 7 would revise the trigger for the post-season recreational accountability measures for dolphin. Here again, you have the crux of the issue is that there is a stipulation that the species must be overfished before the accountability measure would go into place. Since we don't have a stock assessment for wahoo, we're in the same boat as dolphin, where you essentially have an AM that is not viable, the way it's currently written, and so that's what the council is really trying to tackle here.

Much the same as with dolphin, the council is trying to avoid any in-season closures or any in-season changes for that year, and so they're specifying only post-season accountability measures, and so what would take place after, in the following fishing year, after the accountability measure was triggered.

Alternatives 2 through 6 are the same as you saw for dolphin, and Alternative 2 looks at a three-year geometric mean, and so a three-year average, essentially, of landings, and it compares that to the annual catch limit, and, if that average exceeded -- If that three-year geometric mean exceeded the annual catch limit for the recreational sector, then the AM would go into place.

Alternative 3 uses the summed total of the past three years of recreational landings and compares that the summed total of the past three years of the recreational sector annual catch limits. If the landings are exceeded, the annual catch limits, then the AM would be triggered. Alternative 4 is the trigger would be, if the recreational sector exceeded the annual catch limit in two of the previous three years, or the total annual catch limit was exceeded in any single year, the accountability measure would be triggered.

Alternative 5 is, if the total ACL was triggered, and so that's the recreational and commercial combined, then the accountability measure would be triggered. Then Alternative 6 is, if the recreational sector exceeded its ACL, then, in the following year, the accountability measure would go into place. I don't know if there are any additional comments on that or if the AP would prefer that I move on to the accountability measure itself. I will pause here for any input.

I am not seeing any hands, and so I will that as a cue to move along to look at what the AM, the accountability measures, themselves would be, and, there again, this is for wahoo. Action 8 specifies what the post-season recreational accountability measure would be. Alternative 2 would reduce the length of the fishing season by the amount necessary to -- The recreational sector would remain within the sector annual catch limit. Alternative 3 would reduce the bag limit the following year, to prevent the ACL from being exceeded, and there's not a whole lot of wiggle room for wahoo, and, essentially, you drop to one fish per person, just for that year. Assuming the recreational sector stayed within the ACL, then it would be set to two the following year.

Alternative 4 would implement a vessel limit for wahoo, to prevent the ACL from being exceeded, and, there again, this is looking at a single year provision. If the ACL wasn't exceeded, you would go back to having no vessel limit for the recreational sector, and then new Alternative 5, and this is another alternative that the council discussed quite a bit at the September meeting, and this

differs a little bit from dolphin, in that, if the accountability measure was triggered, there would be a reduction in the bag limit, or there would be an implementation of the vessel limit at the beginning of the fishing year.

In doing so, landings would continue to be monitored, and, if it was projected that the sector ACL was still going to be exceeded under that bag limit, reduced bag limit, or vessel limit, then the recreational fishing season would be reduced by the amount necessary to prevent the ACL from being exceeded. There again, kind of a step-wise process, where you have the season closure as the final option. You're looking at, as I mentioned, a bag limit and/or a vessel limit reduction.

There's a similar set of questions here as there were for dolphin, and, as I mentioned, there's not much wiggle room in the bag limits, and it's two per person, and it could go down to one, but, for a vessel limit -- There is not a vessel limit, currently, and so, if the council does choose an alternative that would implement a vessel limit as part of the accountability measure, is there kind of a minimum number that should be specified? In other words, the vessel limit will not go below a certain number of fish. Out of the bag limit reduction versus a vessel limit reduction, is one more palatable than the other, or preferred over the other, and I'm looking for any other AP comments or recommendations on Action 8, in general, and I will scroll back up to the alternatives.

MR. ROSHER: Any comments from the AP or questions? Jon, go ahead.

MR. REYNOLDS: I just wanted to say, and the council has their plate full all the time, and I don't know how much they need to really address these two actions, and I know if they could consider removing them, and I don't know if that's an option, but just from the perspective of -- I mean, you can have a big day of wahoo fishing, at least where we are, and, if you caught ten wahoo, that would be a pretty big day, as far as we're concerned.

Most of the time, you're going to catch a few and part off a few, for what your customers are capable of landing in the wahoo category, large wahoo, and they are more challenging to target, and so, if we were going to shoot for a vessel limit or something that had to go into place here, I guess I would say a minimum of maybe eight or ten wahoo or something like that would sound okay, as far as I'm concerned.

MR. ROSHER: I agree with you, Jon. Any thoughts, Anna, on what Jon had to say?

MS. BECKWITH: Well, there are some reasons we're doing this, and the current accountability measures are not really considered valid, and they talk about only going into place when the species is overfished, and, since we don't have stock assessments on dolphinfish, for example, that basically means that it would never be listed as overfished. National Marine Fisheries Service has basically asked us to update our accountability measures to be in line with the requirements of the MSA.

MR. ROSHER: Go ahead, Jon.

MR. REYNOLDS: That makes sense, and I totally understand that. Well, if you guys are going to be moving forward, and that really makes sense why you would probably have to move forward then with no stock assessment, and I would probably recommend, I don't know, eight wahoo, minimum, or something like that, on a vessel limit.

MR. ROSHER: Anybody in the Carolinas have a thought? I remember, years ago, getting some feedback from some of the charter guys in the Carolinas along these lines that you mentioned, Jay, on the dolphin fishing. You know, it's more expensive to book boats up there, and you've got to be able to satisfy your customers, and so now is a good time for any thoughts. If there is no thoughts -- Brice, do you have a comment?

MR. BARR: I do, and, again, I have filled a couple of you guys in on what's going on with me, and I'm actually dealing with my father in the hospital right now, and so I've been in and out, and I've been listening and participating as much as I can, but, Ray, we're talking about the limits on wahoo right now, and is that what we're talking about?

MR. ROSHER: Right, and they're just considering a couple of options to reduce the bag limit or a vessel limit, implement a vessel limit. There is no implemented vessel limit now.

MR. BARR: Understood, and so I would just like to reiterate what I said earlier about the divers and some of the things that we're dealing with, and, not to hammer the same point over and over, but just trying to make the AP and the council realize that the divers -- We are seeing divers jump in boats with center consoles with ten to twelve people on them, with the two person thing, and they're taking quite a few fish out of the water, and, again, the mortality rate on the ones that are getting away, with the carts of fish that they're bringing to the dock, and I don't know.

I mean, I would feel like what Jon said, the ten fish boat limit, would be a pretty acceptable thing. I feel like, if you catch ten wahoo in a day, your clients are going to be more than happy, but the divers are taking a pretty substantial amount, when they can. Again, it's not an everyday thing, and it's on the moon with certain conditions and so on, but there are capabilities to take pretty big numbers of fish out of the water in a day.

MR. ROSHER: Thanks for your comments, Brice. If anybody wants to make a motion, now is a good time. If you would like to move over this and come back to it, if you would like, we can do that, too.

MR. HADLEY: All right. I'm not seeing any hands. I made some notes, based on the discussion, and I will include that in the report, but, there again, we can always come back to it if you feel strongly and you want to make a motion or add anything else to these accountability measures, and I know that these are tough ones, and it's kind of -- The council needs to address these, since there isn't a viable accountability measure, and the Magnuson-Stevens Act says that we need to have a viable accountability measure, and so that's what the directive sort of is for the council, so to speak, and just keeping in mind that these would be temporary measures, and these are just -- The idea is something to put the brakes on the fishery and prevent the resource from being depleted in the long term, and so that, there again, the kind of temporary nature of accountability measures.

As we have seen, for both dolphin and wahoo, you tend to have an elevation in landings, but the fishery eventually goes back to, quote, unquote, normal overall, and so that's the scenario that we're talking about here, is those years of exceptional landings and what would be done.

MR. ROSHER: Chris, you have a comment?

MR. BURROWS: I am not ready to make a motion on any of these alternatives, but, for six and for eight, I just feel like a reduction of the vessel limit is probably -- These are great, but a reduction of the vessel limit is probably the way to do that, rather than reducing the following recreational season. Again, just to keep people fishing.

MR. ROSHER: Good thought. Thank you for that. If you can reflect that in your notes, John.

MR. HADLEY: I'm writing as we speak.

MR. ROSHER: I think that's going to be sufficient.

MR. HADLEY: Okay. If there are no further comments on the accountability measures, we're going to switch gears again to the final set of actions that look at kind of various management revisions for the dolphin and wahoo fishery. I will move along here, and so Action 9 -- This looks at allowing properly-permitted commercial vessels with trap, pot, or buoy gear onboard that are not authorized for use in the dolphin wahoo fishery to possess commercial quantities of dolphin and wahoo.

As a little bit of background on this, you did review this at your 2017 meeting, and I will go over the AP's recommendations, to see if you're still comfortable with that, and it's changed a little bit since then. The initial ask came from actually New England lobster fishermen, in that they were catching -- They were catching dolphin by rod-and-reel, when they are going between sets, and they're under some of their high-flyers and that sort of thing, and they were keeping these dolphin, but lobster pots are not an authorized gear in the fishery, and so you have automatic reel, bandit gear, handline, pelagic longline, rod-and-reel, and spearfishing gear. That's the list of allowable gears.

Currently, if you have any other gear onboard, you're not supposed to possess dolphin or wahoo, and so apparently one of these fishermen had been informed by law enforcement at the dock that, technically, you're not supposed to have these onboard, and so that's where this request originally came from. The council has discussed this quite a bit, and they want to address the concerns from the American lobster fishermen, since it's a relatively low-catch fishery, and they're using rod-and-reels, but they also wanted to kind of encompass any other gears that are typically used in federal waters, and looking at comprehensively trap, pot, and buoy gear, and so trap gear and pot gear, obviously, is not used for catching dolphin or wahoo, but people do -- There are some people like to possess dolphin or wahoo when these gears are onboard.

The council added buoy gear to this, and the buoy gear is not authorized gear in the dolphin or wahoo fishery, but they wanted to allow fishermen with buoy gear onboard to hook-and-line dolphin or wahoo when they're out fishing buoy gear or moving between sets or moving to and from port or that sort of thing, and so all of the allowable catch, so to speak, under this action would fall within -- For only hook-and-line caught dolphin or wahoo, and, just as a reminder, the current trip limit for wahoo is 500 pounds, and the current trip limit for dolphin, and this is looking at commercial trip limits, is 4,000 pounds once 75 percent of the ACL is reached. Prior to reaching 75 percent of the commercial sector ACL, there is no trip limit.

Alternative 2 would authorize gears that have the commercial dolphin wahoo permit and valid federal commercial permits required to fish trap, pot, or buoy gear to possess dolphin or wahoo

caught by rod-and-reel, and, in addition to this, this also is intended to include spiny lobster fishermen.

The council has stipulated that, in these scenarios, there would be a trip limit, not to exceed between 250 and 1,000 pounds, and so you can see Sub-Alternatives 2a through 2d, and that would be the commercial trip limit under these circumstances, where say you had a sea bass pot onboard, or a lobster pot onboard, or a spiny lobster trap, or buoy gear, and you would be allowed to possess dolphin, under Alternative 2, up to certain amount, and then you have these sub-alternatives.

Alternative 3 is very similar, in that it would allow the same exception for hook-and-line caught wahoo to be possessed commercially when those certain unauthorized gears are onboard. However, in this case, it's just sticking with the existing commercial wahoo trip limit of 500 pounds.

As I mentioned, the Dolphin Wahoo AP did review a similar action at the April meeting in 2017, and you made a motion to allow vessels with pot gear onboard to possess dolphin or wahoo, as long as they are a permitted vessel and fish are caught by rod-and-reel, and so that was largely reflected by the council in how they have developed this action and the alternatives.

As a note, buoy gear and trap gear was not being examined at the time, and so that's not mentioned in this motion, or that wasn't discussed in the making of this motion, and the AP also noted to consider other fisheries, such as the golden crab fishery, and also, if dolphin and wahoo is limited rod-and-reel only trips pulling trap gear, then the additional amount landed will not likely be large, and, at the time, there was no issue with allowing this.

It will also help with enforcement and clarity of regulations, and the AP recommended being specific on the gears that are going to be allowed, so as not to open it up to all gears that may be effective at catching dolphin and wahoo that you may not want in the fishery, and so the council has really taken into account most of those recommendations, and they've been very specific on how they have specified this and what gears would have an exception overall.

With that, I will turn it over to the AP, and we're looking for any other recommendations. I don't know if you feel comfortable with your existing motion and recommendations, as well as the comments, but I'm just looking for additional input here.

MR. ROSHER: Any thoughts or comments, outside of the motion that's already been given a couple of years ago? Go ahead, Jon.

MR. REYNOLDS: I think it's a good idea, and it will probably produce some more rod-and-reel fish, and I've got buddies that are commercial lobstermen and stuff, and they're not going to encounter too many dolphin while they're trap fishing, but, if they could keep a few, it's no big deal, and it's kind of exciting. They have fun with it too, and they're just catching a few fish.

I think over 500 pounds -- I think we would want to stay under 500, or else you're looking more towards directed commercial effort, and I know, from a hook-and-line commercial guy myself, if we're going to go hook-and-line commercial dolphin fishing, then, at 250 pounds, you're doing okay. At 500 pounds, you're having a pretty good day, in this day and age, and then, if you got up to 1,000 pounds, that would be an extremely good -- The fishery would have to be yielding like

large fish, and you would have to be exerting a lot of effort towards it, and so that's the only thing that I would like to say. Maybe both of them with 500-pound trip limits.

MR. ROSHER: Okay. I agree with you, and I think that sounds reasonable, but your comment about it becoming a directed fishery -- One of the reasons that is pertinent is, in the New England area, this year in particular, they had huge catches of dolphin on the pots. Recreational guys were just targeting pots, and some of the guys I knew had days with somewhere in the area of 1,000 pounds, and I don't know how far south that applies, and I don't know --

I just haven't fished enough in the Carolinas and the Mid-Atlantic to know the zone that you can do that, but I know that a lot of guys told me that, this year, they had really outstanding fishing up there on the pots, and you could catch well in excess of 1,000 pounds, if you were trying, and so I think having some limit on there is a smart thing to do, but that's totally up to you guys, and so, if anybody else has any more comments or wants to make a motion, you can. Do you want to leave this discussion just in written form for the council to listen to, or do you want to modify that motion that we made a couple of years ago? Go ahead, Jon.

MR. REYNOLDS: I don't know if I really want to make a motion. There is so many other variables that are going to play into this, with future amendments and where commercial catches are coming from and different trip limits from pelagic longline fisheries, or more effort exerted towards rod-and-reel fisheries, and where we want to actually put this to still be able to consistently maybe produce fish from different commercial fishermen, and so I just recommend about 500, personally, but I will leave that open to the council to decide.

MR. ROSHER: Okay. Thank you. Any additional thoughts?

MR. HADLEY: I will just mention that I put that in my notes, to consider the trip limits around 500 pounds for each species.

MR. ROSHER: Okay. Sounds good. Thanks, John.

MR. HADLEY: Can we get any discussion -- It sounds like the AP, in general, is comfortable with your existing motion, as far as allowing these specific exceptions, and are you okay with your existing motion, is essentially what I'm getting at, allowing these stipulations overall? It sounds like yes, but I just wanted to throw that out there before we move along.

MR. BURROWS: Can we go ahead and modify the former motion to just incorporate the buoy and trap gear? Is that okay to do?

MR. HADLEY: Sure. Do you want me to put a motion along those lines on the board, and we'll clarify that?

MR. BURROWS: Unless somebody is really against that, I don't see any problem with incorporating that.

MR. HADLEY: Let me try to reword this a little bit and make sure you're comfortable with it. I think that would be the -- I will make this a little bigger, but I think that would be along the lines

of the AP's original motion. there again, it's just adding the pot and buoy gear component to that, and does that look like the motion you would like to make, Chris?

MR. BURROWS: **Yes, that's correct.** Thank you.

MR. HADLEY: All right, and so we have a motion. Is there a second to that motion?

MR. ROSHER: Jon, is it important to put the 500 pounds in this motion?

MR. REYNOLDS: I think it's a good recommendation, and I don't know if it's going to go into the motion. I don't know, but I would second a motion either way. I think I support this, and I would just -- It's more like a preferred alternative, I guess.

MR. HADLEY: Jon, it sounded like you were seconding the motion, and, unless specified otherwise, I will still include that recommendation of approximately 500 pounds to go along with that motion, if that's okay, as a recommendation.

MR. REYNOLDS: That sounds good.

MR. HADLEY: All right. Any other discussion?

MR. ROSHER: **Any opposition?**

MR. HADLEY: All right. **I am not seeing any hands in opposition or hearing any opposition, and so, with that, the motion is approved.**

We have three more actions to go, and so this one is an action that you've seen before in Amendment 10, and it's looking at removing the requirement of vessel operators or crew to hold an operator card in the dolphin wahoo fishery, and so, currently, an Atlantic charter headboat dolphin wahoo permit or an Atlantic dolphin wahoo commercial permit is not valid unless the vessel operator or a crew member holds a valid operator card issued by either the Southeast Regional Office or the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, and those are both NOAA National Marine Fisheries offices.

The Southeast Regional Office, obviously, covers the South Atlantic, and the Greater Atlantic Regional Office covers the Mid-Atlantic and New England, and so, under Alternative 2, it would remove the requirement of the operator card within the for-hire fishery, and so the charter/headboat component of the dolphin wahoo fishery. Alternative 3 would, similarly, remove the operator card requirement, but for the commercial fishery, the commercial component of the dolphin wahoo fishery.

Really, as a little bit of background on the discussion that's taken place around this, the operator cards were implemented originally as a way to improve enforcement and needed data collection, and, really, it was a way, intended way, to decrease costs to vessel owners in fisheries violations, should the -- It would, essentially, hold the captain or crew accountable that made that specific violation, rather than the enforcement action going towards the vessel owner, and it could have been a violation of habitat or a violation of habitat or fisheries-related regulations that are really intended to protect the long-term viability of the stock.

The council has discussed this quite a bit over the years, and, really, the Office of Law Enforcement gave a presentation on operator cards to the council, and, really, the discussion centered around that the operator cards really aren't currently functioning as intended, and they are not used for gathering data, and they're not being used for distributing information, and there's really not a whole lot of use for law enforcement, and, really, these have only been implemented in the dolphin wahoo fishery and the rock shrimp fishery, and so they're not across the spectrum, so to speak, of different managed fisheries.

As far as your past recommendation, you supported Alternative 2 and 3, and so removal of the operator card requirement in both the commercial and recreational fishery, noting that the concept did make sense, but it's burdensome to obtain, and it's not being used for its intended purpose, and it seemed like one more thing to apply for and potentially forget, if it's expired, and it can be costly. For identification purposes, there are certainly other IDs or certifications that are already in place, such as a captain's license, driver's license, or TWIC card. We're looking for any additional comments or recommendations from the AP. Are you okay with your existing motion suggesting removal of the operator card requirement for both the for-hire and commercial components of the fishery? I will turn it over there.

MR. ROSHER: Any comments on this? John, if there's no opposition, I would say continue the recommendation that we made in the past.

MR. HADLEY: Okay. I will move along then. We have two more actions. Action 11 would reduce the recreational vessel limit for dolphin, and so, currently, there is a ten dolphin per person, not to exceed sixty dolphin per vessel, limit in place. Those are the current regulations, and so that would be the no action alternative.

Alternative 2 looks at reducing the daily bag limit or -- Sorry. Let me take a step back. It maintains the daily bag limit of ten dolphin per person, but it would reduce the vessel limit of dolphin. The council has considered sub-alternatives between forty and fifty-four, and the intent of Sub-Alternatives 2b through 2d is that they could be divisible by six, thinking of a six-pack charter, six paying customers, and that's easily divided up, but the range is between forty and fifty-four. In Alternative 2, the vessel limit reduction would apply for the entire Atlantic, and so, essentially, this would cover Maine through Key West, Florida.

Alternative 3 does the same thing, where you're maintaining the daily bag limit of ten fish per person, but reducing the overall vessel limit to between forty and fifty-four fish per vessel. However, this would take place in Florida only, and so, as a little bit of background on this, the council has discussed this in the context of the feedback that they've got, and there's been several -- They have gotten several public comments stating that the vessel limit of sixty fish per person seems high and should be reduced, and there is additional resource concerns on dolphin, and they've heard several public comments on that. Really, a lot of the comments are suggesting and stating that the vessel limit is too high, that sixty fish per person is too high, has largely come from Florida, many people, many fishermen, in Florida.

On the other side of that, they have received feedback from -- I remember it was at the Nags Head meeting in December of 2018 when they got a lot of feedback from for-hire captains in the Outer Banks, charter captains in the Outer Banks that had their charter business, and they said -- Really,

the feedback there was that that sixty-fish limit is particularly important for the for-hire sector, and not necessarily to harvest all sixty fish every single trip, but having that ability to harvest sixty fish really helps sell trips, and so, whether or not they're harvesting it or not, they may cut the customers off at thirty or forty fish and go looking for blue marlin or something like that, but that sixty-fish limit is selling trips, and so it's important to maintain that, and so that's the feedback, kind of the regional feedback, that the council has received, and so that's why you see Alternative 2 and Alternative 3, where the vessel limit reduction would apply throughout the Atlantic or just in Florida only, and that's the reason for the split.

Additionally, it was noted that, when you look at the general catches overall, most vessels are landing below forty fish. However, there are some trips landing upwards of sixty fish, but, not surprisingly, when you look at the overall harvest, Florida is a large component of that, and that's kind of the -- There is a lot of dolphin harvested off of Florida in federal waters, and so that was another reason why the council really considered, if this was being implemented from a conservation perspective, your biggest bang for your buck, so to speak, would occur off of Florida, since that's where the majority of the harvest was taking place. That's where the council stands at the moment, and, with that, we're looking for any AP comments or recommendations on this action.

MR. ROSHER: Any thoughts or comments? Go ahead, Jay.

MR. KAVANAGH: Well, as I stated previously, dolphin is the single-most important fish to my business, and the ability to catch sixty bailers in the summertime is of particular importance. I don't honestly see the need for this regulation.

I mean, we've never caught the recreational quota, and there is no science or data supporting that we're overfishing them, and, when you look at the biomass of sixty bailers, you're talking 200 pounds, and I don't -- I also don't understand why headboats are excluded. Number one, our headboat might bail dolphin one time a year, or less, and so I don't know why you're excluding headboats from the regulation, which is essentially what both of these alternatives do.

Also, these graphs are useless, because dolphin fishing is seasonally migratory, and so, yes, these are the numbers for the whole given year, but, in the month of July, my average daily dolphin catch was twenty-six fish a day, and that would be similar -- I just did the month of July, because it was easy, but you would probably have similar data for the months of June and August and September. Again, when everybody up here caught word of this, everyone started to freak out, and so I support Alternative 1, no action, and that's it.

MR. ROSHER: Okay. Thank you, Jay. Chris, did you have a thought?

MR. BURROWS: I do, and I would echo what Jay said. I think it was really telling to hear that the backing for a reduction came from Florida, and I think it's because the two states think about dolphin fishing so much differently, and I don't think there's anywhere near the amount of boats that bail dolphin in Florida as they do in North Carolina, and especially the Outer Banks.

Florida also has a minimum size on the dolphin too, which North Carolina does not. When you think about sixty dolphin on the docks in Islamorada, it's a lot different than sixty dolphin on the docks at Pirates Cove or Hatteras Harbor, and I think, if you were to adopt anything with this,

Alternative 3 covers Florida only, and, if that's what Florida wants, that makes sense to me, but I don't think that's going to work in North Carolina.

MR. ROSHER: Okay. Thanks for your comments. Any other thoughts? Go ahead, Jon.

MR. REYNOLDS: I have to -- I mean, just from public comment, and from the people that I talked to, and from what the North Carolina guys are saying -- I mean, definitely all of this sounds spot-on, from the overall consensus of who feels which way and what's more important to whose business and so on and so forth.

Again, like I said before, so much of these are tied -- So much of these actions are tied into, well, this would make sense only if this happens, and this would make sense if this happens, and so another thing, speaking regionally, with Florida always, is how fish historically were commercially landed and the change in that, and now more directed longline commercial fisheries and less hook-and-line fisheries, and it sounds like the overall consensus of the Florida guys is that they're willing to back off, and it sounds more acceptable to back off of recreational catches, but where does this leave us with our hook-and-line commercial guys, which were, mainly through the years, guys that were dually-permitted guys that were selling some fish from charters?

This is a challenging one to think about, and only this if this, and this if this, and there's all different stuff that goes together. I would say, from my guys, and I have a pretty broad spectrum of guys that have a lot of different perspectives, but, overall, Florida would be willing to think about, for conservation purposes, think about reducing their recreational vessel limit, and it sounds like the Carolinas don't have nearly the same effort. I don't know if that will be supported abroad, but all of these are just good points that I would like to make while considering all of this and while we think about all the actions tied in together and how it would work.

MR. ROSHER: Thanks, Jon. Anna, we would love to hear from you.

MS. BECKWITH: This has been a pretty interesting discussion around the council table. I think the regional positions have been kind of clearly stated. For North Carolina, the charter guys have spoken up quite clearly about their preference, and we've heard that. This recommendation originally came from Florida, and so we're honoring that request, recognizing that most of those fish are caught in Florida, and most of these fish actually are caught by the recreational anglers, and less so by the charter.

One discussion that I don't think would move forward at the council, but I'm kind of curious to see what you guys would think, is, at least for north of Florida, I had made a suggestion at one point that, if we wanted to reduce the vessel limit for recreational fishermen, that would be something we could consider, while leaving the charter guys at their sixty vessel limit, again north of Florida.

That was -- Well, it was sort of like crickets, and it was heard around the table, because I think there's some concerns about treating the charter guys differently from the regular recreational and what that might mean in the future, but, if there is a sort of fishery concern, and the majority of those fish are being caught by recreational fishermen, and that vessel limit is a selling point for the charter guys, in particular, then would there be some interest or thought put behind treating regular

recreational fishermen separately from charter, and, again, this was not a popular idea at the council table when it was brought up, but I'm just curious if you guys had any feedback on that idea.

MR. ROSHER: Anna, I can't really make a motion, but we're looking at these different alternatives, and is there anything wrong with someone making a motion that said that, in Florida, the limit is fifty per boat, ten per person, across-the-board, headboats and recreational boats and charter boats, and give it a chance to manifest itself, whatever that turns into? I mean, fifty is still a big number, and, even though it's not listed on these alternatives, is it okay to put that down as our thought? I am just asking if that's possible.

MS. BECKWITH: It's certainly possible. What I would say is the reason why that was sort of put that way was, again, as John said, is it was sort of divided by the six-pack. It would require quite a bit of updating of the tables and such, and, since we're a bit on the close side of getting this out to public comment and then coming back and hopefully voting this up or down in June, if forty-eight was acceptable for Florida, given that -- That might be simpler.

MR. ROSHER: Okay. I mean, that's just something to think about, guys, just to make progress. If you want to talk about Florida only, that sounds like -- Like Anna said, that sounds like what might accomplish goals that have been mentioned, and it's not mandatory, and there is always Alternative 1, but, if you want to talk about a regional reduction, that's just something to think about, and so I will just listen for comments. Anna, does it help to have a vote on this?

MS. BECKWITH: Yes, and that would be lovely.

MR. ROSHER: Okay. All right. Jay, go ahead.

MR. KAVANAGH: I would certainly support Alternative 3 and Alternative 3c, and, yes, I think it's very important that the number be divisible by six.

MR. ROSHER: Okay. Do we want to talk about excluding a headboat exception, or, if I worded that right is it important to include the same standard on a headboat, and I know there is many more people, oftentimes, on a headboat, and is it important to let the headboats continue to operate? Is it important to let the headboats continue to operate? Just like we talk about charter boats being important, I think headboats are very important to the local economy, and so Alternative 3 and 3c, that accomplishes that. Go ahead, Jon.

MR. REYNOLDS: I would support Alternative 3, 3b or 3c, and the overall consensus with most of the guys I talk to is either one, somewhere in there, and they probably support 3b or 3c. The headboat, I don't -- At least in our region, I guess, and just speaking for our region, it's not as big of a concern. Dolphin landings I don't think are nearly as common, and I have worked on headboats for years. I mean, occasionally, even trying to get around the cluster that it's going to cause. Even trying to catch that many, or land ten per person, would be extremely challenging as it was.

MR. ROSHER: If somebody wants to adopt an alternative, it sounds like it would help Anna out.

MR. REYNOLDS: **I will motion to support Preferred Alternative 3, Sub-Alternative 3b or 3c.**

MR. ROSHER: Go ahead, Jay.

MR. KAVANAGH: I will second.

MR. ROSHER: Okay. **Is there any opposition?**

MR. HADLEY: **I am not seeing any hands raised in opposition, or hearing any opposition.**

MR. ROSHER: All right. Thank you.

MR. HADLEY: All right. Thanks, everyone. With that, if there's no further discussion on Action 11, we'll move into the final action of Amendment 10. Action 12, this action allows filleting of dolphin at-sea onboard charter or headboat vessels in the area north of the Virginia/North Carolina border.

Currently, dolphin possessed anywhere in the Atlantic EEZ must be maintained with head and fins intact, and there are some exceptions for fish lawfully harvested from the Bahamas, but any fish harvested from the U.S. Atlantic EEZ must be kept intact, with the exception of it can be eviscerated or gilled and scaled, but, otherwise, it must be maintained in a whole condition.

Alternative 2 would make an exemption to these regulations requiring heads and fins be intact onboard properly-permitted charter and headboat vessels, and so for-hire vessels in the EEZ, in the Atlantic EEZ, north of the Virginia/North Carolina border, and so the Mid-Atlantic region and New England region. In this case, dolphin would be able to be filleted under the following requirements. Sub-Alternative 2a is the skin would remain intact on the entire fillet of any dolphin carcass, and Alternative 2b is two fillets of dolphin, regardless of the length of each fillet, would be equivalent to one dolphin, and that's for enforcement of bag limits or vessel limits, in general.

For a little bit of background on this, this action was added in response to a request from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council that the South Atlantic Council consider this exemption for dolphin. The original request was to consider this for the waters north, from Cape Hatteras and north, and the Mid-Atlantic Council suggested requiring a one-by-one-inch piece of skin remain on each fillet, but the crew would retain the racks, or the frames, of each fish, and the crew must be able to present two fillets that are equal to one fish.

This recommendation came out of a joint law enforcement and for-hire workshop that was held in the Mid-Atlantic region, where there were several parties involved, including the Coast Guard, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Highly Migratory Species, and the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, and so this is a recommendation, essentially, that came out of a workshop to move forward.

The council had some -- It has had kind of conflicting advisory panel recommendations on this, and so you had that recommendation coming from the Mid-Atlantic, from their workshop and their law enforcement and for-hire representatives, and the South Atlantic's Law Enforcement Advisory Panel reviewed this initial request and provided some input on it, and they indicated that law enforcement officials would need to count and match each rack to the fillets, and so they are

worried about this exemption being burdensome on boarding officers, and it appears kind of redundant.

They also noted that it would add considerable burden to law enforcement officials if implemented in U.S. waters, due to basically increasing the time required to check a vessel, and it also increases regulatory complexity, and they noted that, if the line was made at Cape Hatteras, there would need to be guidance on the possible scenario where a fish was caught on one side of the Cape, say south of Cape Hatteras, and filleted and landed north of Cape Hatteras, and there's some very clear law enforcement issues there, and kind of a gray area, to be able to enforce the regulation, and noting that, in North Carolina, it's unlawful to possess a finfish that is subject to a size or harvest restriction without having the head and tail intact, and so there's some state regulatory issues there.

They felt that there wasn't necessarily a compelling reason to allow the exemption on mutilated fish for dolphin, and they felt like the one-by-one piece of skin of each fillet proposition was not large enough to allow proper identification in general, and so they passed a motion. They had those recommendations, and they passed a motion stating that they recommended no filleting of dolphin be allowed in the EEZ of the Atlantic.

The council has taken this into account, and it's been noted that filleting of fish at-sea is allowed onboard vessels in the New England and Mid-Atlantic regions for some species. For some groundfish and flounder species, it is allowed. Really, this request came from the Mid-Atlantic Council, and the reasoning behind it is that, up in those two regions, they tend to have very long runs, and the idea is to -- They tend to not have the fish cleaning infrastructure that you see along say many of the marinas along the Outer Banks, and so, when they hit the docks, it tends to be late at night, and having the fish filleted ahead of time would be very helpful, and it keeps the crew busy on these long runs, and, also, it just -- Essentially, it makes the time at the dock -- It decreases it for the customer, and so that's where they were coming from in the Mid-Atlantic and New England regions for this request.

The council took into account the request that -- The South Atlantic Council took into account the request that they had from the Mid, as well as the input that they've gotten from the Law Enforcement AP, and where the action stands now is that there is the consideration of allowing this exemption, but it would only occur north of the North Carolina/Virginia border, again with those two stipulations of the skin must remain intact and two fillets of dolphin equal one fish, for bag limit and enforcement purposes. With that, I will turn it over to the AP for any comments or recommendations.

MR. ROSHER: Any comments that anybody has on this would be welcome, and I know there's been a few comments while I was gone that I just caught the edge of, but would anybody like to make a recommendation? Again, I think it helps the council to have some opinion. Go ahead, Jon.

MR. REYNOLDS: I mean, I get it. We're all about efficiency. I mean, we've got the nets on the cooler and the bait cooler ready to go off the boat when we get in, and the water tank is getting full, and everything is just -- We want to go, go, go. We fish a lot of days in a row, and I understand this. Is there any -- I guess, what's the fear? If we're leaving the skin intact on the fillets, and there is accountability, I don't know what the problem would be or what the fears would be in allowing this, I guess, and I get why they want to do it. I mean, I understand that they have a lot

longer runs than we do, and I understand it, and so if there's any fear, like realistic fear, on why this wouldn't be a good idea, I guess is what I'm asking to anyone else.

MR. HADLEY: I will try to address that, really quickly. There are noted benefits to it, certainly, as you outlined, and the issue in the South Atlantic region is, one -- Well, overall, and I will just say overall, there may be some issues with the intercepts, the recreational intercepts, and, typically, those intercepts are used to help estimate the weight of the fish, which goes into calculating the total catch, and so there is some worry there.

Specifically, speaking to the South Atlantic region, we have a size limit in Florida. Well, in Florida through South Carolina, you have a size limit, and so that becomes very difficult to enforce, if you allowing filleting at-sea, and so that's kind of the fear there, the law enforcement issues there, and, of course, that doesn't apply in North Carolina, but there's still the issue with North Carolina state law that requires that the fish remain intact, and so those are largely state and South-Atlantic-specific issues, and noted law enforcement issues, that would occur if this were to take place in the South Atlantic, and so that's another one of the reasons why the consideration is to the north.

MR. ROSHER: Dan, would you like to comment?

MR. OWSLEY: I know you all went into detail, and I was sitting here wondering why they wanted this exemption or to allow this, and it's interesting that we said to save time when you get back to the dock for customers, and the length of the run and stuff, and I just think -- I represent a short coastline here in Georgia, but, I mean, we have considerably long runs and stuff as well, and, of course, we don't have much of a, quote, unquote, charter fishery, as compared to Florida and North Carolina, but I don't necessarily agree with allowing filleting of dolphin at-sea.

I think, if it was allowed to be done north of that Virginia/North Carolina demarcation line -- I mean, I think the same premise of why they want it done up there, I think maybe that should also be considered in Georgia, but, realistically, I think it comes down to time management as well, and, if they're worried about having to clean dolphin when they get back to the dock, I don't know, and I just don't agree with it.

MR. ROSHER: Dan, I can tell you, firsthand, in Florida, we have many days where we have a half and a three-quarter, or three-quarter and a half, and so we're like daylight to dark, and the customers that I'm bringing in from a morning trip want their fish cleaned, and the guys are waiting at the dock to go back out. If I had five dolphin to clean, or ten dolphin, a small amount, it would really help us, in Florida, if you think about preserving the racks and leaving the skin on them, and, I mean, there's accountability, and you better have the same size and number of fillets.

I mean, I get both sides of the argument, and I know that, when you crack a door open, bad things can happen, but, from a realistic standpoint, when you're trying to do this for a living, and you're trying to keep your customers happy -- I have seen little things, like being ten minutes late leaving the dock, really upset a customer, and they are just -- Maybe they're just super time conscious, and it doesn't matter that you're going to give them that extra time at the end of the trip, but I'm just saying that, in our world, it's difficult to --

MR. OWSLEY: With that, what about -- I mean, I don't charter fish as much as a lot of you all, but I do charter fish, and, if I'm coming in with a pile of fish, and I've got to get ready, and I'm

doing a trip the following day, a lot of these -- Like, wherever you fish out of, you all don't have like people that clean the fish for you, so you can focus on preparing the boat or doing maintenance or other activities to turn-and-burn? I mean, I know that's typically a common practice in --

MR. ROSHER: In the northern regions, no. The Mid-Atlantic and the Carolinas, there are fish cleaners, but, where we are, we clean all of our own fish, and that's where the quick turnaround helps us. There's days where I know I've got halves and three-quarters, where I literally have to schedule different crew for the second trip, so I can leave one person at the dock to clean fish, and so, I mean, that's where it could help.

MR. OWSLEY: I guess, with what you're saying, where you're at, you're a proponent for doing this filleting the dolphin at-sea where you're at as well, or where -- I'm sorry, but where do you fish out of?

MR. ROSHER: Miami, and so dolphin are pretty close to us, and so we can catch dolphin on a half-day trip and come in and do another three-quarter, and that really helps us financially, to be able to fill a day like that.

MR. OWSLEY: Well, I mean, you're almost echoing my point. If it's allowed to be done north of that demarcation line, why can't it be done in Florida, if it helps you out for economic reasons and customer service and everything? That's what I am -- That was my initial comment. If it's allowed to be done above that demarcation line, with these type of stipulations, why can't it be done in other areas?

MR. ROSHER: Right, and I'm not trying to steer the vote, but I'm just giving you a different point of view, and Anna has had her hand raised for a while. Go ahead, Anna.

MS. BECKWITH: Go ahead and let Tim go first, and I will comment after everyone else.

MR. ROSHER: Tim, go ahead.

MR. SCALISE: I don't have a problem with it, and I almost would like to see it for recreational, too. I have run into situations before where space is an issue, and you would like to go ahead and break down fish, so it doesn't spoil, and, I mean, we have a two-and-a-half-hour run here. I mean, that's like when I fish in the Bahamas. If we're just running a small boat, ice is so expensive that you're just going to get a forty-eight-quart cooler and a bag of ice, and you're just going to break down the fish as you catch them and put them in zip-lock bags and ice. If the size is the issue, I mean, I don't see a problem with maintaining the racks onboard, but, I mean, I don't see any real harm in it, and, I mean, I just take it as more efficiency.

MR. ROSHER: Right, and that was kind of my point, is that, if you have all the matching fillets and racks and so on, at the end of the trip, you can discard the racks, and I agree, but I am interested to hear Anna's comments, because I know she's been pretty deep in it, but we do have Jon and Bob, and so, Jon, do you want to go ahead, and then we'll let Anna speak last.

MR. REYNOLDS: Just real quick, and, just like Ray said, I'm not trying to steer any vote, and we wouldn't even utilize this very much, but we would occasionally, exactly for the same reasons

that Ray said, if that was an option. Those are the exact times that we would utilize a privilege like this, but I must say, on a headboat, it's more important, almost.

You've got a crew coming in, and you've got seawater hoses trying to wash everything down sometimes, and tons of rods, tons of people to manage, and you actually have a larger almost open area to fillet fish, where you would probably do it on a more regular basis, and so that's the only reason, and I just wanted to say that too, and I've worked on headboats a lot, and, for those guys, it seems like a more logical request, and that's all I really wanted to say.

MR. HADLEY: Bob, I see that you have your hand up.

MR. FREVERT: I'm a recreational fisherman out of Jupiter, Florida, and, prior to changing the law, I probably filleted 90 percent of my dolphin offshore, only because, as the guys were pointing out, it's much easier for us. We would fillet the fish and bag them, and then we would put them in the food cooler, and it would keep our fish a lot more fresh, and the other problem is that I trailer my boat, and so I come home, and now I've got to fillet them in my yard, and then I've got to worry about the carcasses. Again, 90 percent of the time, before they changed the rule, I would fillet them offshore, just because it made things a lot easier and faster for me, but now I can't do that.

MR. ROSHER: Thank you for your comments. Go ahead, Anna.

MS. BECKWITH: This one was a particular request that came to us from the Mid-Atlantic Council, and their original request was to include recreational folks as well, and the South Atlantic Council took a hard pass on that one and said that we would only consider --

MR. HADLEY: Anna, I think that you're muted.

MS. BECKWITH: Sorry. When this request came to us, as I mentioned, it originally included recreational fishermen as well, and the South Atlantic took a hard pass on that, and it was only willing to consider as it's written now. The main focus, for us, is the enforcement concerns in the South Atlantic, and so our South Atlantic AP for enforcement was very much opposed to this, and our NOAA and National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Enforcement, and everybody just said this would make it very difficult to enforce, and it would give lots of potential problems.

Our Coast Guard guys, as much training as they get, can find identifying a fish difficult, and this then would open a precedent, and maybe we would get different requests on different fish species, and we sort of went round and round and round, and so we thoroughly thought this one through and said, at least for the council's -- The current makeup of the council, the position was that this was not appropriate and that we would not consider this for our region, but, since this was specifically requested from another council, another region, and they have other allowances for filleting at-sea, and they feel like they can handle their enforcement issues, because they've got a smaller set of people coming into some defined areas, we are then considering the request based on those things, but, for our region, when we discussed it, the South Atlantic Council just sort of said this would not be something that we would currently consider.

MR. ROSHER: Okay. Well, thank you, Anna. Any of the comments that you heard, Anna, does that change your opinion at all?

MS. BECKWITH: I mean, we certainly will pass those comments along to the council. I suspect that we probably won't make a drastic change on this one. The stuff that was brought forth, we talked about it, and, I mean, we sort of recognized that this was done before, and it definitely facilitated timing, and certainly many of the charter boats throughout the Keys, and places where there aren't fish cleaning stations, would be able to benefit, but the concerns from our law enforcement officers took much of our attention, but we'll certainly bring these comments forth to the council and make sure that these positions are acknowledged.

MR. ROSHER: Do you think it's sufficient that they hear what we've just discussed, or is this better served in a motion?

MS. BECKWITH: If you guys want to put forth a motion, I mean, I would certainly welcome it, and it will bring it back up, and we'll have a thorough discussion on it. I know Mel and Steve are both on the call, and Mel is not only the Chair, but he's also the Chair of the Law Enforcement Committee, and so he's paying attention to this one quite closely, I'm sure, but, if you guys want to put a motion forth, you certainly can, and we will discuss it.

MR. ROSHER: Okay. Thank you for that, Anna. I appreciate the background, and it sounds like a motion will get their attention a little more, if it's important to everybody, and it doesn't mean that it will happen, but at least it kind of puts it a little bit more in front of them, and the maintenance of the skin on the fillet and the racks, and you might even consider, if you were to make a motion in support of it, that the fillets cannot be cut in half. In other words, length is important to match up with the carcass, and so that's just a thought. If anybody would like to make a motion, feel free, and, if not, we can move on.

MR. HADLEY: Ray, I am not seeing any raised hands. Short of a motion, as Anna mentioned, the discussion that the AP just had -- The kind of noted version of that will move forward in the report.

MR. ROSHER: Anna, do you think there is any addition to the recommendation that we change anybody's mind, like I said, if you didn't cut fillets in half, or any detail, or was it just kind of a pretty cut-and-dried case of them not wanting to do it?

MS. BECKWITH: It was fairly cut-and-dried. I mean, the reason why we did the two fillets counts as a fish was some of those bull dolphins can be quite large, and you could conceivably take the length information off the racks, but, if you were going to clean them and bag them and such, then, short of putting some of those bull fillets in a Hefty large garbage bag, it didn't make -
- You know, it wasn't going to be as potentially helpful.

Some of these original regulations came from an allowance that we permitted for folks in transit from the Bahamas and Florida, where we also said that two fillets equals a fish, and that was done because many of those were folks that were staying in the Bahamas for longer periods of time, and those fillets were bagged and frozen by the time they transited over back to the United States, and so we were trying to allow for some consistency between the regional regulations, if we were going to allow it in any format.

MR. ROSHER: Okay. Sounds good. Any thoughts before we move on?

MR. HADLEY: I am not seeing any hands raised.

MR. ROSHER: Okay.

MR. HADLEY: So that's all I have for Amendment 10, and I certainly appreciate the input and the comments, and I think that will help the council. It will help them with narrowing down for their preferred alternatives and how to move forward with this amendment, and so I certainly appreciate that. I kind of have on the tentative schedule to break for lunch here, Ray, and do we want to go -- We're running a little bit behind schedule, and do we want to go for an hour, or do we want to go for forty-five minutes? What are your thoughts on that?

MR. ROSHER: It's totally up to the group, but forty-five minutes seems reasonable, to try to catch up to our schedule.

MR. HADLEY: All right, and so let's call it 1:15.

MR. ROSHER: All right. Sounds good.

MR. HADLEY: Just for everyone, I will keep the webinar running, and feel free to keep yourself on mute, and you can keep the webinar running in the background on your computer, and we'll see everybody at 1:15, and we'll get underway again.

DR. CHEUVRONT: When you all come back from lunch, and I'm talking to the AP members, when you come back, if you could just go ahead and raise your hand, like you would if you were going to speak, and what we'll do is we'll put your name on the raised-hands list, and, that way, we'll know that you're back, and we'll keep track of who is back by that point. That will help us to know so that we can get ready to begin the meeting again and start it back up. Thanks.

MR. ROSHER: Thank you.

(Whereupon, a recess was taken.)

MR. HADLEY: I think we'll start to get underway here. I think we have most everyone that is - - We're still waiting on a couple of folks, but most everyone is back on the webinar. I just wanted to -- Before we jump into the next agenda item, which is looking at an update on the dolphin wahoo participatory workshops, I wanted to take a minute to thank everybody for the input that you gave on Amendment 10, and I know that's very helpful for the council, and they have some pretty big decisions coming up on that amendment, and I know it's very much appreciated.

I also should have acknowledged the other council members on the webinar, and I meant to do that at the very beginning, and it slipped my mind, but several council members are listening in and listened in to that conversation. We had Chester Brewer, and we had Chris Conklin, who are both members of the Dolphin Wahoo Committee on the South Atlantic Council, and we had Dewey Hemilright, who is on the Mid-Atlantic Council, but also serves as a liaison for the Mid-Atlantic on the Dolphin Wahoo Committee of the council.

Additionally, Anna Beckwith, who you heard from, is the Chair of the Dolphin Wahoo Committee, and we also had Steve Poland, who is the Vice Chair of the council, as well as Mel Bell, who is the current Chair of the council, and so everyone that I just mentioned is on the Dolphin Wahoo Committee for the South Atlantic Council, and I know that was very much appreciated, and I just wanted to let you know that they were listening in and will take this into account when the council discusses this amendment in December.

To switch gears a little bit, I just wanted to kind of put a little note out there for what we have later on in our agenda, towards the end, and we will need to elect a new Chair and Vice Chair of the advisory panel. As mentioned earlier, Ray is terming out of the Dolphin Wahoo AP, and also his role as Chair, and we certainly appreciate all the help that he has offered and the help with leadership, but, with that, that will leave an open seat for the Chair, and as well as the Vice Chair, and so we'll be voting on that a little bit later in the meeting, and we're just putting that out there for now as something to think about when that topic comes up towards the end of the meeting.

With that, I will turn it over, shortly, to Mandy Karnauskas and Matt McPherson, who will be updating you on the dolphin wahoo participatory workshops, and they are both at the Southeast Fisheries Science Center, which is in Miami, Florida.

DR. KARNAUSKAS: Hi, everyone. It's great to hear you all on the meeting today, and thank you so much for your time today. We really appreciate this opportunity to get feedback from you all on this work that we've been doing, and I want to thank everyone who has been collaborating on this, first of all Julia and John, and it's been really fantastic to collaborate with you on this, throughout the whole process, and we really appreciate that. Also, the others from the Science Center, and Matt McPherson has been working with me to facilitate these workshops, and we had a whole host of other people who are involved in participation and putting together some of the results, and I really appreciate all the collaboration.

We're going to be talking today about the dolphin wahoo participatory workshops, and this is a workshop overview. This is a flyer that we sent out for the workshops, and so you might have seen this. The stated goal of this workshop was to increase information flow between scientists, managers, and fishermen in support of improved fishery resources in the Atlantic. What we sought to do in these workshops was to develop a conceptual model of the fisheries, and what means will become clear in just a minute.

These are some of the topics that we touched on, and then, again, the collaborators on this were -- Myself and Matt were the primary leads on this from the Science Center, and also John and Julia from the council, and the Marine Resource Education Program was the body who funded lunch and the workshops, and so we really appreciate their support, and then, of course, all the fishermen and the community participants, folks who helped us recruit participation and all the people who are actively involved, and really appreciate their collaboration.

I wanted to take a step back and give a little more context into these workshops, and so we actually started doing these workshops in the Gulf of Mexico back in 2018 and 2019, and so it's part of a larger initiative that the Science Center has put into place, and there's a few things that we hope to accomplish through this approach.

One of them is just an opportunity for industry to voice their concerns and perspectives and for us to hear them, and, at the Science Center, we spend so much of our time looking at the fisheries through the lens of our computer screen and fish as numbers and data, and so it's really refreshing for all of us to get out and really talk to people on the water and hear how they visualize the system and what they see, and so we have a pretty big group of folks from the Science Center, and we have stock assessment folks and social scientists who were there to listen to the perspectives.

Then, as you will see through the workshop, we were trying to package this information in a way that we can convey it back to the science and management team, so that it gets documented and can be used, and, of course, ultimately, we hope that a common understanding and understanding all these different perspectives is going to help to foster improved management of the fisheries.

We also dig into some discussions about what people value in the system, besides, obviously, like healthy fish populations, and so this can help inform what the end goals of management should be, and then, in the process, we also sometimes unveil some of the data gaps that we have, and this helps inform the research priorities, and we can take these back to the Science Center and work on them, and so these are some of the things that we hope to accomplish with this approach.

Then, going back into the dolphin wahoo workshops, we held three workshops in North Carolina and Virginia back in March, and we went to Beaufort, North Carolina, Wanchese, and then Virginia Beach, and then we had originally planned to do Florida Keys workshops this past summer, and, of course, that planning was unfortunately impacted by the COVID situation. We wanted to reschedule, and we're, of course, very interested and committed in getting to the Keys to speak to people in that area, and, actually, at the end of this presentation, I would like to talk a little bit more about how people are feeling about that and scheduling and such, and so we'll come back to that.

This gives you a breakdown of who actually attended the workshops, and so, in Beaufort, we had seven industry participants, and they were primarily for-hire, and some limited recreational folks. In Wanchese, we had fourteen participants, and, here, we had quite a few folks from the commercial sector, and also some from the for-hire sector. Then, in Virginia Beach, we had four industry participants, and these were primarily for-hire and recreational folks. This process that we go through works best with a group of about seven to ten people, and so these were actually really ideal group sizes for this exercise.

Now I'll give you a little sense for what we do in the workshops through a series of pictures, and so, essentially, we start the morning -- These are full-day workshops, and we start the morning with a blank slate, literally, a white board, or a white wall, and we have a single center point, which is the dolphin and wahoo abundance, and the goal of the morning session is to create a conceptual model, or flow chart, of what are the factors that are influencing the fish and the fisheries, and so we start out in the morning with a brainstorming, and we do this kind of on an individual basis, because we want to make sure that everyone's voices are heard.

We ask people to brainstorm various factors that are affecting the fishery, and we try and do this kind of systematically, and so we start out with the physical and then the biological factors that are affecting the fish, and then we move into the social and the economic and regulatory factors, and so we try and get through the full span of components of the system.

Here, you can see we're kind of midway through, and we do this brainstorming on post-it notes, and we have people put post-it notes up on the board, and you start to get themes that emerge, places where there is diverging opinions and shared opinions, and we have people that talk about why they think the factors are important to the fisheries, and then, eventually, kind of by the end of the morning, we have this full-blown conceptual model, or flow chart, with all of the different components, all of the things that are affecting the fish and the fisheries and how they are all interrelated.

We typically end the morning like this, and it's a little bit overwhelming, and so we'll take a lunchbreak, and then we come back, and then we walk through the full conceptual model, to make sure that it's documented in the way that it was intended to be documented and that it's capturing all the issues that the group brought up, and we go until there is nothing else to be added, until the group has run out of ideas.

We take these back, and then we can clean these up and digitize them, and so we put them in the computer, and that allows us to easily compare and contrast across the different regions, and we also do sort of a data download from the notes of the workshop, and so we have these arrows, which represent the connections between the different components, and we have a database that documents what all these arrows mean, so that we have this for later on.

Some interesting things that emerged from the workshops, and what I have coded here, and I don't know if you can see my mouse, but you've got the physical factors are in blue, and the biological factors are in green, and the socioeconomic factors are in orange. All three models for the three different workshops were heavily weighted towards the socioeconomic and regulatory components, and so this was very similar across the different workshops we did, and this is pretty much in contrast to other places, where we've done workshops. For example, when we modeled the snapper grouper fisheries on the Gulf coast, those were heavily weighted towards physical and biological factors, and so this was an interesting theme that came out of the dolphin wahoo workshops.

The other thing was that these conceptual models ended up largely being focused on dolphin, and so we originally -- In the first day, we tried to include both dolphin and wahoo, and we did have some discussion on wahoo, but the conversation just sort of naturally kept going towards dolphin, and it became clear that it was kind of difficult to capture both species within a single conceptual model, and so, ultimately, these conceptual models do represent more dolphin dynamics than they do wahoo, and, like I said, we had discussions on both.

Once we have the conceptual models, we spend the afternoon kind of discussing some of the issues in-depth and getting more information, and another activity we do is we have people plot out some of the inputs, some of these post-it notes, and we drill in and ask people to plot out trends over time, and so, for these workshops, we did two types of plots. On the left, you can see that we asked participants to plot the importance of the different species to their fishing operations throughout the year, and so this is January through December, and people would plot the relative importance of the different species.

Then we also asked participants to plot the perceived local abundance trends over time for dolphin wahoo and some other species, and we actually digitized these, and we're able to average them across the participants, and so I'll present some of this information in just a minute.

I am going to go through some of the results that we found out of this initial workshop series, and the results are kind of divided into three themes. First of all, we'll talk a little bit about perceived overall population trends, and then we'll talk about the commercial sector and the recreational sector and the perceived drivers of those sectors, and then, for the recreational sector, we additionally did a social media photo analysis, and I'll go over that when we talk about the recreational sector. Then I'll talk about a summary and just some of the themes that are emerging from all the results that we've compiled to date, with the understanding, of course, that we haven't gotten to the Florida Keys, and there is going to be additional themes that emerge once we have the full picture, and so this is just for North Carolina and Virginia.

A couple of important caveats to keep in mind as we're looking at the results is these results, obviously, represent the workshop participants' perspectives, and so not everything has necessarily been vetted with independent data sources, although a lot of the things that were brought up would certainly warrant doing so, and they warrant further investigation, and then the other thing to keep in mind is that the perspectives are regionally specific, and so they don't necessarily apply to the entire management area. In places where you see there is diverging perspectives, it's not necessarily the case that one perspective is right and the other is wrong. The more likely explanation is that both perspectives are correct, but they just apply to their regional areas where they were observed, and so a couple of things to keep in mind.

I will start with the perceived abundance trends. As I mentioned earlier, really what struck us about the conceptual models was there was very little discussion on the physical and the biological nature of the fisheries, and a lot of the observations were attuned to local abundance, and so we spent a lot of time talking about local abundance, as opposed to the overall dolphin Atlantic-wide population abundance.

There was some recognition that international effort impacts the total population abundance of dolphin and that there were some unknown factors that people really didn't -- You know, we didn't have any clear hypotheses as to what's affecting the total population abundance, and then there is some recognition that, of the total population abundance, there is part of the stock that is in Florida, a part of the stock that migrates to other regions, and that each of these contribute to local dolphin abundance in North Carolina and Virginia Beach, although it wasn't really clear exactly what proportion.

Then, in terms of the overall abundance trends, this is a plot of observations from Beaufort, and the average perception in Beaufort was that local dolphin availability has been gradually decreasing and local wahoo availability has been gradually increasing, and so we see dolphin in red and wahoo in blue. In Virginia Beach, there was actually a perception of no change in dolphin or wahoo, and I didn't plot these out, because it was essentially just straight lines across-the-board, and then, in Wanchese, we actually didn't do these plots. We went a bit over in the morning, and we ran out of time, and so that's the perceived abundance trends.

Now I'm going to move into the commercial fleet and observations on the sector, and so, again, we asked the question of which species do your businesses depend on throughout the year, and we asked people to plot those in those graphs that you saw earlier, and so these plots are a little busy, and let me walk you through these. Again, we took all the plots that were produced by individual fishermen or participants and digitized them in a computer, and so we assigned numerical values

by month, and then we averaged those across fishermen, and then we took the standard deviation, and so the amount of variability around those averages.

These are the means, the thick lines, and then the standard error, or the variability around those means, are the shaded areas, and so, where you have very thin shaded areas, that means that there was a lot of agreement from person to person about the trends, in terms of importance to the operations, and then, when you see like these wide confidence bounds here, that means that there was a lot of variation between people, in terms of how they plotted out the lines.

You can see, also, that we spent a lot of time, especially in Wanchese, talking about how the commercial fleet had changed over time, and so we asked people to plot out what their dependence was ten years ago, and so that's the top plot, and then what species they depended on in the present day, and so that's bottom plot. You can see, in the historical plot, there's a ton of diversity, and I know that the variation confidence intervals are kind of overlapping here, and so I'm going to take them off, so we can look at this a little bit more clearly.

What you can see in the historical period was that tilefishes, tunas, and sharks were kind of the primary species, and dolphin played a very minimal role, in terms of importance to the business, and then we can see how this changed to the present day, and you can see that tilefish and sharks are completely off the map, and tuna is slightly lower, and then you can see how there's been an increase in the importance of dolphin to the commercial fisheries in the present day. I just want to point out that these charts represent the value to the businesses, but they're not necessarily the landings of the species, and so they shouldn't be interpreted in that way. Additionally, some additional species, like shrimp, are coming in during the present day that weren't mentioned in the past ten years, during the ten years before.

Then we can go back to the conceptual model, which represents the conversations we had in the workshops, and talk about some of the factors that have caused the shifts in the commercial, as perceived by the participants, and so what I am showing you here is we have taken the conceptual model, and we've taken out the commercial sub-components, and so we took out those post-its that are relevant to the commercial fisheries, and then I have stacked all three models, and so this is representative of the models, the conceptual models, from all three regions. What we've done is just taken those post-its and then taken all the linkages that were brought up in all the different regions.

We have color-coded them by region, and so, for example, in yellow are the post-it notes that were only brought up in Beaufort, and then in green were the post-it notes that were only brought up in Wanchese, and the orange ones are multiple regions, and we have cut them off at sort of the first and second order linkages to these main commercial fishery components.

We can start looking at some of the themes that came through in the workshops, and one of themes was limitations on access to other species is perceived to have increased effort on dolphin, and so, again, we saw a historical importance of tilefish and tuna and how the reduction in tilefish quota was perceived to increase effort on the dolphin, as well as a reduction in tuna availability was perceived to increase dolphin effort.

We also talked a lot about shark abundance and how that has been perceived to modify the commercial operations, and so there's a perception that the tighter regulations on shark populations

have allowed those populations to increase greatly, and that's obviously an issue for the efficiency of the fleet, but, also, it restricts where they can operate, and so we heard that there's areas where the sharks are just too abundant and that you can't put any commercial gear in the water at all, and so there's the perception that the shark abundance is actually driving where the commercial fishing can occur and restricting it in time and space.

Then we also heard that there is certain regulatory and economic factors that are perceived to facilitate entry into certain fisheries, and so, obviously, the amount of regulation can facilitate entry into a fishery, and the price of dolphin and the cost of entry are other factors that would affect effort on dolphin, and so those are the major themes and sort of drivers that we heard on the commercial side, and now I'm going to move into the recreational sector.

Again, we asked the same question to participants, which species do your businesses depend on throughout the year, and we have those plots, and, again, we averaged them, and we digitized the graphs and averaged them. Here, I am showing you the averages across the three different regions, and so these are separated out by region, and, again, you have the means and the variability around those means. You notice all the confidence intervals here are pretty small, which means there tended to be a lot of agreement from person to person, in terms of the species importance within the different regions, but what you do notice is that there's actually a lot of variation among regions, and so these plots look quite different between Beaufort, Wanchese, and Virginia Beach.

A couple of clear patterns come out here, and you can see the later arrival of dolphin and wahoo as you move north, which makes sense, based on the migratory patterns, and so, for example, in Beaufort, they have some dependence on sort of the March month in wahoo, which is shown in green there, and then, as you move up to Wanchese, you see that bump occurs slightly later, in April or May, and then, actually, Virginia Beach misses the spring bump altogether.

You also see, in terms of dolphin, very different patterns. You see a slower and sort of earlier June dependence on dolphin in Beaufort, a very high dependence in Wanchese later in the summer, and then actually very little dependence on dolphin, relative, in Virginia Beach, and there was actually only one participant who plotted out dolphin, and that's why it's a single line without confidence bounds here.

What struck us was really a lot of the high variation in the role of the species in the overall fisheries, and, again, we can go to the conceptual models, which capture those conversations we had at the workshops, to look at what are the different factors that are driving the role and the use of the species throughout the different regions, and, again, what I am showing you here is the sub-components, and so the pieces that are relevant to the recreational fisheries. In pink are the post-it notes that came up in all three regions, and, again, we have piled all the models together, and so we've stacked them, and we have included all the possible linkages that were brought up in all three workshops, and, again, we have color-coded those, depending on the workshop at which the component was brought up.

Again, I will go through some of the themes that we found on the recreational side. One thing that we heard a lot about was that the access to the coast, and access to the fishing grounds, based on the coast and the distance and the water, can be perceived to increase effort, and so you have sort of a realized effort increase based on factors of how people are reaching the fish, and so, for

example, in areas where you have coastal development, you can get a lot more private recreational effort.

Obviously, the distance from the fish is going to drive accessibility, and so, in places where the Gulf Stream is very far from the coast, it's more difficult to access the fish, and that reduces the realized recreational effort on the species, and then the mobility of anglers, both on the land and in the water, were seen as other important factors, and so, where you have good roads to urban centers, you can have a lot of anglers coming in, and then, as you get more engine power, it's easier for people to get out to the fishing grounds and get the species, and all of these things vary a lot depending on where you are in the region.

Another theme that came out was that the value and the use of the species really differs quite a lot regionally, and so, in Wanchese, we heard a lot about how there is a dependence on local abundance of large dolphin and how that drives customer satisfaction, whereas, for example, in Beaufort, we heard that what's really important in driving their customer satisfaction is the ability to catch dolphin and wahoo throughout the year, and we also heard about the bag limits, and, obviously, that is going to impact the ability to catch the fish, but we heard that the bag limits themselves -- Just having the option to catch the fish really drives the customer's satisfaction, and, in all three regions, we heard about the tourist demand for meat. We heard, over and over, that this is really a meat fishery, and customers really value being able to bring a lot of fish home, and it's not so much of a sport fishery, but a meat fishery.

Then there were some factors that were perceived to increase effort on dolphin across all the regions, things like the strength of the economy. If you have a good economy, it's going to drive both demand for charter trips and private recreational effort. Again, the tuna and marlin fishing opportunities -- If you have fewer opportunities in tuna and marlin, that's going to drive effort towards dolphin, and then the level of regulation. The easier it is to get into the fishery, the less regulation, the more potential there is for increasing effort, and so that's the themes from the recreational model.

Now, as we were going through, in the workshops and in the discussions, we got to talking about how representative are the perspectives of the workshop participants, and a lot of questions were coming up about how the overall charter operations vary across the region, and so, actually, Dewey Hemilright, who was participating in the workshop, came up with a really great idea, and he said that, really, a lot of these answers you're looking for are in all the social media photos, and you could look at these and really get a very refined understanding for how the operations are varying in space and time, and so thank you, Dewey. That was a really great suggestion.

We followed up on it, and so we did an analysis of social media photos across the region, counting the layout photos, dock photos, after each of the fishing trips. This is a summary of the social media analysis. What you're looking at here on the right are the raw data, in terms of the time of the year that the trip was taken and the number of fish caught, and this is just for the top-ten species.

In total, we, or I should say, Anthony Mastitski, our colleague, he counted 1,864 photos across these regions, and you can see the photos, or the count, is heavily geared towards -- It leans towards Wanchese, and this was simply because there are a lot more photos from that region, and so we did a full census, and we didn't sub-sample. We did a full census of all photos posted from the marinas from 2019 to August of 2020.

In total, he counted almost 40,000 fish from nineteen species or species groups, and this raw data plot is a little bit of a mess, and so what I'm going to show you now is sort of summaries of the data. The first one I will show you is if we bin these into sort of bi-monthly bins and look at the proportion of species being caught every fifteen days, and I'm going to show you that analysis, and then we also put like a statistical smoother over the raw data, which just gives you a nice idea of sort of the seasonality of the species. That's what I am going to show you here.

Again, we're looking at the same exact dataset on the top and the bottom. Here on the top, we've just got it binned by fifteen-day windows, and then, on the bottom, we've got the smoothers over the raw data, which give you sense for the seasonality, and so both plots tell you the same thing. Tunas are really important, in terms of the proportion of the catch, up until about April, and then, starting in April, or late May, you see the influence of dolphin, both gaffers early in the season and then the bailers, and they make up the proportion of the catch.

Wahoo makes up -- In terms of total numbers, it makes up relatively little, in terms of the total catch, but, if you look at the proportion of occurrences, and so now we've plotted the data in terms of just whether or not the fish was caught, regardless of the number, and you can see that wahoo actually plays a much more important role. Again, it's just that the dolphin are caught in such numbers that they kind of overwhelm some of the other species, but there's actually quite a lot of species diversity in the catch, and you can see that wahoo are caught throughout the year, but primarily in the later parts of the year.

The purpose of this exercise was to partially compare it to the input we got from the workshop, to see how representative it was, and so what I'm going to do now is take this plot on the lower-right corner and blow it up, and we'll compare it to the input we got from the workshop, and so, again, you're seeing -- On the top here, these are the workshop participant graphs, and now I have averaged these across all three regions, because the social media analysis was done across all regions, and, again, this bottom plot is just the same plot of that social media data.

These are the top-six species that were brought up by the fishermen in the participant plots, and you see billfish here, and, obviously, those aren't landed, and so I'm going to remove those for this comparison, and there is also snapper grouper noted, and that's a large group, and we actually had snapper and grouper specified out and identified to species, when possible, and so, to just facilitate the comparison, I'm going to take out those two species, and we'll just focus on these four and look at the seasonal trends.

What you see is that, actually, the workshop input matches quite closely, very closely, with the social media analysis, and so you see tunas, for example, are pretty important throughout the year, but slightly lower importance in August and September, and you can see that in both plots. If you look at wahoo, you see that there was a bump in April, and then a larger bump in October and November, and see that here in the social media analysis, a bump in April and a larger bump later in the year, and so October and November.

If you look at the king mackerel, it's of lower importance, and it really starts to ramp up in September, and it's really high at the end of the year, and you can see exactly the same thing in the social media, a slight increase starting in September, and it's very important at the end of the year, and then the mahi, of course, the dolphin, start up in late spring until early fall. That tends

to be the identified period in the workshops, and that matches what we see in the social media analysis, and so pretty close trends across the social media versus the workshop.

What's interesting is that we did find tilefish and black sea bass were quite frequent in the catch in the social media analysis, and those did not come up in the workshop, but, if we look at a hierarchical clustering, and this is a statistical analysis, which just sorts out all of those catch photos, and it statistically decides which species are found the most frequently together in the catch, and this is in terms of occurrence, and so not total numbers, but just whether or not the species appeared together in the catch, and so you can think of these branches and this tree as sort of different types of trips that are taken.

Tunas are frequently caught with dolphin, both bailers and gaffers, and wahoo are very frequently caught with king mackerel, and wahoo are not caught frequently with dolphin, because they occur very far apart on these branches, and what you can see here is there a branch where you see the tilefish and the black sea bass together, and so it seems that this is kind of a type of trip that's being taken that wasn't represented in our workshop, which isn't totally surprising, because we were trying to attract people that were mostly involved in the wahoo and dolphin fisheries, and so that's an explanation for why those didn't pop up in our workshop but were quite frequent in the social media.

Trying to summarize all of this and what it means, it's informative to look at the various factors that are influencing the usage of dolphin and wahoo, and, again, what we saw on the recreational side is some major themes that we talked about are the accessibility of the fishing ground, both on land and on water, the seasonal importance and the value of particularly the size classes, the availability of other target species, and these global factors, like the strength of the economy. Then, on the commercial side, the major themes that we saw and heard about were shark abundance and how that frames the commercial fishery and where it can operate, the cost and difficulty of entry into the fishery, and, also, on the commercial side, the availability of other target species.

What is really interesting to us is the extent to which we saw these factors varying throughout space and time, and so you can kind of envision this patchwork where all of these things are varying, and, in some places, you get the factors working with each other, whereas, in other places, you get the factors working against each other, and that's going to create this patchwork of regional availability, where you have hotspots of overutilization and hotspots of underutilization of the species.

That can lead to concentration of effort and local depletion at small scales, even if the overall effort, or the overall landings, have not increased, and so this is kind of one big theme that is emerging, is just the amount of variability that we saw in the way the fishery operates across this region, which, of course, has implications for management and how we think about the impacts of management across space.

Some other emerging themes, just to try and sum up, is we saw that the dolphin and wahoo have a lot of the same fishery participants, but there is pretty large differences between the species and the role in the fisheries. Again, as I mentioned earlier, overall, we saw relatively little discussion of wahoo relative to dolphin, and we saw no clear hypotheses regarding the overall stock drivers and the abundance patterns, and we saw a lot of importance, a lot of attention, to the social and economic considerations for management. Then, across all regions, we also heard concerns about

accountability, and that was particularly in reference to the overall recreational effort, since that was a common theme across all areas.

Then, emerging themes in terms of dolphin, we saw that, within a small geographic range, there is large variation in the role of the species in the fishery, and we saw -- We talked about the impact of dolphin bag limits on consumer satisfaction, and, again, we heard a lot about this being a meat fishery instead of a sportfishing fishery and the importance of meat to the customer satisfaction. We heard about the dependence of different size classes, for example gaffers versus bailers and how that's really variable across area and sector. There is also the perception of localized depletion at small scales, and, again, we think that's a result of some of these factors and how they interact across the region, and then, once again, the perception of increased private recreational effort on dolphin and some accountability concerns there.

Next steps are, again, we really hope to do a conceptual modeling in south Florida when the travel restrictions are lifted, and we would like your advice on how people feel about workshops at this time, and we understand that a lot of us are struggling in different ways, and it's just a very difficult time for many of us, and so we would like to ask if people are going to have the energy to attend these kinds of workshops. If so, what time of year or timing might be good, and so we would like your advice on that, and then we'll have more in-depth analysis forthcoming, and, of course, a final report for the council.

That's the end, and I just want to say thanks again to the Marine Resource Education Program for supporting these workshops, and we really, really appreciate everyone who attended the workshops, and we know it's not easy for folks to take a day off the water, and we had some really nice days, some good fishing days, and people still came to the workshops, and so we appreciate that. We really learned so much from people, and so we appreciate the time and effort that they took to share their knowledge of the fisheries, and so thank you.

MR. HADLEY: I appreciate that, and I think some of you may have recognized some of those photos, and I know we had several AP members that attended those meetings, and I will reiterate appreciation for the time that was spent, particularly on good fishing days. On that note, I don't know if there are any questions from the AP on this.

Additionally, I know that there were some requests for input there, particularly from the folks in south Florida and the Florida Keys, as far as the willingness, and I guess timeliness, as far as conducting the other half of this research in the south Florida area and appropriateness of that, trying not to be tone deaf, so to speak, given the stresses that have occurred due to COVID, and so, with that, I will certainly welcome any questions or input from the AP. If it's okay, I will call on the raised hands for now, and that way, in case we need to jump to any slides, and Mandy can do that on her computer. Tim, I see that you have your hand up.

MR. SCALISE: I think that was a mistake again.

MR. HADLEY: No worries. I am not seeing any hands from the AP at this time. Some of the folks that are located in south Florida, do you think that this would be the kind of workshop that could be conducted to help kind of get the south Florida perspective on this, because the results that were presented are really incredible, and they're fantastic, but they're representative of where they occurred, in North Carolina and Virginia, and so I think that would be helpful, and I don't

know if there's any comments or recommendations for Mandy or Matt on that from the south Florida folks. Jon, I see you have your hand up.

MR. REYNOLDS: I mean, we would like to participate in one of these, and I don't know when it would be possible, but that's pretty much all I wanted to say, and there's a lot of guys that would like to do this, and I think it's a good thing, but, with the current situation, I don't know how it would work, but we would definitely be willing to discuss how we could work it out.

DR. KARNAUSKAS: Okay. That's great. That's good to know. We're a bit restricted on travel still, and we would really like to do these in person, and it's really nice to go out and meet folks, but there is a possibility of trying to bring some of it online, and it's a little bit brutal to do a full-day online workshop, but we could break part of it down with kind of a survey and other parts on a webinar, and we're thinking of ways that it could be done if we had to.

MR. HADLEY: Once we get the workplan worked out a little bit more, I think we'll be reaching out to several of the AP members in the south Florida area, and I know that the AP members in North Carolina were very helpful in just suggesting people that may be interested, as far as general meeting locations and that sort of just help in general, and so you may be hearing from us, or from Mandy and Matt, soon. If there are no other questions, we will move along to the next agenda item. Thank you very much for that presentation.

DR. KARNAUSKAS: Thank you.

MR. HADLEY: Yes, and more to come.

DR. KARNAUSKAS: Yes. Thanks for everyone's time. I appreciate it.

MR. HADLEY: All right. The next agenda item will kind of pick up on the kind of theme in general, but we'll be discussing a fishery performance report for wahoo. As you may recall from 2017, we had just started working on these fishery performance reports in general, and it was almost a proof of concept, and we worked through it with dolphin. It's something that, as council staff, we've been working with the Snapper Grouper AP and the Mackerel Cobia AP and the Dolphin Wahoo AP, course, with the dolphin wahoo fishery performance report, but these reports are really meant to be what you are seeing on the water, and they're to supplement the data gaps that we have in the data and the information that's available.

It's really interesting that, as these have been developed, they have seen many, many uses, and they were initially being developed just to provide general information before a stock assessment, and they have kind of become these resources of information that offer an unparalleled regional perspective and how that may change up and down the coast, and so I'll be working -- I'll put up a series of discussion questions, and we'll work through that in just a moment, but, as background, I wanted to just start off with presenting a little bit of data to the AP on wahoo, just to kind of orient folks on some of the general life history of wahoo and some of the recent landings and some just very brief economic information for wahoo.

The link to this information was included in the agenda, but, overall, wahoo is a relatively fast-growing and short-lived species. The maximum age for wahoo is ten years, and it matures fairly quickly. Female wahoo have been observed as being mature at age-one, and so it's a very fast-

growing fish, a quickly-maturing fish, and it's relatively short-lived, at least when you compare it to some of the snapper grouper species.

Moving over to landings, we saw this a little bit earlier, but this is a little bit more kind of in-depth look at wahoo landings, and, in general, these are -- We'll start off with commercial, and we'll switch over to recreational, and it's variable from year to year, but, looking at the recent landings, they typically range between 40,000 pounds and 70,000 pounds, overall. If you look at the commercial landings by state, Florida and North Carolina are the two major players there on the commercial side, and there's some additional landings from Georgia and South Carolina, as well as up in the Mid-Atlantic region and New England region, and so, essentially, the areas north of North Carolina.

Switching over to recreational information, these are the landings, in general, overall, and certainly it's higher than the commercial side, as we saw earlier, and the wahoo fishery in general is -- The landings are dominated by recreational landings, and they range from year to year, but they range anywhere from just under a million pounds to upwards of almost five-million pounds, and, there again, that spike in recent years that has been observed.

Keeping that in mind, when you look at how landings have occurred on a state-by-state basis, Florida is generally the biggest player there, as well as North Carolina, but what's particularly interesting is, in more recent years, and so 2015 and 2017, you saw a good chunk of wahoo landings coming from north of North Carolina, and so north of the South Atlantic region. Those are coming from Virginia and -- They're largely coming from Virginia, Maryland, and New York, and so you're seeing them caught quite a bit in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Overall, not that many recreational releases of wahoo are recorded, or estimated, and there's no surprise there. With the wahoo fishery, it tends to be -- It's a prize fish, and it's a prize-eating fish, and it's excellent table fare, and so not a lot of them end up going back in the water.

Looking at monthly landings overall, and so we looked at yearly landings, and now we're switching over to monthly landings, and this is for the commercial sector, and you see a bump in landings overall from May through October and then a drop-off in between. Switching over to recreational, the landings are a little bit different, and you see a little bit of a spike here in the March/April realm, and then the overall highest landings are in the July/August wave, and then the landings remain relatively elevated, on average, through the end of the year, and so through the fall and early winter.

Looking at some of the economic information, we have ex-vessel value overall of the commercial sector, and, there again, this often tracks landings, and so you have anywhere from under \$150,000 ex-vessel value for the total ex-vessel of landings to upwards of over \$250,000. Here again, we're speaking about ex-vessel dockside value, and so it's kind of looking at the transaction between the fisherman and the dealer. Looking at ex-vessel price, when adjusted for inflation, you have seen an increase, or at least the data indicates an increase, in the ex-vessel price per pound for wahoo.

Looking at some of the economic impacts of the fishery, these impacts are really heavily driven -
- On the commercial side, they're heavily driven by the ex-vessel value, and so, there again, the dockside value of the fish, and the sales impacts, and so looking at total business sales, range from approximately two to 2.7 million pounds, depending on the year.

This is looking at the past five years, and this is actually an anomaly here in the 2016 data, but, looking at some of the income that's supported, you're looking at approximately \$750,000 to a million dollars in income that is supported through the commercial landings of wahoo, with jobs ranging from thirty to approximately -- It's basically a range of thirty to thirty-five jobs, in general. Again, this is, I think, an accidental anomaly in the data, when you see this zero here, but, overall, you can see the trends are somewhat steady.

Moving over to the recreational side, the recreational economic impacts, the model for these are largely driven by the effort, and so the overall directed trips for wahoo, and, based on the estimated economic impacts of those trips, the sales impacts for wahoo range from just under \$60 million to upwards of almost \$100 million per year, supporting an income of approximately \$15 million to upwards of almost \$30 million per year and supporting an estimated approximately 350 to 550 jobs annually. That's just background information that I have for wahoo, and I will pause there to see if there are any questions on that, and, if there are not, I will jump into the discussion questions.

I will run through this series of questions, and I will kind of take a break after each subject to kind of let the AP run through this list of questions, and these will help develop the report for wahoo, similar to what was done with dolphin.

Looking at catch levels over the past ten years, a few questions. When and where are wahoo available, and has that changed over the past decade or so, and so looking at has the seasonality, timing, or geographic distribution of wahoo changed at all. Has the size of the fish changed? The average size, is it larger, is it smaller, has it remained about the same, and have there been effort shifts to or from wahoo? With that, I will turn it over to the AP.

MR. ROSHER: Are there any comments or questions for John? Go ahead, Jon.

MR. REYNOLDS: I mean, in our area, it seems like the fish are -- They're in the same range and the same locations at the same time of year, but we've noticed a slight increase in wahoo in the last couple of years and availability, and probably even size, overall. There's a lot of really nice fish, and it seems like the population has probably spiked.

The only effort shift we've really noticed is maybe a slight increase in recreational high-speed trolling, and not to any large degree, but more people are aware of it, and there's better lures out and stuff like that, but definitely with spearfishing, like we talked about earlier, and there's been a pretty large effort shift for wahoo with the spearfishing community in our area.

MR. ROSHER: Thanks, Jon. I wonder sometimes how much the sharing of information through social media, and there is YouTube and so many ways that people are learning, and so you've got to wonder too if this is increased knowledge and skill or increased fish population. Any other -- Go ahead, Chris.

MR. BURROWS: Well, in our area, over the ten or fifteen years, we've seen relatively no yellowfin tuna, and we used to see it pretty frequently, and so I think what we've seen is an effort shift to wahoo, and I think it has paid off, with seeing more fish and bigger fish, and that's in southeastern North Carolina, and it may be completely different in the Outer Banks, and maybe Harris can speak to what he sees in Morehead, but, up until this year, we hadn't seen yellowfin

tuna on the docks in ages, and so that's kind of how that trend went, and I don't know which came first, the chicken or the egg, if more big wahoo showed up or the effort to catch them increased and then we saw the bigger fish coming in, but that's definitely the trend here.

MR. ROSHER: Go ahead, Harris.

MR. HUDDLE: The yellowfin have basically left the area, it seems like, and we are seeing a little bit more yellowfin every now and then coming in, but the wahoo fishing has been outstanding, really, other than the last two weeks it's been real slow.

MR. ROSHER: How much do you guys think that the increased shark population has caused this shift? I know that there's quite a bit of talk in Florida about trying to balance out the shark population of your coastal reef sharks, like bulls and sandbars, and I have heard stories, in recent years, about the number of tuna that were eaten from the fleet, in the Outer Banks at least, and up in Virginia Beach and so on, and what are your thoughts on that? Go ahead, Jay.

MR. KAVANAGH: I would say there is definitely an increasing shark population, and we had a run of yellowfin in the middle of the summer, and it was tough to get them away from the sharks, and, in fact, I lost a nice blackfin to a shark yesterday.

As far as wahoo, I would say the population and fishing for them is really erratic. One year, it will be really good, and we have -- I have customers that specifically want to target wahoo and know that they want to come in late summer or early fall, and we have good fishing, and we have caught limits numerous times, and I reiterate the statement, and I think it was Jon that said it, that increased recreational high-speed trolling -- I think people are learning about that and are catching them. I would say that, this year, the fish seem to be bigger. We caught our personal best this year of 105, and we had a seventy-four the other day, and so I would say definitely a run of big fish this year.

MR. ROSHER: That's great. Thank you. Bob.

MR. FREVERT: I would have to say, for the last ten years off of Palm Beach County and the northern Bahamas, it's about the same. We had a big increase from maybe twenty years ago to ten years ago, when we started high-speed trolling, but that really hasn't changed too much over the last few years. I will say that we have a huge shark problem up here off of Jupiter, and so I was listening to what they're having up off of North Carolina, and it's terrible, and we've got divers feeding them, and we outlawed it in state waters, and so they just moved 3.1 miles offshore, and you really can't get a kingfish or a bottom fish to the boat anymore, and it's absolutely horrendous.

MR. ROSHER: I wrote a letter yesterday about it. All right. Any other comments? Anna, I'm just curious. Has there been much talk about shark management and any changes in -- I know we're kind of getting off topic, but I'm just kind of curious if that's something that needs any attention from us in the future, or have you guys addressed it in any way?

MS. BECKWITH: We have heard a lot of comments about sharks regionally and concerns over - - Similar to what you guys have mentioned, and gear interactions and all that sort of stuff, and we have taken those concerns to HMS, and HMS has come back and given us presentations, but it's sort of hard to see a path forward, and the HMS is working with really all the councils and all the

stakeholders, and they're hearing a pretty consistent message, but they're not really sure how to move forward with -- How to fix it, but it's definitely on their table, and it's been brought to their attention.

MR. ROSHER: One comment I would like to make is this guy Tom Osborne has a permit, kind of an experimental permit, and he gets allocation to fish a certain number of days a year and take a certain amount of pounds, and the fish have to be landed intact and so on, and he has actually made an impact, from what I have -- I have kind of followed his catches and comments from people in the area that he was fishing, and like he made some sets off of Jupiter, and, within days, you had people posting pictures of good catches of bottom fish in the area that he was fishing, and they were able to finally get the bottom fish to the boat, and kingfish.

I guess I just wanted to put in your mind that that balancing, if you want to call it that, that Tom is doing to the population, and it has changed either the behavior of the sharks or the number of the sharks, and I don't know which it is, but if you want to contact Pat Price, and he's the one kind of heading up that movement, and Carey Chen is involved, and quite a few veteran guys, and the interesting thing about Carey is he has noticed in it many places in the world, and it's not just a regional problem, and so, if the council ever wants some input, Pat Price -- He runs Daymaker Charters out of Stuart, and he's a really great source of information, and he's kind of heading up some proposals for HMS, and so just trying to join everybody.

MS. BECKWITH: Great. Thanks.

MR. ROSHER: Yes. All right. John, do you want to -- Go ahead, Jon.

MR. REYNOLDS: Just, real quick, I mean, the sharks do apply, and all fishermen know that you target things that you believe that you can land when this is going on, and, when it gets to kings, tunas, and bottom fishing, they all get zeroed out immediately when the sharks get really, really bad, and you don't even want to try it, and so you move into things that you feel that are more sensible that you might be able to land, which, a lot of times, you're more successful catching dolphin wahoo or some sort of billfish, and so I just wanted to reiterate that all of this really does tie in together with effort shifts.

MR. ROSHER: The problem I see is that a fish get eaten that never get counted, and so it's like hooking ten tunas and you catch two. Well, you really killed ten tuna, so to speak, and so it's just something to -- That's why I think it deserves some attention, and that's why I mentioned to Anna, and I know that -- I presumed that there was attention being given to it, but it's pretty serious, and I never saw sharks.

I mean, I have fished out of Miami as a guide for over forty years, and I've never seen sharks like I see them now. We anchored down yellowtail fishing the other day, and, if you didn't crank down twenty-pound test and just wind, and no pumping, you couldn't get them to the boat. Mangrove snappers on the bottom, same thing. If I handed the rod to a customer, they never caught one. If I could tighten the drag and wind as fast as possible, there would be two that looked like they were going to jump in the boat. I mean, that's not normal, and I've never seen it before, but, anyway, I don't want to get bogged down off the subject, but I do think it ties in, in a way, to all species that the South Atlantic is -- Almost all species that the South Atlantic is dealing with. Go ahead, Bob.

MR. FREVERT: Just to follow-up on that, Ray, we've seen things -- Sailfish are getting eaten by the sharks now, and, normally, sailfish would be okay, but I've got five buddies that have had sailfish eaten this summer, which used to never happen.

MR. ROSHER: I've got a picture that Pat sent of a sailfish jumping, and it was taken a few months ago, and it's the most beautiful jumping sailfish picture you've seen, just perfect classic jump, and there is two sharks with their heads out of the water eating it, and I have the photo. I mean, I've never seen that in my life. Not one, but two eating the shark as he's above the water, and their heads are out of the water, and so, I mean, that's a level of aggression that I don't remember seeing years ago.

MR. FREVERT: I had a buddy catch a big sailfish, and three sharks came up and ate it, and it was a bloodbath, and we don't see that, and this happened this summer.

MR. ROSHER: Yes, it's a serious problem. John Hadley, anything that we need to address on this subject so far?

MR. HADLEY: No, I think that covers it, and we'll kind of move through to the next set of questions, but just to -- Not leave the shark issue too soon, the council is definitely -- They have heard a lot from a lot of comments from -- I think everyone is seeing it across-the-board, including council members, and they are trying to work with HMS, and HMS still has to work within the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and so they're trying to find a solution.

I will mention that Pat did provide a comment to the council, and he's been following up with the South Atlantic Council, and so I know that he has been following up with them as well, and it's certainly noted, and it is an issue, but, anyway, to move on to the next set of questions, and I think we hit the first set pretty well, it's looking at some of the social and economic influences of the fishery.

For the commercial sector, has the dockside and retail/restaurant price and demand for wahoo changed? For the recreational sector, has the demand for wahoo trips changed over time for either charter or private vessel trips? Among the species you target, how important are wahoo to the overall business, whether it's charter or commercial or retail? How important are wahoo to trip satisfaction when one is landed on a recreational trip? Are there communities that are dependent on wahoo? Have there been changes in infrastructure that have affected fishing opportunities for wahoo? How have fishermen and communities adapted to any changes in the wahoo fishery? I will turn it over to the AP there, to address some of the social and economic influences.

MR. ROSHER: Go ahead, Chris.

MR. BURROWS: Well, as many of you know, I've got my hand in a couple of different buckets up here, and I'm in the restaurant business as well, and there was a huge dip in the price of wahoo this spring, and North Carolina didn't reopen restaurants for inside seating until May 22, and it's really hard to sell wahoo as a fresh-catch special to-go and get any decent price out of it, but the price coming into the restaurant was off 40 percent, and it stayed that way until about the 4th of July here in North Carolina. I don't know if we're talking about over the long-term, but, this year, it definitely took a hit.

MR. ROSHER: Thanks. Tim.

MR. SCALISE: As far as recreational wahoo fishing here, I have, the last few years, seen a tremendous increase, as far as the economic impact, and a lot of it you can see is they started a wahoo fishing series, and I guess it's been going on for three years now, and I think they just finished the third year, but it's in February and March, and I think the middle of April, and I think you fish three days, and you weigh one fish a day, and you just have to check in what days you're fishing.

Most everyone is doing high-speed trolling, and so the fuel docks love it, because it's during a time of the month that they hardly didn't sell any fuel before, and you go into the local tackle shops, and they probably have a half-million dollars in inventory of just wahoo lures and lead and rods and -- Well, that's not even including rods and reels.

In that -- Four years ago, that was nothing, and, I mean, I can't begin to count how much money probably gets pumped in, and sort of this year was even better, because, with COVID and people looking for things to do, and they weren't traveling and stuff, and so everybody was fishing in March, but it's something that -- You might want to look to that tournament, John, and sort of compare how they do from year to year, but it's sort of a good barometer of how the fishing is.

MR. ROSHER: Thank you, Tim. I have noticed, like you guys mentioned, the fish prices here have suffered a little bit during the earlier periods, but it's coming back a little bit now. Any other comments? What do you have next, John?

MR. HADLEY: Moving along, we're looking at some of the environmental, ecological, and habitat influences, and so have you noticed any unique environmental conditions that affect wahoo, maybe concentrations or differences that drive some of the migrations and that sort of information? Do you perceive that the abundance of wahoo has changed over the past ten years? I know that there were a few comments on that earlier.

What do you see now in terms of recruitment? Is anyone seeing small fish? How do the fish mix, as far as size? Are there large fish and small fish together found in the same locations? Are the large fish usually found in one spot and the smaller fish found in the other? Last, but not least, have you noticed any change in the species caught with wahoo over the years, or potentially seasonally, and so what species may -- Has anything changed in the species that you catch on trips where you do land the wahoo, or several wahoo? With that, I will turn it over.

MR. ROSHER: I think a lot of this has been answered already, but, if anybody has any additional comments, feel free to raise your hand. Go ahead, Jon.

MR. REYNOLDS: I think it's pretty consistent overall. I guess the only thing -- If we're looking for data information, it's small fish seem to be -- We catch them offshore more, maybe around debris and stuff, and larger fish -- We catch a lot of larger fish inshore in different months, but everything else is pretty consistent through the years, it seems like.

MR. ROSHER: Yes, and I would have to echo that. Almost all the small wahoo we catch are on floaters offshore, and the bigger fish are up on the reef, or close to the reef. All right. Thank you.

MR. HADLEY: All right, and I just have one follow-up question. When I see photos, and just kind of a regional observation, but, when you see photos of wahoo from the Carolinas, they tend to be, I would say medium-sized to very large, and, when you see photos of fish caught in Florida, they range from extremely large to specimens that are not usually seen, very small specimens that are not usually seen, at least off the Carolinas, and I don't know if anyone else in the Carolinas has -- Do you run into very small fish, or are they usually pretty large? It just seems like there might be some variation there. You see some small fish that are caught in Florida that you don't see elsewhere, and I didn't know if there were observations on that.

MR. ROSHER: Go ahead, Chris.

MR. BURROWS: Well, where we live, we have miles and miles of wahoo-friendly water, that they don't really have the same just the expanse of it I think the north of us, and I think that area exists to the south of us as well too, and, occasionally, we will get into tiny wahoo, what I would consider tiny, like eight to fifteen pounds, and it seems like you will catch scads of them for a couple of weeks, and then you don't find them anymore. I am not going to say that -- I can't really tell you the frequency, but, when it happens, it's pretty clear that's what you catch for a while, and then you go back to what you described, the mediums to the jumbos.

MR. ROSHER: Thanks, Chris. Jay.

MR. KAVANAGH: We see our little wahoo around floats, and our bigger fish seem to be structure oriented.

MR. ROSHER: Yes, and I've seen that, too. I've actually caught some like six-inchers dropping a sabiki down on weed patches here in Florida, and so I think that's the smallest I've seen. All right. Any other thoughts or questions?

MR. HADLEY: I don't see any hands raised on that, but I appreciate that, and I think that's really good information, particularly for wahoo, and it's a species that is fairly important, and there are several gaps in the research on the life history of it, and so this sort of information, where the small fish are and where the large fish are, I think it's very helpful, in general, and the distribution of those fish, and so I appreciate that.

Moving on to management measures, how does the AP feel about the general limits that are in place on the recreational side? Are they appropriate? We're looking at a two-fish per person bag limit with no vessel limit or size limit. On the commercial side, is the 500-pound trip limit appropriate with no size limit, and are there new management measures that the council should consider? Are there existing management measures that should be changed for wahoo, and so thinking along the lines of the size limit, the trip limit, the bag limit, allowable gears, that sort of information, and so how does the AP feel about the current management measures? Are they appropriate, or should they be changed?

MR. ROSHER: I don't see any hands, John, but I think, just to mirror what Brice said earlier, the council might give some consideration to the increased effort that diving has taken, and it's hard to kind of manage lost fish on a shaft, but it does happen, and I don't know if it's worth digging into any variations to management efforts, but there is an increased effort, and it's become pretty popular, and that's probably the biggest change I've seen, other than what's already been

mentioned here recently. Brice may not be online, and so I just figured that I would mention that again. Any other thoughts? Anna, does this -- Do you think this requires a comment or a motion, or is the verbal comments that we've given sufficient to help you guys have direction?

MS. BECKWITH: I think the verbal comments are fine, and John will note them in the summary.

MR. ROSHER: Okay. Great. Thank you.

MR. HADLEY: All right. Last, but not least, if there are no other comments on some of the management topics, is there anything else important for the council to know about wahoo? I think what Ray just mentioned about some of the increased pressure on the dive side of things will certainly be noted in the fishery performance report, but is there anything else that wasn't covered that you think the council should know about wahoo in general?

MR. ROSHER: Any thoughts?

MR. HADLEY: I am not seeing any hands raised, and so I think that covered everything, and I certainly appreciate everyone's input on this, and this sort of information is particularly helpful for a species like wahoo that there are some -- It's not the most well-studied species in the world, and so it's certainly appreciated. With that, I will jump into the next agenda item. Give me just a second to get the documents up here.

The next item is a discussion on some of the economic effects of COVID-19 that we've seen, and, really, in that context, a discussion on bag limit sales, and what I have done is put together a brief presentation to go over this, and it just basically summarizes what was in the paper, and I will come back to these final discussion topics, but I just wanted to take a few bullet points that have come out of this topic, and I will go over those very quickly, sort of as background and to orient the conversation in general.

As just a brief introduction, obviously, the COVID-19 impacts have really affected everyone, but some of the pandemic-related closures have resulted in unprecedented challenges for fishermen and communities and fishing-related businesses, and everyone has experienced that, and the timing of it, in particular, was very unfortunate, but the council has taken up discussing this and thinking about what they can do to help out and alleviate, from the economic perspective, alleviate some of the economic effects of that.

In doing so, you may remember that council staff reached out to advisory panels and other interested parties asking for information on some of the impacts and some of the potential solutions to that, and you may remember several emails coming from me on that, and we certainly appreciate the feedback that was received, but, overall, this was compiled, and all of the feedback from the commercial, for-hire, and recreational community was presented to the council on the effects of COVID and potential fisheries management changes.

As far as the council's response, the most rapid response comes in the form of emergency rules, and, within that realm, the council certainly is bound, and it needs to stay within the guidelines for emergency action and sustainable harvest found within the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and so, in doing so, they took into account all of the input that they received and kind of examined which

fisheries could essentially fall within -- Still stay within the sustainable harvest guidelines, but an emergency action could move forward for those fisheries.

After examination of the different species, the council requested that NOAA increase the recreational king mackerel possession limit to four fish per person coastwide, as well as increase the commercial trip limit for vermilion snapper. These emergency rules went into place in mid-September, and they will remain in place for 180 days.

Part of the feedback that was received is there were two major mentions of discussing bag limit sales, and one of the suggestions was to consider allowing bag limit sales of dolphin by dually-permitted vessels, and such vessels may hold permits in limited-access commercial fisheries or the dolphin and wahoo fishery as well as a federal for-hire permit. The additional suggestion was consider separating the for-hire sector from the recreational sector and allow for-hire operations to sell their catch.

In this context, the discussion came up as far as -- When the council was reviewing the topics for the Dolphin Wahoo AP, and as well as when we were planning the agenda, there was interest in discussing bag limit sales in the context of economic relief from some of the economic hardship that has recently been experienced, and so there is interest in having sort of a structured conversation on bag limit sales.

I will start off with a brief history and get into some of the AP recommendations, and then we'll get into some of the discussion questions for the AP, but, looking at a brief history of bag limit sales of dolphin, the prohibition on bag limit sales was implemented as part of the Comprehensive Annual Catch Limit Amendment, Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 2, and this became effective in 2012.

The council rationale at the time included that this action helped ensure that landings did not exceed the newly-implemented annual catch limits that were put in place with that amendment, and they helped ensure that regulations were fair and equitable and fish harvested by the recreational sector would not be counted towards the commercial quotas, and so thereby helping avoid double-counting of fish that were landed recreationally and then sold.

The council has disallowed bag limit sales in all finfish fishery management plans, to address their stated concerns overall, and that also helps maintain regulatory consistency across the South Atlantic Council's fishery management plans and across the region. Where the topic currently stands today is it's not actively being considered by the council in a fishery management plan amendment at this time, and it was originally -- It was put into Amendment 10, but, after several meetings, the council ended up removing allowing bag limit sales of dolphin from Amendment 10, noting that there were considerable potential benefits of allowing bag limit sales, but also expressed several concerns, including the existing issue of potential double-counting of landings, additional pressure on the commercial ACL that had been met, and potential inequities, both regulatory and competitive, that may occur by allowing for-hire bag limit sales of dolphin.

Looking at some regulatory issues in general, certain HACCP concerns, and so overall, as well as making sure those fish are sold to a federal dealer and that sort of thing, and then, also, some competitive concerns, looking at maintaining -- If a fish is sold, it is commercial, and making sure that there's a level playing field between for-hire vessels and commercial vessels that are selling

fish, and, also, potentially between for-hire vessels that have access to dolphin and those that may not, and so some competitive competition issues that could arise.

In the end, there's really -- There is multiple decision-points that need to be made to bring back and re-implement bag limit sales, and, to do so -- As we saw before, Amendment 10 is pretty lengthy as it is, and so adding those multiple decision-points the council felt would make the amendment too lengthy, in general, noting the additional concerns above, and so it was removed, in order to help streamline that amendment.

To go over some of the advisory panel input that has been received regarding bag limit sales over the recent years, the Socioeconomic Panel has weighed-in, and not directly for dolphin, but they recommended against bag limit sales in Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 19, and they noted that bag limit sales allow additional economic value, since the commercial value is added to the recreational value, and also that elimination of bag limit sales might lead to elicit sale of landed fish, as well as loss of important data on those landings. They also noted that there may be cause for compensation to the commercial sector if there are potential damages related to reduced available catch or downward price pressure.

The Mackerel Cobia AP weighed-in on the consideration of bag limit sales at the time, in Amendment 10, at their April 2019 meeting, noting that the council -- They suggested that the council, in general, should not allow bag limit sales of dolphin, or any other South-Atlantic-Council-managed species, by dually-permitted for-hire and commercial permit holders, but noting that it is unfair to allow some vessels access to an additional revenue stream that other vessels may not have, creating an unfair advantage.

Also noting that, when bag limit sales were allowed in the past, fishermen along the east coast of Florida sold more king mackerel than dolphin, many times and, also, there were concerns over ACCSP regulations being met, and, also, in the very end, it was noted that, if bag limit sales were allowed, for-hire sales should be allowed for all council-managed species, including king mackerel and Spanish mackerel, and the Mackerel Cobia AP passed a motion that went to the council recommending that the council not consider for-hire sales for any South-Atlantic-Council-managed species. However, if the for-hire sales are allowed for one species, it should be allowed for all species.

Last, but certainly not least, we'll cover this advisory panel's input, at least most recently, and I know that there have been several recommendations moved forward to re-implement bag limit sales, but, as you may recall, at the 2017 meeting, we had a discussion on bag limit sales of dolphin, and it was noted, and I will go over this sort of in detail, since this has been discussed before by the AP, and just to see if there are any additional points that do need to be made, but it was noted, at a previous meeting with the Southeastern Fisheries Association, that both recreational and commercial interests agreed on endorsing bag limit sales from for-hire trips, as long as the landings went against the recreational quota. It was noted that bag limit sales would not be expected to affect the fishery or the stock.

Sometimes -- It was noted that, often, after multiple trips, customers may not want to take all the fish home that are landed, and it becomes difficult to deal with this extra fish, and allowing bag limit sales would provide extra income for fishermen and a good local product for restaurants and

seafood markets. Additionally, it adds incentive for crew to work harder, in general, and it helps supplement income, particularly for the crew.

The AP suggested considering a geographic component, since it seems to be a popular idea in the Keys and south Florida, potentially allowing Florida to be a pilot project, and, additionally, the Dolphin Wahoo AP suggested considering giving more ACL to the commercial sector, if bag limit sales are allowed, or make sure that it comes directly out of the recreational ACL. It was noted that customers are charged full rate, regardless of whether the sales are allowed, and allowing bag limit sales would decrease black-market sales of dolphin and allow the catch to be logged.

Part of the discussion also included that allowing bag limit sales does add incentive to keep more fish on a trip, which may increase effort and landings. Additionally, allowing bag limit sales to offset charter fees would be bad for a charter business, as it undercuts fair market rates.

That was the general discussion that the Dolphin Wahoo AP had in 2017, and there are two motions that were passed to reinstate bag limit sales for both dolphin and wahoo for the entire region, and also in Florida only, and so these were the two motions that were passed, kind of giving sort of a -- I believe the intent, at the time, was providing a range of options, either just reimplementing bag limit sales in general for dolphin and wahoo or just allow it in Florida only.

I will jump into the discussion questions in just a second, but removing the prohibition on bag limit sales has been mentioned as a way to mitigate some of the economic harm that has occurred from COVID-19, and so, in this context, the Dolphin Wahoo AP is being asked to address the discussion questions to help advise the council, should consideration of for-hire bag limit sales occur in the future, and so keeping that in that context, and to help identify whether are other economic relief measures that the council should be considering outside of bag limit sales.

With that, I will jump over to the discussion questions here, and I will go over these very quickly, and then I'll turn it over to the advisory panel, but, in general, are there -- In general, to help the discussion on this, are there benefits not previously outlined by the AP that may occur from allowing bag limit sales of dolphin? Just, in general, the additional income for for-hire businesses and crew, helping retain crew and providing an incentive to work harder and a fresh local product for restaurants and a decrease in black-market sales and a better accounting of all fish harvested.

If the council were to pursue bag limit sales of dolphin, are there suggestions for addressing or overcoming the identified challenges, and so potential double-counting of landings, additional pressure on the commercial ACL, potential inequities over a level regulatory playing field between for-hire businesses as well as commercial -- The commercial and recreational sector and a potential downward pressure on charter fees. How could those be addressed?

Certainly, last, but not least, are there other measures that the council should consider to help alleviate some of the economic hardships that have recently been experienced due to COVID-19 on the fishing industry, and that could include recreational and commercial, and, if so, should these be temporary, or should they be permanent? That's all I have, and I am happy to field any questions, and I will turn the discussion over.

MR. ROSHER: All right. Thanks, John. Go ahead, Chris.

MR. BURROWS: First of all, I am very passionate about getting this reinstated as a way that charter boats can augment their income. Very few industries have been hit harder than what's happened to the charter boat world since I got involved with it, and I'm very passionate about getting this reinstated, and one thing that we didn't really bring up at the last meeting is, since we're all headed to electronic reporting anyway, it wouldn't be hard at all to create a separate category for bag limit sales as we're doing this electronic reporting.

You know, we're getting away from the trip ticket world, and, if there's an app on the phone, it would not be hard to create a third category that says we sold X pounds of fish to Dealer Number XXXX, and that's a very easy thing to overcome, especially when we're headed towards electronic reporting, and I don't see that as a hurdle at all in making this happen, and I don't think that was really as discussed in 2017 as it is now, and so let's just pull out the stops on this one and get it passed.

MR. ROSHER: I agree with you, Chris. During those previous discussions, we were dealing with paper trip tickets, and I brought that point up long ago, and it kind of created an obstacle, because they would have millions of tickets printed, and are you going to go back and add a box, and so it may be more about timing, the time between COVID and the fact that we are going more electronic, and it's more conducive to this possibility. Go ahead, Jon.

MR. REYNOLDS: Thanks. I mean, I would just like to say too that I think part of this discussion always gets mixed between charter fishermen and commercial fishermen, like they're separate, and, as far as I know, and as far as I'm concerned, I mean, we're the same guys. The guys I'm fishing with, my deckhands, they work on commercial boats, and they handle fish commercially directly all the time, and they charter fish, and they switch.

For handling fish, knowing how to handle fish, and the other perspectives, I think mainly we're dealing with the same guys, as far as most of the guys that I know, and they have fished in both sectors, and they still do, for the most part. They switch back and forth, and some guys even go up north to the Carolinas and commercially fish part of the season and then come back down here, and they work on a yellowtail boat one day, and they charter fish the next day, and so I think, as far as the way of handling fish and knowledge of handling fish and stuff like that, I don't think that's a big hurdle, or a big issue, really.

The other thing that I've heard brought up sometimes is enforcement, or an issue of enforcement, but, immediately, point blank, you would have to be a dually-permitted vessel, and so, immediately, you would know if the vessel was in compliance or not that you were dealing with, right off the bat, and I just wanted to make those points, and I think it's a great point that Chris made. I have made that point before, and I think that's a much smaller challenge, or hurdle, that we would ever have to deal with, with the movement into electronic reporting. Thanks.

MR. ROSHER: I would like to mention too that, growing up in Miami, charter fishing was the source of fresh local fish. I mean, the summer of 1980, I spent it in Key West fishing with bandits and coming home on Thursdays with a catch to sell at the docks in Miami on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, and the lines of people that would show up -- I never once heard of a problem with the quality of the fish, and I have listened to every comment, negative and positive, about the subject, and I have to say that, pretty much every negative comment, there's a pretty easy solution.

I don't know that we need to micro-analyze every one of those comments and solutions, but, you know, this was happening way before we were all born, and so just keep that in mind, and I think it was part of the culture of at least our area, and I can't really speak for up the coast or in the Gulf or wherever, but it was a cool thing that we did that provided fresh, local fish.

If you look at where this decision has taken us, and now the local restaurants that I used to sell thousands and thousands of pounds of dolphin to are now buying all Vietnamese and just various imported, you know, South American dolphin, and I just think we've changed the culture of being able to get fresh, local fish. The restaurants are challenged, because they don't have the same quality, and, if you get real deep, you're affecting the economy of the United States, and you're shipping money out to buy product that we can produce here, and just don't forget that the fish we're talking about selling are legally caught under bag limits, normal bag limits, and we're not talking about the unlimited catch that a longline boat can make, up to 75 percent of their ACL.

I am not trying to say that they made a big deal out of nothing, but it has really kind of changed the culture, at least in our area, of being able to provide restaurants and individuals with really, really high-quality, fresh, local fish, and I'm glad that -- John Hadley, you mentioned some of the benefits, where it incentivizes crew, and, of course, now we're talking about the economic impacts of charter boats trying to survive, and I appreciate you guys coming back to the table with this, and I don't know where it's all going to go, but I just see it, and it seems like kind of a small issue, but it really did change a culture. Go ahead, Jon.

MR. REYNOLDS: Thanks. Just economically, I mean, besides the COVID-19 crisis, obviously, and this is affecting everybody, but, I mean, this even ties back into the shark problem and where the whole fishery is going with everyone trying to make it, and commercial fishermen in our area, and how much more challenging it has gotten to bottom fish and do other things, and they're looking into other -- They are looking into other things to do, and a lot more guys are doing a lot more charter fishing now, and jumping on, and this would just be -- You're taking a commercial fisherman, an experienced commercial fisherman, and putting him on a charter boat and giving him just another opportunity to make it on that day with no more impact to the fishery under the bag or vessel limit sales.

It's just giving better economic relief, and the fish is utilized a lot more. You're looking at you could catch a nice fish on a charter, where someone could mount that fish, and you're going to have a return customer, someone entering even into the fishery as a recreational person now who is excited, whose kid was onboard. I mean, there's so many different -- Then the fish still possibly even being able to enter the market, and, I mean, the economic benefits are amazing, and the relief to fishermen is a big deal.

MR. ROSHER: Years ago, one of the comments was that allowing the sale of these fish might send a mixed signal to the clients, and it wasn't -- That point wasn't included in John Hadley's list, but my answer to that is, if there is ever too much focus on the selling of the fish and not taking care of the customer, it kind of fixes itself, because that client won't be back, and so this is simply just a way to bonus the crew with fish that are legal to harvest anyway, which today we're giving away to people, or, of course, we feed our families too, but the point is that we have people that just want to catch dolphin, and that's what they want to go do, and, if there's fish left over, it's certainly a benefit to the crew.

I agree with the comments that were put into the presentation about not allowing that boat to discount their charter, and I agree with that 100 percent. This should not be a way to create an unfair advantage, and so I think a lot of great comments have already been listed, and I think it's probably -- I have talked to Anna and other council members about it in the past, and so they're probably tired of hearing about it, but, if someone wants to either confirm the previous motions or make a motion, then we can move on, unless there are more comments. Go ahead, Chris.

MR. BURROWS: I will make a motion that we confirm the previous motions and try and get this back on the table as soon as humanly possible.

MR. ROSHER: Okay. Thanks.

MR. HADLEY: To that point, I just had a point of clarification on that. The previous motion included dolphin and wahoo. I will try to pull those back up, or, actually, I will just copy-and-paste them here, but the discussion largely focused around dolphin, and I think that was probably the important species in the past, but is that something that the AP wants to continue to include, or do you want to focus it more so on dolphin, or do you want to include both dolphin and wahoo?

MR. ROSHER: It's your motion.

MR. BURROWS: I have no problem confirming both species or if we want to split into four different motions, two for dolphin and two for wahoo, two for Florida only, two for the entire region.

MR. ROSHER: Anna, is there a benefit, or a recommendation, that you can give that would help create progress?

MS. BECKWITH: No, and I think any way you guys word it is going to be fine for our consideration. I may have some additional comments when the discussion is done, but I want to give you guys a chance to sort of get everything on the table that you want to.

MR. ROSHER: All right. Well, thanks for your help, Anna.

MR. HADLEY: Chris, does this adequately represent -- I think it does, but I just want to double-check that, before there's a second or anything. **The motion would be to confirm the previous motions on allowing bag limit sales of dolphin and wahoo, and then I put the two motions up there.**

MR. BURROWS: I'm fine with that. That's cool.

MR. HADLEY: Okay. Sounds good. Is there a seconder? I see Jon's hand up there.

MR. ROSHER: Go ahead, Jon.

MR. REYNOLDS: I will second.

MR. ROSHER: **Any opposed?**

MR. HADLEY: I am not seeing any hands. **There is no voice opposition, and so, in that case, that motion stands to reiterate the AP's previous motions that cover reinstating bag limit sales of dolphin and wahoo overall or focusing, potentially, on Florida.**

All right, and are there any other -- I guess, before we move on, I know that bag limit sales are particularly important overall, and we've gone over some of the economic relief that could occur from them, but are there any other measures? The council has taken the two emergency -- Has moved forward with the two emergency actions, and, there again, they are kind of bound within the constraints of emergency actions, but is there something else that they could be considering in addition to bag limit sales, to help alleviate some of the economic hardship on the fishing industry, and this could be temporary or permanent, or do you feel like this discussion adequately covered that?

MR. ROSHER: The only thing I thought about, John, was this reporting that it looks like we're going to initiate in January, and the jury is out, and we'll see how it goes, but it sounds like electronic reporting shouldn't be too hard, and the paper reporting, I can tell you, was not easy for logbooks and trip tickets in the past, but I look forward to electronic reporting, and so any simplification of whatever responsibilities we have is appreciated, but I don't know that there needs to be a motion, and I just wanted to make that note.

MR. HADLEY: All right. I certainly appreciate that, and, just a little bit of background on that, the for-hire side of things, the for-hire logbook, so to speak, and for-hire reporting will all be electronic, and there are efforts to make the commercial logbook electronic as well, and that's something that the council has been discussing as part of their workplan, and eventually intends to move forward with, and so that's -- That will be moving forward in the future.

MR. ROSHER: Good.

MR. HADLEY: That will bring everything up-to-speed.

MR. ROSHER: All right. Anna, go ahead.

MS. BECKWITH: I just wanted to -- John, can you pull up those two motions that were just passed, real quick? I just wanted to make a point, and I noticed that you guys added wahoo to these, and commercial and recreational ACLs are pretty tight on wahoo, and so I just wanted to sort of remind you guys of that, and, if I was holding a crystal ball, I would consider it highly unlikely for the council to even start a discussion on wahoo, because of how close those catches come to reaching the commercial and the recreational ACL each year, but I also wanted to note that, the issues, as discussed today, are certainly larger than what we could cover in Amendment 10, and so I didn't want -- While we will bring this discussion back up, I will bring up this discussion again for the council to consider, but I did not want, like I said, any false expectations that you guys would see this added to Amendment 10.

It's a very complicated issue, as you can see, and there's lots of different opinions on it, even within the council, and the commercial permit, just as a reminder, is open access, and so one of the concerns that the council has stated in the past is that this would then increase the number of commercial permits and, of course, add an incentive, obviously, to keep more fish, and, as we hear about resource concerns and concerns about localized depletion and all those sorts of things, there

is some additional concerns from the council that moving back toward bag limit sales would have the potential to increase commercial effort, just by having to have that dually-permitted commercial permit.

That's just a few things off the top of my head, and this discussion is quite detailed, and a very difficult one, and one that the council has considered numerous times, and the makeup of the council, as it stands right now, when we have had these discussions, has felt pretty strongly about separating recreationally-caught fish from commercially-caught fish, while acknowledging that these bag limit sales were historic and traditional, but finding it very difficult to allow for one species and not consider it for some of the other species that they were also historically permitted for, and, for species like wahoo and king mackerel and Spanish mackerel, where those commercial ACLs get really close, or close, allowing bag limit sales for those species would be really difficult.

I also suspect that having an allowance in just one region, or one small area, would be quite difficult for the council to support, and certainly North Carolina charter guys would like to see bag limit sales, and I suspect that even the Northeast region and the Mid-Atlantic, as they start to see more and more dolphin in their area, would like to see bag limit sales, and so it becomes a really, really difficult discussion very quickly, and it also ends up being precedent setting, as we have these discussions, and so the council will reconsider this, but I just wanted to make sure that the expectations on timing for action were not something that you guys would be disappointed in or be caught unaware. Thanks.

MR. ROSHER: Thanks for your comments, Anna, and the points are well made. Chris, you might want to think about -- Did Chris make this motion, Chris Burrows?

MR. HADLEY: Yes. It was made by Chris and seconded by Jon.

MR. ROSHER: It's up to you if you want to take wahoo out, but one comment that I was going to make, Anna, and I have sat in on a couple of meetings where I've heard comments going in both directions, but I hope the council keeps in mind that it seems like a double standard when a commercial longliner can catch 10,000 or 20,000, or even 30,000, pounds on a trip, and the council wants to pick on charter boats for keeping fifty or a hundred pounds for sale, and I would just like to put that on the record. I'm about to be fired, and so I can say what I think. Just kidding.

Anyway, I just think it's important to keep in mind that you're talking about a lot of small family businesses, which I know you relate to, because you're one of them, that can be assisted from just a little bit of help from the council, and that's all I have to say about that one. Go ahead, Chris. Why don't you go first, and then Jon.

MR. BURROWS: Thanks, Ray. We're going to miss you, by the way.

MR. ROSHER: I'm going to miss you guys, too.

MR. BURROWS: Hopefully you will be back very soon. I think maybe what we should do is split this into four separate motions and just kind of copy-and-paste each one and have the Florida only and the one that covers all the South Atlantic, one for dolphin and one for wahoo, for a total of four motions, if that doesn't ruffle any feathers.

MR. ROSHER: It sounded like Anna was saying the odds of getting wahoo passed is almost zero, and so it probably is worth ignoring wahoo and just focusing on dolphin, because that's -- To Anna's point about what happens with the other species of fish, the mackerel and so on, and the one benefit we have with the dolphin ACLs is we have a cushion that other species don't have, and so that's kind of what drove my point about allowing charter boats to have small amounts that can assist families, small family businesses, and so it's up to you how you want to write it, Chris, but it might be easier to get some attention if wahoo wasn't part of it.

MR. BURROWS: Fair enough. **Let's strike wahoo then.** I want to keep fighting the good fight, as much as possible.

MR. ROSHER: Well, thank you. John Hadley, if you can change that, and then Jon Reynolds.

MR. HADLEY: Sure, and I'm going to work on putting something up here on the screen, and so this motion has already been approved by the AP, and so we can't really do away with the motion, but, if you want to pass additional motions for the council's consideration, I will work on getting those up here.

MR. ROSHER: How about a revised motion?

MR. HADLEY: We can put it on there and see how it goes.

MR. ROSHER: I'm just making stuff up at this point. Go ahead, Jon Reynolds.

MR. REYNOLDS: I am just wondering if it wouldn't help to be even more specific, because we have bag-limit-only quantities, but, if we need to say -- To make it extremely specific that the limitations are recreational limitations only, that we say "able to sell a maximum recreational vessel limit only", or something like that, so that it's crystal clear that the use of the commercial permit could never exceed the recreational quantity, no matter what, and I guess that's what I was wondering, if we should do something like that, to take that other obstacle out of there of the commercial permit being unlimited, or a trip limit or whatever, and that this is very specific that the recreational bag limit or vessel limit is the maximum.

MR. ROSHER: I think bag limit sales kind of says that in itself, that these are coming from a charter boat, which is engaged in recreational fishing, and so, if you sold more than that, you would be breaking other laws, and you would have bigger issues, but it's totally up to you guys how you want to word it.

MR. REYNOLDS: Okay. That sounds good. As long as we think it's clear.

MR. ROSHER: I think bag limit sales is pretty clear. Again, not all boats are going to do it, and a lot of our people catch enough for dinner and then they want to go do something else, and so it's not something that is going to happen every day, and it's just nice when it does happen, but it's not -- It makes a lot of people happy. Customers like to catch a lot of fish that it's legal for them to catch. Instead of giving them away to the dockhands and people around us, we're able to make a few bucks, and the people that are eating them certainly appreciate it, and so those are really the three points that I want focus on, Anna, when you have your conversation with them.

It's, when done properly, it's kind of a win-win situation, and, like I said, if we don't do it right, we hurt ourselves, and the charter fee, as you know, is much more important than selling a few pounds of fish. It's just kind of like you said, and it's a traditional act that's been taken away that we all kind of grew up around, and it served a very good purpose, and I've had several restaurants comment on the lack of fresh quality, and they miss the fresh quality fish, and so, if there's a way to do it -- I get the challenges, and I have heard plenty of challenging comments, but, if there's a way to do it, we really appreciate the consideration, Anna.

MR. HADLEY: To go back to Chris's motion, or motions, I should say, I think -- I just want to make sure what I have up here accurately reflects that, before we get into seconds or voting on this, and it sounds like you want to go through and pass a couple more motions on this to clarify the AP's intent here. What I did was I removed wahoo, because it sounds like you were interested in focusing on dolphin.

MR. ROSHER: Yes.

MR. HADLEY: Then there's one other topic that we haven't really discussed that was existing from the previous AP recommendation, and that is that sold landings would come from the recreational ACL, and that can certainly be part of the AP's recommendation. I know, from an accounting perspective, and just how landings -- If they are sold, they are viewed as commercial, and so that may be difficult, but that doesn't mean that you can't include it in your recommendation, but I was just pointing that out, that that hasn't been discussed today, and that was part of your previous recommendations, and so I just wanted to make sure that you're okay with that moving forward, but the major change there is removing wahoo from both of those motions.

To Jon's point, and, Ray, your point, the motion does read to be able to sell bag limit only quantities, and so I think that makes it clear that it wouldn't go above the bag limit, and you're not going into, quote, unquote, commercial limits, and just noting that it would go to a licensed dealer, in this case. As part of the commercial permit, any fish sold, any dolphin sold, has to go through a federally-licensed dealer, and so that's just clarifying what that would mean, in practice.

MR. ROSHER: I would like to just put on the record too that, several years back, Bob Jones wrote a letter to me endorsing the reinstatement of bag limit sales, and, obviously, if they meet HACCP requirements and get counted against the recreational ACL, and his logic was to eliminate black-market sales and to properly count the fish and properly pay the taxes, and those are the benefits of this happening, and I just would like the council to hear that and know that that's the intent here, is to -- It solves a few other problems, and, to have the endorsement of Bob Jones and I think it was Southeast Fisheries, and he was the president, and to have that endorsement from that commercial sector was pretty impressive.

I guess, back to my earlier comment that, almost all the negative comments that I have heard about this, I think there is a pretty workable solution for it, and, even if I'm off the AP, I'm happy to attend a meeting, or chime in, if it's electronic or whatever, and, I mean, I'm happy to be a part of helping with any of these solutions, and, if not, I think the rest of you guys will lead the charge, whichever way you guys like, and so, anyway, thanks for all your comments on this.

MS. BECKWITH: I've got a quick question. Was the intent here to leave out the dually-permitted charter boats?

MR. ROSHER: Well, I think the dually-permitted have to -- It has to be part of that motion, really, and I don't know if you go as far as saying that they have to meet HACCP requirements and so on, but I think the words "properly permitted" -- I think that was kind of intended to mean dually-permitted, but maybe it's better to write "dually-permitted". Thank you for that observation.

MR. HADLEY: All right, and so we have the two motions. I think, Chris, it sounded like you wanted to make these motions, and I'm not trying to put words in your mouth, but I'm just trying to help facilitate along with what I heard in the discussion, and, if we're going to vote on them, we would vote on the first one and then vote on the second one. Do those reflect what you meant?

MR. BURROWS: **Absolutely.** I think it's a good group effort here.

MR. HADLEY: All right. I'm just going to add one more thing, just so we know what we're voting on, just to make that a little bit more clear. Is there a seconder for Motion 1?

MR. REYNOLDS: I will second it.

MR. HADLEY: All right. That motion is on the table to be voted on.

MR. ROSHER: **Any opposed?**

MR. HADLEY: **I am not seeing or hearing any opposition. All right, and so Motion Number 1 would be approved.**

Motion Number 2 is the same motion, and it would reinstate charter boat fish sales for dually-permitted vessels to be able to sell bag-limit-only quantities of dolphin to a licensed dealer. Sold landings would come from the recreational ACL.

This is essentially a similar motion, but this would apply outside of Florida, but it is inclusive of Florida, and it would apply to the whole Atlantic coast. Is there a second here for this motion, for Motion Number 2?

MR. REYNOLDS: I will second that as well.

MR. HADLEY: All right. **Any discussion or opposition? Not hearing or seeing any, both of these motions will be approved.** Unless I hear otherwise, and I just want to make sure that I'm understanding this correctly, and so, when it's presented to the council, that the new AP Chair will understand it correctly, the AP's intent, and this is intended to supersede the motions that were earlier passed by the AP, and so Motion 1 and 2 are essentially the motions that the AP wants to move forward, and is that correct?

MR. ROSHER: That's correct.

MR. HADLEY: Excellent. All right. Is there any further discussion on this topic?

MR. ROSHER: It doesn't sound like it.

MR. HADLEY: So we'll move along here, and the next topic -- We're getting towards the end of the agenda here, but we have one more major topic, and that's an update on the council's efforts to address climate change on a coastwide basis and some of the changes that are being seen in fisheries and fish migrations. Also, with that, just a general discussion on whether or not there is a need for regional management in the dolphin wahoo fishery, and we'll get into those discussions at the very end, but, with that, Myra, are you on the line?

MS. BROUWER: I am.

MR. HADLEY: All right.

MS. BROUWER: Are you going to pull up the presentation, or, if you want to make me the presenter, I've got it up on my screen, and that works too.

MR. HADLEY: Okay. I will make you the presenter.

MS. BROUWER: Hello, everybody. I am going to give you a very brief sort of update of what the council has been discussing relative to efforts by several agencies to address the changes that we know are coming from climate change related issues in fisheries, and mainly governance, and so we know that we are going to be facing very uncertain times, and we are all experiencing that at the moment, and we've got climate change happening, which is altering a lot of things, not just biologically, but alterations in global markets and things like that, and so we know that's coming our way.

Managers are trying to figure out how to take these unpredictable events into consideration when they are making decisions about how best to manage fisheries and respond to the needs of fishing communities moving forward, and so how are the councils going to plan ahead when we have all this uncertainty coming our way?

Along the east coast, there are several management agencies that have recently gotten together to have these conversations, and so the New England and the Mid-Atlantic Councils, along with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the National Marine Fisheries Service, have engaged in something called scenario planning, and this is something that is being considered as a possible tool that is going to help managers address these challenges that I was just mentioning, and they are forming a task force to investigate whether this scenario planning tool is going to help them investigate these issues further and come up with approaches to address them.

This is going to be an opportunity for managers to evaluate these climate-change-related issues, like I said, and we know that management, jurisdictional, and governance issues are definitely going to be here before we know it, and so what is scenario planning?

This is a method that is used to identify uncertainties and determining options that are going to meet the management goals, and so it's kind of similar to what Mandy was talking about this morning, this conceptual model that she spoke about, and it's sort of a similar kind of an approach, where you get a lot of folks together who are knowledgeable about different aspects of the fishery,

and you engage in conversations and try to come up with a unified approach to not really control, but address things in a non-controllable environment.

Other agencies, NOAA and the Pacific Council, I believe, have already used this process, and they have applied it to things such as protected resources, right whales, and the Pacific Council is currently going to be employing this approach to address climate-change-related issues on the west coast.

There was a scenario planning working group that was put together last year, and the scenario planning working group is put together, with representatives from various agencies, including NOAA Fisheries, as I said, the two councils, the Mid-Atlantic and New England, and recently including the South Atlantic Council and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and they convened this working group in 2019 to basically allow them to put together a proposal that would include the scope of such an initiative, if it were to get itself off the ground, how much it would cost, what the effort that would be necessary would be, in terms of planning meetings and available resources, facilitation, that sort of thing, in order to move forward with an initiative that would span the entire east coast.

The working group got together over -- I think the meetings began sometime in the spring, and I am part of this working group, representing the South Atlantic Council, right now, and so we came up with some recommendations for the various agencies to move forward, and so here on your screen are the recommendations that the working group put together, and so they were to appoint a core team to basically plan this whole initiative and coordinate, hire a professional facilitator with scenario planning expertise to help us along, establish committees at the council levels, and start talking about this, to engage a good public participation.

The Nature Conservancy has put forth an offer to help financially to get this project off the ground, and they have also partnered with the Pacific Council, to help them get this project off the ground, and we suggested a two-workshop model that would last anywhere from eighteen to thirty-six months, because it is going to be a pretty heavy lift, and, obviously, things are a little weird right now, with the COVID situation, and we're going to have to re-think some of these things.

As I said, this was discussed in July of 2020, and there was general support from the Northeast Regional Coordinating Council, which is the body that is made up of all these various agencies that I talked about, representatives from them, and the Mid-Atlantic Council is going to work on setting priorities for next year, and they're going to consider this in their priority planning for next year. Our council briefly discussed this at their last meeting in September, and it looks like we're going to be talking again, possibly in more detailed discussions about it, in early 2021, and they're just going to get an update at their upcoming meeting in December.

Then the New England Council is also finalizing their priorities for 2021, and so there is some movement, and we are just now getting started with this, and our council is supportive of this initiative, and so we're just letting the APs know what's going on and just keeping you guys in the loop, and so I will be happy to take any questions.

MR. ROSHER: John, I don't have the screen where I can see raised hands.

MR. HADLEY: I am looking now, and I'm not seeing any raised hands.

MR. ROSHER: Okay.

MR. HADLEY: The council is kind of the works of working with other councils on how to address some of these changes that are being seen in fish populations and fish movements overall. Any questions for Myra? If not, we'll jump into the discussion questions for the AP.

MR. ROSHER: Okay.

MR. HADLEY: All right. Thank you, Myra.

MS. BROUWER: You're welcome.

MR. HADLEY: All right, and so there are a couple of discussion questions that were included in the overview that was included in the briefing book, and, really, it came up as a separate topic at the council meeting in September, but it is related to this general discussion on how to address changes in the fishery, particularly for dolphin and wahoo, because you're looking at -- The fishery management plan doesn't just cover the South Atlantic region.

It covers the entire Atlantic coast, all the way from Maine through Key West, Florida, and so you have a pretty large range there, and we got into discussions on this a little bit in Amendment 10, and are there areas where the council should be considering regional management or specific management topics that kind of warrant that for dolphin or wahoo? I just wanted to kind of breach the subject, and it's a very kind of high-level conversation, and the council, outside of some of the actions in Amendment 10 -- They just wanted to discuss this with the AP and just bring it up,

The first question is are there any specific management topics that the council should consider for regional management approaches for dolphin or wahoo? Are there regional management measures that the council should consider to address climate change or changes in dolphin or wahoo migratory patterns? Essentially, are there issues that you have seen, from your experience, that warrant that we should do this in the South Atlantic region, or this should be considered outside of the South Atlantic region, rather than just having many of these approaches that cover the entire Atlantic coast?

We have seen that a little bit in the discussion of the bag limits, potential bag limit reductions, focusing on Florida versus elsewhere, and then the filleting of dolphin at-sea on for-hire vessels in the Mid-Atlantic and New England regions, but not necessarily in the South Atlantic region at the moment, and so those are the kinds of discussions that the council has had, but they wanted to just kind of breach the topic with the AP and just see, you know, are there other areas that they haven't discussed, or they're not focusing on now, that needs to be brought to their attention that would warrant that we need to focus on this region and this change to management for dolphin or wahoo, or not, or are those issues not apparent right now?

MR. ROSHER: Go ahead, Jon.

MR. REYNOLDS: I think, some of the things that John just said, I just want to reiterate that. I mean, those are some of the regional issues. As long as we feel like those are being covered and the council is recognizing that we feel strongly about different regional fisheries being taken into

account, like historical hook-and-line commercial fisheries in south Florida, and then long travel from headboats that are asking for specific things, and just issues that we've kind of already discussed, and I don't think there's more, but just to make it understandable that those really are regional-specific issues that have changed and that we feel like we need to address. That's pretty much all.

MR. ROSHER: Thanks, Jon. I think we've covered a lot of these points in today's discussion, and so any other thoughts before we move on?

MR. HADLEY: All right. I am not seeing any. That will certainly be noted. Like I said, and Jon mentioned as well, that we did touch on this a bit in Amendment 10 with some of the regional differences that are apparent in the fishery overall.

If there is no further comments, we'll jump into the next agenda item, which is the election of a new Chair and Vice Chair for the AP. As mentioned earlier, Ray's term as Chair is coming to a close, and so, with that, we'll need to nominate -- The AP will need to nominate a new Chair and a new Vice Chair, and I have on the screen here two draft motions, one for the Chair and one for the Vice Chair. The current Vice Chair is Chris Burrows, and so, with that, I will turn it over to Ray, and certainly the whole advisory panel, or the advisory panel as a whole, to nominate your new Chair and Vice Chair.

MR. ROSHER: Thanks, John. I think there's been a little discussion with Chris about serving as the Chair, and I would be really happy if that happened, but you guys have to create this motion and figure out who is his partner in crime, or do you want me to -- Can I break the rules and make a motion?

MR. BURROWS: Whatever happens, I just want to say thank you to Ray. It's been a pleasure.

MR. ROSHER: Well, thank you, guys, for your interest in creating good choices in the future, and we all want the same thing, and we want a sustainable fishery, and so thank you for being a part of that. Jon, go ahead.

MR. REYNOLDS: I want to say thank you to everyone, and Ray, and I know, especially with technological advances, man, you have jumped right into it, and you've been able to do all this technologically in a pretty quick order every single time. You know, we started switching over to these meeting, and you had to take it on, and sometimes probably even while you were fishing, or on your phone or whatever the deal is, and so I really appreciate it. **Then I was going to make a motion to nominate Chris as the Chair of the Dolphin Wahoo AP.**

MR. ROSHER: Do we have a second?

MR. HUDDLE: I will second that.

MR. ROSHER: Thank you, Harris. **Any opposed?**

MR. HADLEY: **I am not seeing any opposition, and that motion is approved.**

MR. ROSHER: All right.

MR. HADLEY: All right. Chris, I look forward to working with you in the future.

MR. ROSHER: What is the proper protocol here? Does Chris make the next motion?

MR. HADLEY: Sure.

MR. ROSHER: Okay.

MR. BURROWS: All right. Well, thank you, all. **I would like to make a motion, and I will do my best to keep up the high standards that Ray has had, but I would like to make a motion to nominate Jon Reynolds as Vice Chair.**

MR. ROSHER: Good choice. Any of you guys would be a good choice, actually, but thank you, guys, for taking that role, and, to Jon Reynolds comment, don't think it was seamless, and you didn't hear the conversations with Anna and John Hadley and I, where they were taking me from A to Z on how to do all of this, and so thank you to both of you for being patient with me and teaching an old dog new tricks. Would someone like to -- Brice, do you want to --

AP MEMBER: I will second it.

MR. BARR: I was going to second it, but I would like to thank Ray as well for your hard work on this, but, yes, I would like to second John Reynolds' nomination.

MR. ROSHER: Thanks. **Any opposition? All right.** Thank you, guys, for doing everything you do and being a part of it and making the job easy. All I can say is keep trying to motivate the young guys to come in behind you, because it takes a village.

MS. BECKWITH: I just wanted to thank you as well for your time. I mean, this is quite a commitment for all of you, and, you know, we do have quite a few open AP seats coming up, and so I would also concur that, if you guys know some active guys, or folks coming up in the fishery, please, please, please have them reach out to us, because we definitely have some open seats, and we need some great folks to fill them, but thank you for all of your efforts.

MR. ROSHER: Thanks, Anna, for all your help, and thank you, John and everybody else involved.

MR. HADLEY: My pleasure, and congratulations to Chris and Jon. I look forward to working with you in the near future, on planning the future meetings, and, Ray, I absolutely appreciate all the help over the various years and help with working through some of the technology restraints that we've had recently, and hopefully we'll get back to in-person meetings sooner than later, but I certainly appreciate all your help on that.

I just wanted to reiterate that we do have several open seats, and, as I mentioned earlier, Ray, Harris, and Fred will be terming out of the AP, and so there will be three open seats. Additionally, there are seven other seats that are up for reappointment, and I believe all of you have been contacted by email, and I certainly hope to see you all back here, and I certainly hope that you reapply for your seats, but there will be at least three new faces on the AP moving forward, and I

certainly appreciate any help putting out the word, or, if you know anyone that may be helpful to get involved in the AP, helping fill those three open seats, and so I appreciate that.

With that, before we -- We'll get into Other Business, and I will mention, for future meetings, we're going to -- When I say we, I mean that council staff is going to make a strong effort to try to plan these AP meetings further out in the future, and we're very aware and appreciative that people take time out of their schedules and move around their work schedules to be able to attend these, and, the more advance notice, the better on that, and so, for upcoming meetings, we'll try to plan them earlier and earlier, so everyone can hopefully mark them off on their calendars, and it won't be an inconvenience, and so more to come on that. With that, I don't know if there's any other business.

MR. ROSHER: Not that I have, John.

MR. REYNOLDS: Just some guys have thrown out an idea, and, just because of popularity in recreational fisheries, with dolphin especially, or dolphin and wahoo, and I don't even know this translates into management or funding or how it might be used, but possibly, in the recreational field, at least with dolphin, that there might be an idea for a dolphin stamp on a fishing license or something, and maybe this would only be at the state level, and so Florida representatives, I guess, if you're listening to this, but, recreationally, a somewhat affordable dolphin stamp that could possibly generate funding for future conservation and any other good stuff the funding could be used for, just with new entrants and a lot more people moving into the fishery, and I think it might be something that we might be able to consider. Thanks.

MR. ROSHER: All right. Thanks, Jon. Any other thoughts? I don't see anything else. John, do you have anything else, John Hadley?

MR. HADLEY: I don't see any other hands, and that's all I have. I know the last thing we had, before we adjourn, was another opportunity for public comment, and I don't know if anyone is interested that's online, but, if so, we can -- Please raise your hand, and we'll get that going, for public comment. I am not seeing any raised hands, and so I don't think there's any additional public comment to close out the meeting. Mel.

MR. ROSHER: Hi, Mel.

MR. BELL: I am not public comment, but I just wanted to make sure that I thanked Ray for his service and all he's done for us over the years here, and, also, I wanted to thank Chris and Jon for being willing to step up and assume leadership roles, and so thanks, guys, and thanks to the whole group for taking your time, and I know sometimes you think that maybe we don't listen to you, with just the way things turn out, but we do, and, as Anna pointed out, and John pointed out earlier, there were five of us on, I believe, listening today, and so we definitely appreciate your input and your time in helping us manage this fishery.

It's your fishery, and we've got to do this together, and so thanks so much for your participation, and we really do appreciate it, and do try to help us out with the vacant seats, if you know people that you think would be really good, and kind of encourage them to apply, and we would really appreciate that, but just thanks for your time and all your input, guys.

MR. ROSHER: Thank you, Mel, and all the other council members that were here. I have sat in on a couple of meetings, and I don't envy the challenges that you guys face, because you get hit with a lot of obstacles to make any forward progress, and it's a huge commitment of time and energy, and I really appreciate that you guys have the advisory panels in place, and that's why I've been a believer in it.

You know, it's a really good way to feel the pulse of what's happening in the South Atlantic region, and all the other seven regions, and it's a super important process, and so I know there's been times that I've been frustrated because of inaction on the council's part, it seems, but then, later, I hear the whole story, and I realize that there's a lot of extenuating circumstances that prevent action, and that's the thing for all the other advisory panel members to remember, is that I really do believe the council listens.

I have been reassured of that many times, and so it's worth the effort and worth the time, and there's no better way to relay real-world information to the council, because many times the council isn't getting to spend near the amount of time on the water that we do, and so thank you, guys, for doing all this and for carrying the torch, and so thanks again.

MR. HADLEY: All right, and we have -- Scott Wilson, you have your hand up, and I'm not sure if you were interested in potentially commenting.

MR. WILSON: Yes, I do have just a real short comment. I am a recreational angler from Vero Beach, Florida, and I have sat through the entire day with all of you, and I just want to thank you for the time that you've put into being a member of the panel, and you have given me a lot of information to digest, not only from my perspective as a recreational angler, but also as charter boat and commercial as well, and I appreciate your efforts to sustain all of our resources out there, and I just wanted to thank you for that.

MR. ROSHER: Thanks for enduring all the hours of conversation, and I think you deserve like a free dolphin lure. Call me.

MR. WILSON: I will stand by. All right. You've got it. Thank you.

MR. ROSHER: All right. Okay, guys. Well, thank you again, and girls. Thank you.

MR. HADLEY: That's all I have. I think, if there's no further comments, the next item is to adjourn.

MR. ROSHER: Okay. Thanks, John Hadley. You're a champ. Thank you.

MR. HADLEY: No problem. Thank you.

MR. ROSHER: All right. See you, guys. Take care.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on October 28, 2020.)

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November 21, 2020

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