

Updated Goals and Objectives of the Dolphin and Wahoo Fishery Management Plan

Preamble: The original and ongoing intent of the Fishery Management Plan for the Dolphin and Wahoo Fishery of the Atlantic is to sustainably manage the stocks of dolphin and wahoo for the long-term benefit of all participants. Owing to the substantial importance of the fisheries for dolphin and wahoo, particularly to the recreational sector, this fishery management plan seeks to manage these fisheries using a precautionary approach that maintains access, minimizes competition, preserves the social and economic importance of the fisheries, as well as promotes research and incorporation of ecosystem considerations where practicable.

Goal 1 (Precautionary Approach): Management of the dolphin and wahoo fisheries is precautionary, risk-averse, and maintains historic catch levels while preventing overfishing.	
<i>Objective 1</i>	Maintain catch levels that do not exceed catch level recommendations for dolphin or wahoo and do not directly change the balance of landings in comparison to the historic fishery to the extent that conflict is created between the recreational and commercial sectors.
<i>Objective 2</i>	Minimize bycatch of dolphin and wahoo in non-directed fisheries.
Goal 2 (Access): The recreational and commercial sectors retain access to the dolphin and wahoo resource.	
<i>Objective 1</i>	For the recreational sector, adopt management measures that ensure consistent and predictable access to dolphin and wahoo when they are regionally available as well as maintain abundant stock levels that lead to high encounter rates and elevated trip satisfaction.
<i>Objective 2</i>	For the commercial sector, adopt management measures that ensure consistent and predictable access to dolphin and wahoo when they are regionally available.
<i>Objective 3</i>	Address concerns as practicable over localized reduction in fish abundance and the resulting perceived decline in local availability of dolphin and wahoo.
Goal 3 (Minimize Competition Between User Groups): Competition between user groups is minimized.	
<i>Objective 1</i>	Ensure effort and catch levels of dolphin and wahoo by distinct user groups does not notably expand beyond their traditional share of the fishery.
<i>Objective 2</i>	Exercise caution in allowing development of new fisheries or expansion of existing fisheries that may increase competition between user groups.
Goal 4 (Economic and Social Importance): Management of the dolphin and wahoo fisheries recognizes and preserves their economic and social importance to both the recreational and commercial sectors.	
<i>Objective 1</i>	Manage the dolphin and wahoo resources to achieve optimum yield on a continuing basis in order to maximize the economic and social net benefits of the fishery.

<i>Objective 2</i>	Minimize market disruption. In the short-term, commercial markets (mainly local) may be disrupted if large quantities of dolphin are landed from intense commercial harvest or unregulated catch.
<i>Objective 3</i>	Encourage research that improves knowledge about the social and economic elements of the dolphin and wahoo fishery.
<i>Objective 4</i>	Improve awareness and understanding of how social and economic issues are linked to dolphin and wahoo fishery management measures.
Goal 5 (Ecosystem Based Management and Research Priorities): Management of the dolphin and wahoo fisheries recognizes the importance of biologic information and incorporating ecosystem considerations.	
<i>Objective 1</i>	Support improved and expanded monitoring and reporting programs for the dolphin and wahoo fishery. Promote collection of quality data to support management plans and programs considered by the Council.
<i>Objective 2</i>	Support measures that incorporate ecosystem considerations for the management of dolphin and wahoo where practicable.
<i>Objective 3</i>	Promote research aimed at developing ecosystem based management of dolphin and wahoo.
<i>Objective 4</i>	Promote research that enhances collection of biologic and habitat data on dolphin and wahoo stocks and fisheries.