



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Melvin Bell, Chair | Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph.D., Vice Chair
John T. Carmichael, Executive Director

Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel Meeting Agenda

Crowne Plaza Hotel
4831 Tanger Outlet Blvd.
North Charleston, SC 29418

April 20-21, 2022

Public comment will be solicited at the beginning and at the end of the meeting. Those wishing to comment should indicate such in the manner requested by the Chair, who will recognize individuals to provide comment in-person or on the webinar.

Wednesday, April 20, 2022, 1:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Thursday, April 21, 2022, 9:00 A.M. to Noon (Times are subject to change)

Introductions – Chris Burrows

Approval of the Agenda – Chris Burrows

Approval of the October 2020 Dolphin Wahoo AP meeting minutes – Chris Burrows

Opportunity for Public Comment

1. Council Committee Chair remarks – Kerry Marhefka (*Attachment 1a and 1b*)
2. Update on recent regulation changes and status of amendments (*Attachment 2*)
3. Update on the SAFMC Citizen Science Program (*Attachment 3*)
4. Fishery Performance Report update for dolphin (<https://safmc-shinyapps.shinyapps.io/FPRAll/>) (*Attachments 4a and 4b*)
5. Regulatory Amendment 3 – Modifications to the minimum size limit, recreational retention limits, and for-hire captain and crew bag limits for dolphin (*Attachments 5a and 5b*)
6. Regional management needs and potential future changes to the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan
7. Other Business

- a. Discussion on NMFS Observer Program and Commercial Discard Logbook
- b. Discussion on communication preferences of the AP
- c. Next meeting

Opportunity for Public Comment

Adjourn

Advisory Panel Members

Chris Burrows, Chair
Brice Barr
Richard DeLizza
Richard Harris
Glenn Hopkins
Dan Owsley
Rom Whitaker III
Bill Richardson
Randall Morgan

Jonathon Reynolds, Vice Chair
James “Chip” Berry
Robert Frevert
Earl Harris, Jr.
Jay Kavanagh
Tim Scalise
Charles Yeomans
John Nappo
Michael Plaia

Attachment:

Attachment 1a: Dolphin Wahoo Committee Report September 2021

Attachment 1b: Dolphin Wahoo Committee Report March 2022

Attachment 2: Update on recent regulation changes and status of amendments

Attachment 3: Presentation slides for the update on the SAFMC Citizen Science Program

Attachment 4a: Dolphin Fishery Performance Report discussion questions

Attachment 4b: April 2017 Dolphin Fishery Performance Report

Attachment 5a: Regulatory Amendment 3 Discussion Document

Attachment 5b: Updated Goals and Objectives of the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan

Staff Lead: John Hadley (john.hadley@safmc.net)

OVERVIEW

Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel

After introductions, the advisory panel (AP) will approve minutes from the October 2020 meeting and the agenda for the April 2022 meeting. This will be followed by an opportunity for public comment.

1. **Council Committee Chair remarks (*Attachments 1a and 1b*)**

Description: Kerry Marhefka, Chair of the Dolphin Wahoo Committee for the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC), will provide opening remarks for the Dolphin Wahoo AP.

Requested AP action: None.

2. **Update on recent regulation changes and status of amendments (*Attachment 2*)**

Description: John Hadley, SAFMC staff, will update the AP on the status of recent and developing Council actions, regulations changes, and other related efforts including:

- Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 12 (Bullet Mackerel and Frigate Mackerel as Ecosystem Component Species)
- Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10 (Revise Dolphin and Wahoo catch levels and management measures)
- Dolphin Wahoo Regulatory Amendment 3 (Modifications to the minimum size limit, recreational retention limits, and for-hire captain and crew bag limits for dolphin)
- Potential changes to the pelagic longline fishery and the updated Biological Opinion for the Dolphin Wahoo fishery
- Recent actions by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission that reduce recreational retention limits for dolphin in state waters

Requested AP action: None.

3. **Update on the SAFMC Citizen Science Program (*Attachment 3*)**

Description: Julia Byrd, SAFMC staff, will provide an update program activities and recent efforts of the [SAFMC's Citizen Science Program](#). Projects currently underway include FISHstory and [SAFMC Release](#). FISHstory uses historic dock photos to document species and length composition data in the charter and headboat fisheries from the 1940s-1970s prior to when dedicated catch monitoring programs began. SAFMC Release works with commercial, for-hire, and recreational fishermen to collect information on discards using a mobile app. This project originally started by collecting information on scamp, but has recently expanded to include other shallow water grouper species and will also soon include red snapper.

Requested AP action: Provide input as appropriate.

4. **Fishery Performance Report for dolphin (<https://safmc-shinyapps.shinyapps.io/FPRAll/>; *Attachments 4a and 4b*)**

Description: With input from the APs, Fishery Performance Reports (FPRs) have been developed for several fish species managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. The intent of the FPRs is to assemble information from AP members' experience

and observations on the water and in the marketplace to complement scientific and landings data. The FPR will be provided to the Council to assist in their discussions on the need for management actions and potential implications of such actions.

Using an online application, John Hadley, SAFMC Staff, will provide an overview of dolphin landings trends and other background information.

Requested AP action: Work through the provided discussion questions to develop a new FPR for dolphin.

5. **Regulatory Amendment 3 - Modifications to the minimum size limit, recreational retention limits, and for-hire captain and crew bag limits for dolphin (*Attachments 5a and 5b*)**

Description: Regulatory Amendment 3 contains actions that would potentially increase the applicable geographic range of the 20 inch minimum size limit for dolphin, modify recreational bag and vessel limits for dolphin, potentially with varying limits by mode (i.e. private vessels, charter vessels, and headboats), and reduce or remove captain and crew bag limits for dolphin onboard charter vessels. The amendment is in the early stages of development. It was approved for scoping at the Council’s March 2022 meeting, but scoping will not occur until after the Council’s next review of the amendment at their June 2022 meeting in Key West, Florida.

John Hadley, SAFMC staff, will review the recently updated goals and objectives of the Dolphin Wahoo FMP, familiarize the AP on the status of Regulatory Amendment 3, and work through the provided decision document for the amendment to gather the AP’s comments and recommendations for the actions being considered.

Requested AP action: Provide feedback and recommendations on management measures being considered for dolphin.

6. **Regional management needs and potential future changes to the Dolphin Wahoo fishery**

Description: The SAFMC is the primary management body for the Dolphin Wahoo fishery along the entire Atlantic coast. Given this wide geographic range, the fishery occurs at different times of the year in different regions and involves a diverse set of fishery participants with varying goals as to what makes for a “successful” trip. The diverse nature of the fishery paired with apparent recent shifts in migratory patterns and regional abundance may necessitate the Council addressing regional needs of the fishery where appropriate. Such needs may include varying recreational and commercial retention limits, access to permits, and other measures that address changes in the fishery. Council staff will brief the AP on upcoming initiatives and gather the AP’s initial recommendations on the need for regional management or other management changes in the Dolphin Wahoo fishery.

Requested AP action: Provide feedback and recommendations on the need for regional management and other potential management changes that should be considered for the Dolphin Wahoo fishery. Discussion questions are as follows:

- a. Are there specific management topics where the Council should consider a regional management approach for dolphin or wahoo?
 - i. Varying recreational or commercial retention limits?

- ii. Examine regional use of other gears?
 - iii. Access to permits if ever considering limited entry?
- b. Are there regional management measures that the Council should consider to address changes in migratory patterns for dolphin or wahoo?
 - c. Are there other general management changes that the Council should consider in future Dolphin Wahoo FMP amendments?

7. Other Business

- a. Discussion on NMFS Observer Program and Commercial Discard Logbook
- b. Discussion on communication preferences for the AP
- c. Next meeting

Opportunity for public comment

Adjourn