

Summary of Actions in Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10
(as of the March 2021 SAFMC meeting)

Actions that accommodate revised recreational data and catch level recommendations:

Action 1. Revise the total annual catch limit for dolphin to reflect the updated acceptable biological catch level

Preferred Alternative 2. The total annual catch limit for dolphin is equal to the updated acceptable biological catch level.

Action 2. Revise the total annual catch limit for wahoo to reflect the updated acceptable biological catch level

Preferred Alternative 2. The total annual catch limit for wahoo is equal to the updated acceptable biological catch level.

Action 3. Revise sector allocations and sector annual catch limits for dolphin

Preferred Alternative 3. Allocate 93.00% of the revised total annual catch limit for dolphin to the recreational sector. Allocate 7.00% of the revised total annual catch limit for dolphin to the commercial sector. This is based on the Council's intent to explore alternatives for sector allocations that would not result in a decrease in the current pounds of dolphin available to either sector.

Action 4. Revise sector allocations and sector annual catch limits for wahoo

Preferred Alternative 4. Allocate 97.00% of the revised total annual catch limit for wahoo to the recreational sector. Allocate 3.00% of the revised total annual catch limit for wahoo to the commercial sector. This is based on the Council's intent to explore alternatives for sector allocations that would not result in a decrease in the current pounds of wahoo available to either sector.

Actions that change the recreational accountability measures:

Action 5. Revise the trigger for the post-season recreational accountability measures for dolphin

Preferred Alternative 5. Implement post season accountability measures in the following fishing year if the total (commercial and recreational combined) annual catch limit is exceeded.

Action 6. Revise the post-season recreational accountability measures for dolphin

Preferred Alternative 2. Reduce the length of the following recreational fishing season by the amount necessary to prevent the annual catch limit from being exceeded in the following year. However, the length of the recreational season will not be reduced if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best available science, that it is not necessary.

Action 7. Revise the trigger for the post-season recreational accountability measures for wahoo

Preferred Alternative 2. Implement post season accountability measures in the following fishing year if the recreational annual catch limits are constant and the 3-year mean (*Sub-alternative 2a or 2b*) of landings exceeds the recreational sector annual catch limit. When the recreational sector annual catch limit is changed, use a single year of landings, beginning with the most recent available year of landings, then a two-year average of landings from that single year and the subsequent year, then a three-year average of landings from those two years and the subsequent year, and thereafter a progressive running three-year average to trigger the recreational accountability measure.

Preferred Sub-alternative 2b. Use the geometric mean to calculate average landings.

Action 8. Revise the post-season recreational accountability measures for wahoo

Preferred Alternative 2. Reduce the length of the following recreational fishing season by the amount necessary to prevent the annual catch limit from being exceeded in the following year. However, the length of the recreational season will not be reduced if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best available science, that it is not necessary.

Actions that implement various management revisions in the dolphin and wahoo fisheries:

Action 9. Allow properly permitted commercial fishing vessels with trap, pot, or buoy gear on board that are not authorized for use in the dolphin wahoo fishery to possess commercial quantities of dolphin and wahoo

Preferred Alternative 2. A vessel in the Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone that possesses both an Atlantic Dolphin/Wahoo Commercial Permit and valid federal commercial permits required to fish trap, pot, or buoy gear or is in compliance with permit requirements specified for the spiny lobster fishery in 50 C.F.R. §622.400 is authorized to retain dolphin caught by rod and reel while in possession of such gears. A vessel in the Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone that has on board other gear types that are not authorized in the fishery for dolphin may not possess a dolphin. Dolphin retained by such a vessel shall not exceed:

Preferred Sub-alternative 2b. 500 pounds gutted weight

Preferred Alternative 3. A vessel in the Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone that possesses both an Atlantic Dolphin/Wahoo Commercial Permit and valid federal commercial permits required to fish trap, pot, or buoy gear or is in compliance with permit requirements specified for the spiny lobster fishery in 50 C.F.R. §622.400 is authorized to retain wahoo caught by rod and reel while in possession of such gear types. A vessel in the Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone that has on board other gear types that are not authorized in the fisheries for wahoo may not possess a wahoo. The wahoo commercial trip limit will be 500 pounds.

Action 10. Remove the requirement of vessel operators or crew to hold an Operator Card in the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery

Preferred Alternative 2. Neither a vessel operator nor any crewmember is required to have an Operator Card for an Atlantic Charter/Headboat for Dolphin/Wahoo Permit to be valid.

Preferred Alternative 3. Neither a vessel operator nor any crewmember is required to have an Operator Card for an Atlantic Dolphin/Wahoo Commercial Permit to be valid.

Action 11. Reduce the recreational vessel limit for dolphin

Preferred Alternative 2. The recreational daily bag limit is 10 dolphin per person, not to exceed:

Preferred Sub-alternative 2d. 48 dolphin per vessel, whichever is less.

Action 12. Reduce the recreational bag limit and establish a recreational vessel limit for wahoo

Preferred Alternative 2. The recreational daily bag limit is 1 wahoo per person.

Please note that **Action 13** was removed from the amendment at the March 2021 SAFMC meeting. The motions and votes below were put forth by the Dolphin Wahoo Committee.

Action 13. Allow filleting of dolphin at sea on board charter or headboat vessels in the Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone north of the Virginia/North Carolina border.

Preferred Alternative 1 (No Action). Dolphin possessed in the Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone must be maintained with head and fins intact, with specific exceptions for fish lawfully harvested in the Bahamas. Such fish harvested from the Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone may be eviscerated, gilled, and scaled, but must otherwise be maintained in a whole condition.

Alternative 2. Exempt dolphin from regulations requiring head and fins be intact on board properly permitted charter and headboat vessels in the Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone north of the Virginia/North Carolina border where dolphin may be filleted under the following requirement(s):

Sub-alternative 2a. Skin must remain intact on the entire fillet of any dolphin carcass.

Sub-alternative 2b. Two fillets of dolphin, regardless of the length of each fillet, is the equivalent to one dolphin.

COMMITTEE MOTION: CHOOSE ALTERNATIVE 2 AS PREFERRED IN ACTION 13.

MOTION FAILS (7-YES, 8-NO, 2-ABSTENTIONS)

COMMITTEE MOTION: REMOVE ACTION 13 IN AMENDMENT 10 AND PUT IT IN THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED SECTION.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE (9-YES, 6-NO, 2-ABSTENTIONS)