



Overview of SAFMC Amendments Affecting New England

Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5

Proposes minor increases to the ABCs, ACL and ACTs, and other management parameters for dolphin and wahoo

The proposed actions in the amendment include:

- Revise acceptable biological catches (ABCs), annual catch limits (ACL), and annual catch targets (ACTs) for dolphin and wahoo to incorporate updates to the Marine Recreational Information Program;
- Revise accountability measures (AMs) for dolphin and wahoo;
- Revise the framework procedure in the Dolphin Wahoo FMP; and
- Establish a commercial trip limit for dolphin in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) throughout the SAFMC's area of jurisdiction.

The intent of Amendment 5 is to base conservation and management measures upon the best scientific information available, and to prevent unnecessary negative socio-economic impacts that may otherwise be realized in this fishery and fishing community. The alternatives proposed regarding changes to the framework will enable the Council to update the dolphin wahoo framework procedure similar to the Snapper Grouper Framework procedure put in place by Snapper Grouper Amendment 17B and 27.

Email comments to: DWAmend5Comments@safmc.net **NOTE: Comments must be received by 5:00 P.M. on August 18, 2013.**

Generic Dealer Permit

Changes the current permit and reporting requirements for those individuals or organizations that purchase species managed by the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Councils.

The proposed actions in the amendment include:

- Establishing dealer permit requirements to purchase federally managed species;
 - **Preferred Alternative - one federal dealer permit for the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic regions**
- Frequency and method by which dealers will be required to report; and
 - **Preferred Alternatives - Require forms be submitted electronically and weekly; exception for catastrophic events**
- Requirements for maintaining a dealer permit.
 - **Preferred Alternative - "purchase" or "no purchase" forms must be submitted weekly: dealer only authorized to receive commercially-harvested species if previous reports in system**

Note: It is the Councils' intent that permitted vessels can only sell to permitted dealers in those fisheries where a dealer permit exists. This will also apply to for-hire vessels with a for-hire Coastal Migratory Pelagics Permit and to vessels with a federal spiny lobster tailing or spiny lobster permit.

- The permit and reporting requirements would apply to dealers purchasing species in the following management units:
 - Atlantic Dolphin-Wahoo
 - South Atlantic Golden Crab
 - South Atlantic Rock Shrimp
 - South Atlantic Snapper Grouper (including wreckfish)
 - Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish
 - *Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Coastal Migratory Pelagics*
 - *Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Spiny Lobster*
 - *Gulf of Mexico Red Drum*

(Note: Italics designate additional new species that currently do not require dealer permits.)

In some cases, existing annual catch limits (ACLs) established by the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Councils have been exceeded due to shortcomings of existing reporting requirements for federally-permitted seafood dealers. Improvements are needed to the accuracy, completeness, consistency, and timeliness of data reported by federally-permitted seafood dealers to meet the requirements of the Magnuson-Steven Fishery Conservation and Management Act. These actions are aimed at ensuring landings of managed fish stocks are recorded accurately and in a timely manner so annual catch limits are not exceeded.