

MEMORANDUM



To: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners
From: Jessica McCawley, Director, Marine Fisheries Management
Date: October 7, 2020
Subject: Staff Report – South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Update

Purpose:

Report on discussions and actions from the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (Council) Sept. 14-17 virtual meeting and provide information on the dolphin fishery.

Why:

Update Commissioners on Council items relevant to Florida's recreational and commercial fisheries.

Top Points:

- 1) Issues that could impact Florida include potential changes to management of the dolphin wahoo fishery, results of the 2020 red snapper season, and a Presidential Executive Order promoting American seafood competitiveness and economic growth.
- 2) As requested by the Commission, staff will also provide an overview of the dolphin fishery including research.

Affected Parties:

Those who fish for federally-managed species, seafood dealers and retailers, fishing tackle manufacturers and retailers, and others with interests in fish stocks occurring in federal waters.

Summary:

Council discussions will include the following items.

- Revisions to federal management of the dolphin and wahoo fishery, including establishing new sector allocations, revising quotas, and reducing recreational vessel limits.
- Designating bullet and frigate mackerel as Ecosystem Component species within the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan to acknowledge their role as important prey.
- A review of the 2020 federal Atlantic recreational red snapper season and preliminary harvest estimates.
- Recommendations on ways to reduce burdens for domestic commercial fishing and to increase production of sustainable seafood, which were requested through a Presidential Executive Order.

Staff Recommendation:

No direction requested at this time. Input on Council items is welcomed.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

Jessica McCawley, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries Management