

**Amendment 5 to the Fishery Management Plan for the
Dolphin and Wahoo Fishery off the Atlantic States
(Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5)**

Frequently Asked Questions

June 2014

What will Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5 do?

- Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5 will increase the annual catch limits for dolphin and wahoo.
- The revisions incorporate updates to the recreational data for these species, as per the new Marine Recreational Information Program as well as revisions to commercial and for-hire landings.
- Commercial accountability measures for dolphin and wahoo will include a pay-back provision in the following fishing year by the amount of the commercial annual catch limit overage. The payback provision will occur if the species is overfished and the total (combined commercial and recreational) annual catch limit is exceeded, in addition to the current in-season closure.
- Recreational accountability measures will reduce the length of the fishing season as well as the recreational annual catch limit in the fishing year following any recreational annual catch limit overage if the stock is overfished and the total (commercial and recreational) annual catch limit is exceeded. However, no adjustment will be made if it is determined, using the best scientific information available, that the action is unnecessary.
- Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5 will add annual catch limits; acceptable biological catch control rule; accountability measures; the Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review process for stock assessments; and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee's review of the stock assessments to the framework procedure.
- Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5 will also allow acceptable biological catch estimates, annual catch limits, and recreational annual catch targets for dolphin and wahoo to be modified using an abbreviated framework procedure to shorten the time it would take to make routine changes to harvest limits in response to new information from a stock assessment.

What are the revised numbers?

| Stock or Stock Complex Name | Revised values under Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5 | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|--|
| | Acceptable biological catch (pounds whole weight) | Commercial allocations (percent) | Commercial annual catch limit (pounds whole weight) | Recreational allocations (percent) | Recreational annual catch limit (pounds whole weight) | Recreational annual catch target (pounds whole weight) |
| Dolphin | 15,344,846 | 7.54 | 1,157,001 | 92.46 | 14,187,845 | 12,769,061 |
| Wahoo | 1,794,960 | 3.93 | 70,542 | 96.07 | 1,724,418 | 1,258,825 |

Who will be affected by Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5?

- Commercial and recreational fishers who fish for dolphin and wahoo in federal waters (3-200 miles offshore), off Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

When will Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5 be effective?

- The comment period for the notice of availability for Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5 ended on April 29, 2014, and the comment period for the proposed rule ended on April 14, 2014.
- The final rule published on June 9, 2014, and regulations will be effective on July 9, 2014.

Where can I get more information on Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5 and its Proposed and Final Rules?

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- Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5 and its Proposed and Final Rules may be found online at the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office Web site at: http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/dw/2013/am5/index.html or the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s Web site at <http://www.safmc.net>.