

**Amendment 7 to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Dolphin and Wahoo Fishery of the Atlantic and Amendment 33 to the FMP for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region
(Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33)**

*Frequently Asked Questions
September 2015*

What is the purpose of Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33?

Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33 would:

- Allow recreational fishermen to bring lawfully harvested fillets of dolphin and wahoo from The Bahamas into the U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and update regulations that currently allow recreational fishermen to bring snapper-grouper fillets from The Bahamas into the U.S. EEZ.
- For determining the bag limit, specify two fillets are equivalent to one fish for dolphin, wahoo, and snapper-grouper species brought into the U.S. EEZ from The Bahamas.
- Require fishers to retain skin on the entire fillet of any dolphin, wahoo, or snapper-grouper species lawfully harvested in Bahamian waters and transported through the U.S. EEZ.
- Require fishing gear to be stowed while transiting the U.S. EEZ from The Bahamas. A vessel carrying fillets of dolphin, wahoo, or snapper-grouper species on board would not be allowed to stop in the U.S. EEZ during transit.
- Require stamped and dated passports, as well as valid current Bahamian cruising and fishing permits to prove that the recreational fishers were indeed in The Bahamas.
- Not allow recreationally caught dolphin, wahoo, or snapper-grouper from The Bahamas to be sold or purchased in the U.S.
- Not exempt recreational fishermen from any other Federal fishing regulations such as fishing seasons, recreational bag limits, size limits, and prohibited species.

Why is Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33 necessary?

- Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33 is necessary to increase the social and economic benefits to recreational fishermen by improving the condition of dolphin and wahoo caught on the trips to the Bahamas and brought into the U.S. EEZ, and improve consistency and enforceability by modifying the regulations in the U.S. EEZ regarding the possession of fillets of dolphin, wahoo, or snapper grouper species that were legally harvested in Bahamian waters.

Who would be affected by Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33?

- Recreational fishers who fish for dolphin, wahoo, and snapper-grouper species in Bahamian waters and bring fillets of these species into federal waters (3-200 miles offshore) of the U.S. EEZ.

When might Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33 be effective?

- Following the comment period on the notice of availability and proposed rule; and depending on the public comments received, a final rule may be published. If implemented, regulations could be effective by Spring 2016.

How can I comment on Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33?

- NOAA Fisheries is accepting comments on the notice of availability for Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33 from September 17, 2015, to November 16, 2015.
- Comments on Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33 can be submitted electronically via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2015-0047, click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments. Written comments can be submitted to the address below.

Where can I get more information on Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33?

- Contact NOAA Fisheries
By Mail: Southeast Regional Office, c/o Nikhil Mehta
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505
By FAX: (727) 824-5308
By Phone: (727) 824-5305
- Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33 may be found online at the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office Web site at: http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/generic/2015/dw7_sg33/index.html or the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s Web site at <http://www.safmc.net>.