



WEST PALM BEACH FISHING CLUB

~ Established 1934 ~



February 5, 2021

Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
4055 Faber Place Drive, #201
North Charleston, SC 29405

Members of the South Atlantic Management Council:

On behalf of the more than 1,400 members of the West Palm Beach Fishing Club (WPBFC), I would like to submit comments regarding Dolphin Wahoo management. When surveyed years ago WPBFC members responded that dolphin fish were the number one species they targeted when fishing offshore. Our anecdotal observations based upon member comments and fish entries in our annual contests and tournaments is that dolphin fishing is not what it once was. Many WPBFC members especially lament the absence of big fish. In our view, yearly fluctuations in recruitment and migratory patterns are not to blame. Clearly there is more pressure from the recreational sector than ever before. Additionally, the WPBFC has growing concerns related to exploitive longlining efforts in not only the South Atlantic, but also the Caribbean. The WPBFC's recommendations are based upon our many decades of observations.

- The WPBFC supports a reduction in the recreational bag limit for dolphin from 10 per person, to 5 per person.
- We recommend that the daily recreational vessel limit for dolphin be reduced from 60 to 30 fish.
- The WPBFC supports the sale of dolphin and wahoo from the For Hire sector. We believe giving charter boats the ability to sell their catch supports local businesses like restaurants and fish houses, and it provides a sustainable supply of high quality fresh fish to local consumers.
- The WPBFC recommends a reduction in the commercial dolphin fish trip limit to 2,000 pounds per day.
- The WPBFC supports adopting a daily wahoo recreational vessel limit of 6 fish.
- We are against any proposal that would create seasonal closures for dolphin or wahoo.

We recognize that the management of pelagic species like dolphin and wahoo presents incredible challenges. We encourage the SAFMC to work more closely with the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils to help implement sustainable management measures throughout the fishes range since there is so much regional interconnectivity.

Tom Twyford

President