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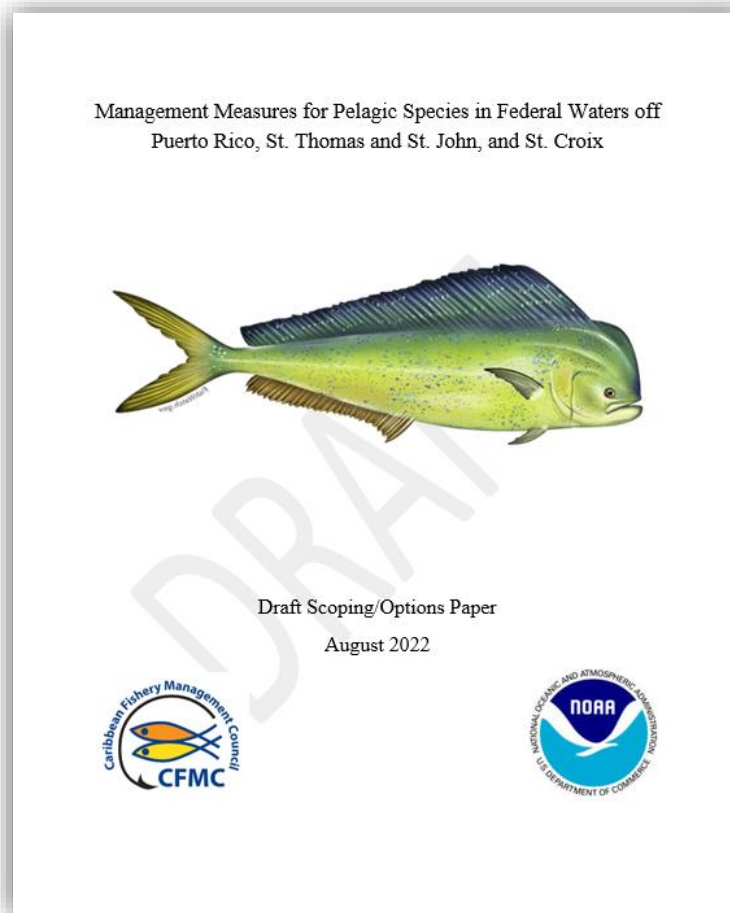
# Consideration of Management Measures for Pelagic Species

179<sup>th</sup> Caribbean Fishery Management Council  
Meeting  
August 2022



# Guidance from the Council at the April 2022 Caribbean Council Meeting

- The Council received a presentation on management measures that the Council could consider developing for pelagic stocks new to federal management under the island-based Fishery Management Plans (FMP).
- Potential management measures included size limits, recreational bag limits, and commercial trip limits.
- The Council directed staff to prepare an options paper with size and bag/trip limits for pelagic species managed under the island-based FMPs.



# Pelagic species managed under the island FMPs

## Puerto Rico

Dolphin (*Coryphaena hippurus*)

Pompano dolphin (*C. equiselis*)

Little tunny (*Euthynnus alletteratus*)

Blackfin tuna (*Thunnus atlanticus*)

King mackerel (*Scomberomorus cavalla*)

Cero mackerel (*S. regalis*)

Wahoo (*Acanthocybium solandri*)

Great barracuda (*Sphyraena barracuda*)

Tripletail (*Lobotes surinamensis*)

## St. Thomas and St. John

Dolphin (*Coryphaena hippurus*)

Wahoo (*Acanthocybium solandri*)

## St. Croix

Dolphin (*Coryphaena hippurus*)

Wahoo (*Acanthocybium solandri*)



# Objectives for the 179th Council Meeting

- Review scoping/options document and provide guidance to staff on which management options, if any, to develop;
- Provide guidance to staff on the draft purpose and need statements for this action; and
- Discuss prioritization of action and potential timing amendment development.



# Draft Purpose and Need

The following statements are a draft for Council consideration and may change, pending Council guidance.

## Draft Need

The need is to develop conservation and management measures to protect against overfishing and ensure optimum yield for pelagic species new to federal management.

## Draft Purpose

The purpose of this action is to establish size limits, bag limits, and trip limits (per Council direction) for pelagic species new to management under the island-based FMPs.

**Note:** If consistency with state regulations is desired, we can add language to the draft Need statement: e.g., while ensuring that regulations are consistent with the state management programs for pelagic species in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.



# Recreational Bag Limits – Puerto Rico

Option 1. No action. No bag limits for recreational harvest of pelagic species in federal waters.

Option 2. Set a bag limit for an individual pelagic stock.

2a. 10 dolphin per fisher/day or 30 dolphin per vessel/day, whichever is less (e.g., would be compatible with DNER regulations)

2b. 5 dolphin per fisher/day or 15 dolphin per vessel/day, whichever is less (e.g., would be more restrictive, as recommended by DAP)

2c. *X pelagic stock* per fisher/day or *XX pelagic stock* per vessel/day, whichever is less  
dolphin, pompano dolphin, wahoo, king mackerel, cero mackerel,  
little tunny, blackfin tuna, tripletail, great barracuda

Option 3. Set an aggregate bag limit for a combination of pelagic stocks.

3a. For wahoo, king mackerel, and cero mackerel combined, 5 of each species per fisher/day or 10 total per vessel/day (e.g., would be compatible with DNER regulations)

3b. For *A, B, C pelagic stock* combined, *X* per person per day or *XX* per vessel/day



# Recreational Bag Limits – St. Thomas/St. John or St. Croix

Option 1. No action. No bag limits for recreational harvest of pelagic species in federal waters.

Option 2. Set a bag limit for an individual pelagic stock.

2a. X dolphin per fisher/day or XX dolphin per vessel/day, whichever is less

2b. X wahoo per fisher/day or XX wahoo per vessel/day, whichever is less

Option 3. Set an aggregate bag limit for dolphin and wahoo combined.

3a. No more than 10 dolphin or wahoo, per person, per day, not to exceed 32 per vessel per day, and not to exceed 4 wahoo per person, per day, or 20 wahoo per vessel, per day (e.g., would be compatible with *proposed* USVI regulations)

3b. For dolphin and wahoo combined, X per person per day or XX per vessel/day



# Commercial Trip Limits – Puerto Rico

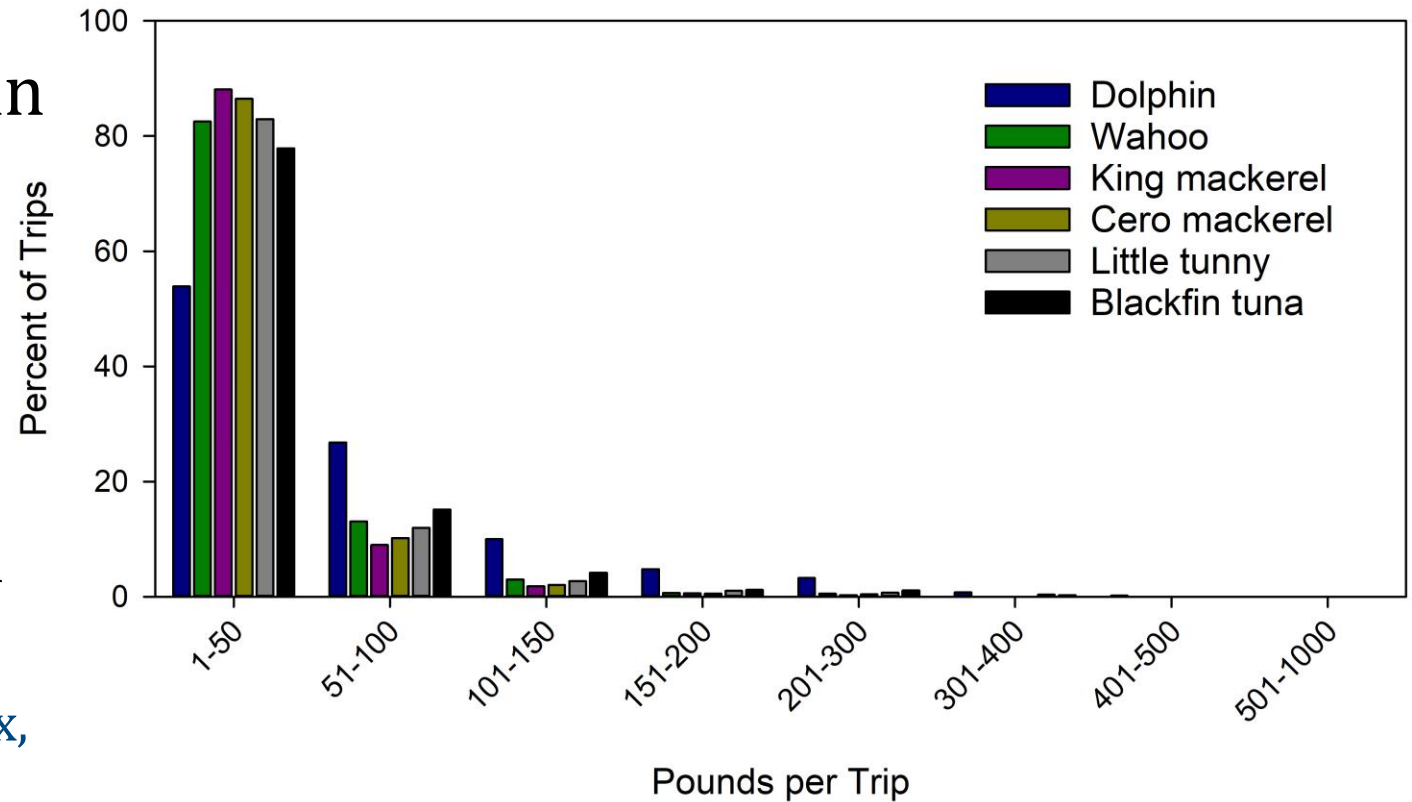
Option 1. No action. No trip limits for commercial harvest of pelagic species in federal waters.

Option 2. Set a trip limit for an individual pelagic stock.

dolphin, pompano dolphin, wahoo, king mackerel, cero mackerel, little tunny, blackfin tuna, tripletail, great barracuda

Option 3. Set a trip limit for a pelagic stock complex.

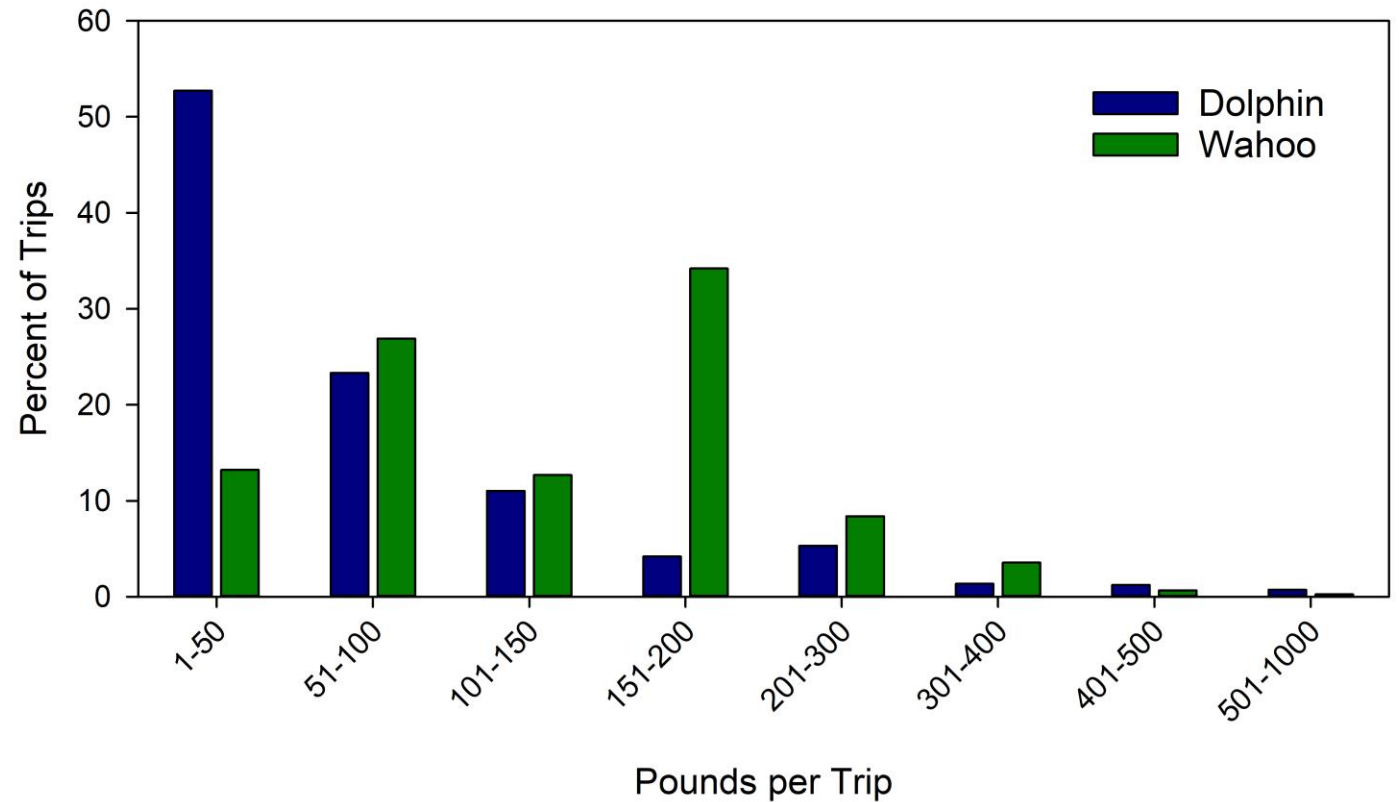
Dolphinfish complex, Mackerel complex, Tuna complex



# Commercial Trip Limits – St. Thomas/St. John

Option 1. No action. No trip limits for commercial harvest of pelagic species in federal waters.

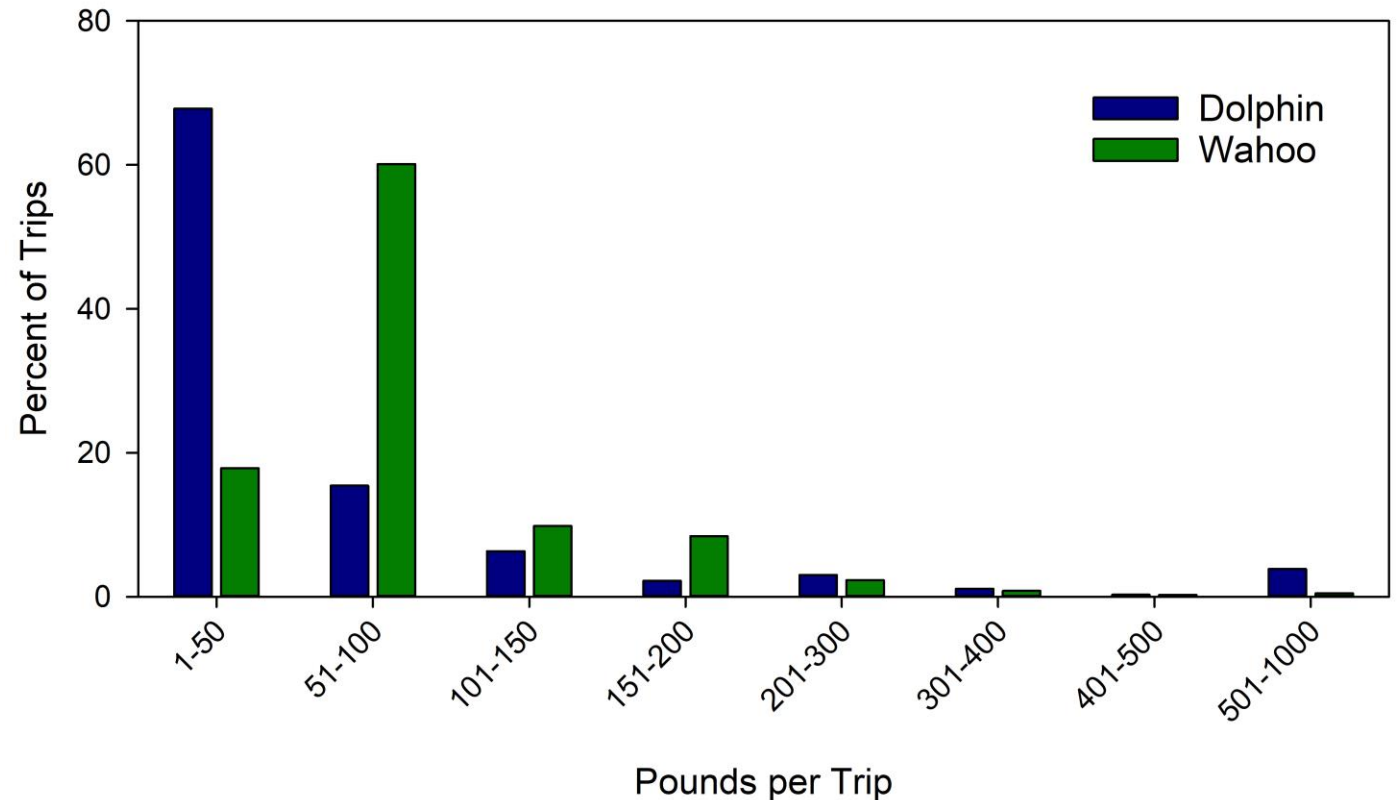
Option 2. Set a trip limit for an individual pelagic stock.  
dolphin, wahoo



# Commercial Trip Limits – St. Croix

Option 1. No action. No trip limits for commercial harvest of pelagic species in federal waters.

Option 2. Set a trip limit for an individual pelagic stock.  
dolphin, wahoo



# Size Limits – Puerto Rico

Option 1. No action. No size limits for recreational and commercial harvest of pelagic species in federal waters.

Option 2. Set a recreational and commercial size limit for pelagic stock(s).  
dolphin, pompano dolphin, wahoo, king mackerel, cero mackerel,  
little tunny, blackfin tuna, tripletail, great barracuda

2a. Based on life history parameters (e.g., size at maturity)

*For dolphin, size at 50% maturity is 18" fork length (FL) for females.*

*For wahoo, size at 50% maturity is 36" FL for females.*

*For king mackerel, size at 50% maturity is 23" FL for females.*

*For cero mackerel, size at 50% maturity is 16" FL for females.*

2b. Based on other fishery information (e.g., TIP data, expert opinion, state regulations).

*A 20" FL minimum for king mackerel and a 16" FL minimum for cero mackerel would be compatible with DNER regulations.*



# Size Limits – St. Thomas/St. John

Option 1. No action. No size limits for recreational and commercial harvest of pelagic species in federal waters.

Option 2. Set a recreational and commercial size limit for [dolphin, wahoo].

2a. Based on life history parameters (e.g., size at maturity)

*For dolphin, size at 50% maturity is 18" FL for females.*

*For wahoo, size at 50% maturity is 36" FL for females.*

2b. Based on other fishery information (e.g., TIP data, expert opinion, state regulations).

*A 24" FL minimum for dolphin and a 36" FL minimum for wahoo recommended by the St. Thomas/St. John Fishery Advisory Committee in 2019.*



# Size Limits – St. Croix

Option 1. No action. No size limits for recreational and commercial harvest of pelagic species in federal waters.

Option 2. Set a recreational and commercial size limit for [dolphin, wahoo].

2a. Based on life history parameters (e.g., size at maturity)

*For dolphin, size at 50% maturity is 18" FL for females.*

*For wahoo, size at 50% maturity is 36" FL for females.*

2b. Based on other fishery information (e.g., TIP data, expert opinion, state regulations).



# Accountability Measures

The Council could also consider revising the accountability measure (AM) provision for pelagic stocks/stock complexes to include these management measures (e.g., size limits, recreational bag limits\*, or commercial trip limits) as the responsive action that the Council and NMFS take when the AM has been triggered (i.e., when landings exceed the annual catch target).

For example, if the landings for dolphin exceed the ACT, the Council and NMFS could implement a commercial trip limit instead of another management action such as a shortening of the fishing season for dolphin.

*\* Would only apply where AMs are managed by sector.*



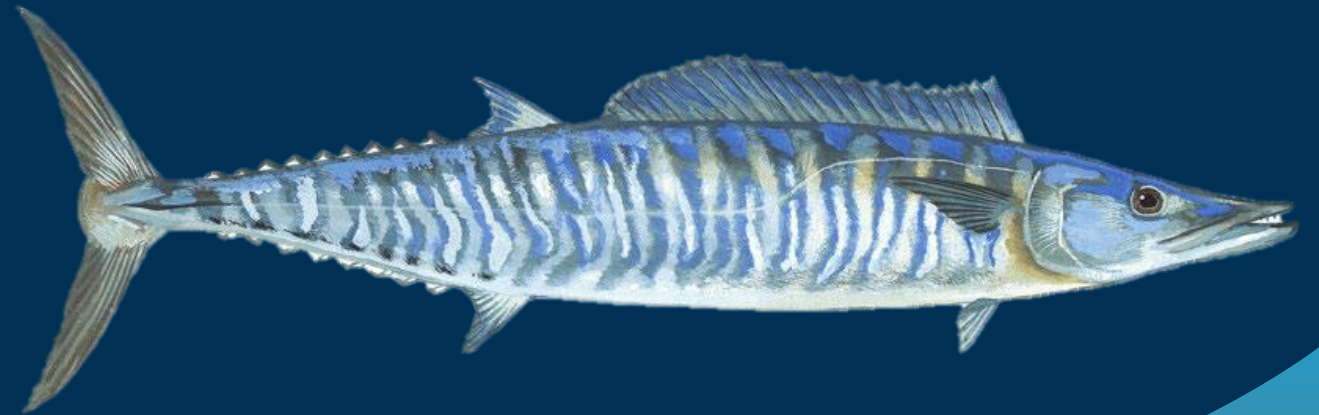
# Action Items

- Select which stocks/stock complexes, if any, to develop options for a recreational bag limit.
- Select which stocks/stock complexes, if any, to develop options for a commercial trip limit.
- Select which stocks/stock complexes, if any, to develop options for a recreational and commercial size limit.
- Motion to develop amendment and create IPT.
- Draft purpose and need statements.





# Questions



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