



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/region/southeast>

F/SER25:NM

Mr. Robert W. Scarborough
Delaware Coastal Programs
Dept. of Natural Resources & Environmental Control
100 W. Water St, Suite 7B
Dover, Delaware 19901

Dear Mr. Scarborough:

This is to advise you of a proposed federal action by NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Pursuant to the action requested by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council), NMFS would promulgate a new rule to implement Amendment 12 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Dolphin and Wahoo Fishery of the Atlantic (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 12). Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 12 would add bullet mackerel and frigate mackerel to the Fishery Management Plan for the Dolphin and Wahoo Fishery of the Atlantic and designate them as ecosystem component (EC) species. The Council noted that the two mackerel species have been documented as important forage species particularly for wahoo and to a lesser extent for dolphin. The purpose of Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 12 is to acknowledge the ecological role of bullet mackerel and frigate mackerel as forage fish and achieve ecosystem management objectives. NMFS and the Council determined that bullet mackerel and frigate mackerel are currently not in need of conservation and management, making them eligible for consideration as EC species under provisions found within the National Standard Guidelines and complying with the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and other applicable laws.

Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 12 can be found at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/amendment-12-add-bullet-mackerel-and-frigate-mackerel-ecosystem-component-species>.

This letter is submitted pursuant to provisions of 15 CFR Section 930 *et seq.* and Section 307 of the CZMA of 1972, as amended. We have reviewed the proposed action with regard to the provisions of your state's CZMP and determined this action is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of that program. We are requesting you advise us of your agreement or disagreement with our determination in accordance with the provisions of 15 CFR Section 930.39. In the event there is no response from your agency within 60 days of receipt of this letter, we will presume your agency's concurrence with our determination of consistency in accordance with 15 CFR Section 930.41.

We appreciate your consideration, and if you have any questions, please call Nikhil Mehta at (727) 551-5098 or email him at nikhil.mehta@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

John C. McGovern, Ph.D.
Assistant Regional Administrator

cc: Laura Mensch

