



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston SC 29405

Call: (843) 571-4366 | Toll-Free: (866) SAFMC-10 | Fax: (843) 769-4520 | Connect: www.safmc.net

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 5, 2017

Contact: Kim Iverson
Public Information Officer
Kim.iverson@safmc.net

Call for Applications to the South Atlantic Council's New Citizen Science Advisory Panel

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council is currently soliciting applicants for open advisory panel seats on the new Citizen Science Advisory Panel. The Council has twelve advisory panels composed of individuals who are engaged in the harvest of managed species, or are knowledgeable and interested in the conservation and management of the fishery or managed species. Working at the grass roots level, advisory panel members provide information and guidance in the development and implementation of federal fishery management plans and Council programs.

Why is the Citizen Science Advisory Panel being created?

The Citizen Science Advisory Panel (AP) is being established to support development of the Council's Fishery Citizen Science Program. Guidance for how the program will be developed is being taken from the [SAFMC Citizen Science Program Blueprint](#) which outlines the organizational infrastructure needed for the Council's program. The Citizen Science AP is being created as a "pool" of individuals. Individuals of the "pool" may be selected for appointment to specific panels to support the program's infrastructure. Five initial interim panels are being convened to develop the program's infrastructure. Once the program is established the program areas may evolve and be modified to meet the Council's long-term needs.

What experience is needed to apply?

Membership of the Citizen Science AP will include those individuals that have experience and an interest in working with the Council to develop five key program areas for the Citizen Science Program. As noted above, five interim panels, which will be called Action Teams, are being created to address the following key program development areas.

- **Volunteers** - Developing policy recommendations for recruitment and retention; training; participation incentives; identifying projects and research needs; and expectation management of volunteers.
- **Data Management** - Developing policy recommendations for an entity to manage data; data life cycle; standards and QA/QC; access; data validation; use and end-user citations; infrastructure; and presentation and marketing.
- **Projects/Topics Management** - Developing policy recommendations for identifying and prioritizing project topics/research needs; developing an application process; approving/endorsing projects; project solicitation and selection; project management; training for citizen science methods; and project evaluation.
- **Finance** - Developing policy recommendations for short/long-term administrative funding and project funding; and creative funding partnerships.
- **Communication/Outreach/Education** - Developing policy recommendations for appropriate approaches and tools to communicate project results; media plan; feedback-recognition plan; training plan; and communication platforms for the program and projects (visual, electronic, and print).

Citizen Science AP Applications *(continued)*

What if I am currently serving on one of the Council's other Advisory Panels?

Current members of the Council's existing APs and participants of the 2016 Citizen Science Program Design workshop will be considered for appointment to the Citizen Science Advisory Panel Pool. A separate online Citizen Science AP Pool application has been developed to address citizen science needs. All existing AP members interested in serving on one of the Action Teams are asked to complete the new online Citizen Science AP Pool application to let the Council know your areas of expertise and interest. The application is available online at: <https://safmc.wufoo.com/forms/citizen-science-ap-pool-application/>.

What are the responsibilities for serving on the Citizen Science AP?

The Citizen Science Advisory Panel will function as a "pool" of members that can be assigned, based upon individuals' interests and Council needs, to specific Action Teams to work on program development in the five key areas of Volunteers, Data Management, Projects/Topics Management, Finance, and Communication/Outreach/Education. Meetings of specific Action Teams will be held via webinar, approximately twice per month, as needed. The AP will elect a chair to facilitate meetings and members will work closely with Council staff towards developing policy recommendations for each program area to be considered by the Council's Citizen Science Committee. Serving on the Citizen Science AP does not affect an individual's ability to be selected to serve on one of the other Council's species-specific APs.

How do I apply for the Citizen Science AP?

To apply for the Citizen Science AP, complete the online Citizen Science Advisory Panel Pool application at <https://safmc.wufoo.com/forms/citizen-science-ap-pool-application/>. The deadline to apply is April 26, 2017.

If you have questions about the application or need assistance, contact Amber Von Harten, Citizen Science Program Manager, at 843-302-8443 or amber.vonharten@safmc.net. For more information about the Council's Citizen Science Program, visit <http://safmc.net/citizen-science-initiative/>.

<p>The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, one of eight regional councils, conserves and manages fish stocks from three to 200 miles offshore of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and east Florida.</p>
--