



# **SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

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Melvin Bell, Chair | Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph.D., Vice Chair  
John Carmichael, Executive Director

## **AGENDA** **Citizen Science Operations Committees**

**Thursday, May 12, 2022, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. – meeting via webinar**

Webinar Registration Link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2243413160450425103>

1. Welcome & Meeting Overview
2. Citizen Science Initial Evaluation Plan (*Attachments 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d*)
3. Citizen Science Research Priorities Process (*Attachment 2*)
4. Citizen Science Program Update (*Attachment 3*)

Other Business

Adjourn

### **Operations Committee Members**

Holly Abeels, Citizen Science Communication & Outreach A-Team  
Scott Baker, Citizen Science Projects/Topics A-Team  
Rob Cheshire, SEFSC representative  
Rick DeVictor, SERO representative  
Michelle Duval, Citizen Science Finance & Infrastructure A-Team  
Brett Fitzgerald, Citizen Science Data Management A-Team  
Bob Lorenz, Citizen Science Volunteer A-Team  
Wally Bublely, SSC representative

### **Attachments**

**Attachment 1a: Citizen Science Program Evaluation Interview Script**  
**Attachment 1b: Program Evaluation: Interview Question Summary Findings**  
**Attachment 1c: DRAFT Program Evaluation: Interview Findings Report** (not yet available)  
**Attachment 1d: Initial Program Evaluation: DRAFT Survey Questions**  
**Attachment 2: Citizen Science Research Priorities Process**  
**Attachment 3: Citizen Science Program Update Presentation**

Staff Lead: Julia Byrd

# OVERVIEW

## Citizen Science Operations Committee

### 1. Welcome & Meeting Overview

Overview of webinar agenda, materials, and goals for the meeting

Meeting Goals:

- *Share key findings from Evaluation Plan Interviews. Review and provide input on draft Evaluation Plan survey questions and guidance on distribution methods.*
- *Discuss potential idea of ranking the citizen science research priorities.*
- *Update on the Citizen Science Program*

### 2. Citizen Science Initial Evaluation Plan (*Attachments 1a-1d*)

At their December 2020 meeting, the Council supported working with Rick Bonney on an initial evaluation plan for the SAFMC's Citizen Science Program. The detailed evaluation plan can be found [HERE](#). The plan focuses on gathering baseline data on knowledge, attitudes, collaborations, engagement, and trust from various stakeholder groups to help evaluate the Program's fourth goal to 'foster mutual learning, collaboration, and program engagement'. The baseline data collected through these efforts can then be compared with information about these attributes after stakeholders have engaged with the program over time.

Baseline data will be collected in three phases: 1) interviews, 2) the development and piloting of an online survey, and 3) the implementation of the online survey. Phases one and two will occur in 2021 and 2022. Phase three will occur later in 2022 or 2023, as funding allows.

During the May 2021 Operations Committee meeting, members provided feedback on the interview script and sample size. Committee members, Council members, and staff provided suggestions for potential interviewees. The interview script was finalized (*Attachment 1a*) and reviewed by the Cornell and College of Charleston Internal Review Boards in summer 2021. Rick Bonney conducted interviews with 6 scientists, 6 managers, and 6 fishermen between October/November 2021 and March 2022. The report documenting interview findings is in progress now. The information gained through the interviews is being used to help develop the online survey questions to gather information from a broader group of stakeholders. Rick will provide a brief overview of key findings from the interviews to assist in the discussions (*Attachment 1b*). A draft of the interview findings report will be available closer to the meeting date (*Attachment 1c*). Draft online survey questions are provided in *Attachment 1d*. We are very early in the development of survey questions and are really interested in getting feedback from the Committee.

**During this meeting, staff would like the Committee to focus on:**

- **Reviewing and providing input on the DRAFT online survey questions**
  - Do the survey questions cover the right topics?
  - Are there any topics not covered that should be incorporated?
  - Are there any topics that you think should be removed?
- **Providing input on survey distribution**
  - With limited resources, how can we try to get participants from outside the Council's typical network of people?
  - How long should we consider keeping the survey open?

- What can we do to help get a good response rate with an online survey?
- Any other feedback?

### **3. Citizen Science Research Priorities Process**

At their December 2021 meeting, the Council reviewed and updated the citizen science research priorities. The Citizen Science Committee report highlighting key points from the discussion and summarizing changes to the citizen science priorities that were presented is available [HERE](#). The updated citizen science research priorities for 2021-2023 are available [HERE](#). The citizen science research prioritization process from the SOPPS is provided as Attachment 2.

When reviewing the research priorities, some Council members noted that in the future it could be helpful to rank the priorities and/or potentially target species within a priority to help focus program efforts. The current citizen science research prioritization process is provided as Attachment 2. Step 3 in the process, the Citizen Science Project Idea Portal, has not been implemented yet. Staff will provide a brief overview of how the process has worked in practice.

During this meeting the Committee is asked to provide initial feedback on the idea of ranking the research priorities.

- Would ranking the priorities be a worthwhile investment of time?
- If so, what type of criteria should be considered for ranking? Who should participate in the ranking process?

### **4. Citizen Science Program Update (*Attachment 5*)**

Staff will provide a brief update on the Citizen Science Program – highlighting recent programmatic and project activities.

Other Business

Adjourn