



# **SAFMC Citizen Science Initiative: *Program Development Update***

**December 8, 2016**



***SAFMC December 2016 Meeting***

# SAFMC Citizen Science Program

## Working definition for SAFMC:

*“A growing field in which trained members of the public collaborate and engage with scientists in the inquiry and discovery of new knowledge.”*

## Vision Statement:

*“more collaboration + more data + more trust = better management”*

## Mission Statement:

*“Improve fisheries management through collaborative science”*



# 2016 – Program Development

## January 2016:

- *SAFMC Citizen Science Program Design Workshop*
- *Council Cit Sci Organizing Committee drafts Blueprint*

## March 2016:

- *Council Reviews and Adopts SAFMC Citizen Science Program Blueprint*

## May 2016:

- *Council Staff Present Citizen Science Program Development Efforts for NMFS QUEST Webinar Series*



# 2016 – Program Development *(cont.)*

## July 2016:

- ***Council Cit Sci Organizing Committee present Council's work at International Marine Conservation Congress***

## September 2016:

- ***Citizen Science Council Committee is initiated***

## November 2016:

- ***NMFS Grant Opportunity – kickstarter project***



# 2016 – Council Investment

## Total Investment To-Date: \$110,000

- ***Staff time for coordinating 2015-2016 activities -***
  - ***3 primary staff; other staff support: \$37,000***
- ***Sampling with scientists/fishermen - \$28,000***
- ***January 2016 Workshop - \$35,000 (plus Sea Grant support)***
- ***IMCC Participation (2 staff and 1 Council member) - \$10,000***



# SAFMC Citizen Science Program – *Needs*

## Dedicated Council staff (FTE) to operate program

### Objectives/Activities

#### Long term –

- Implement/organize a program based on blueprint

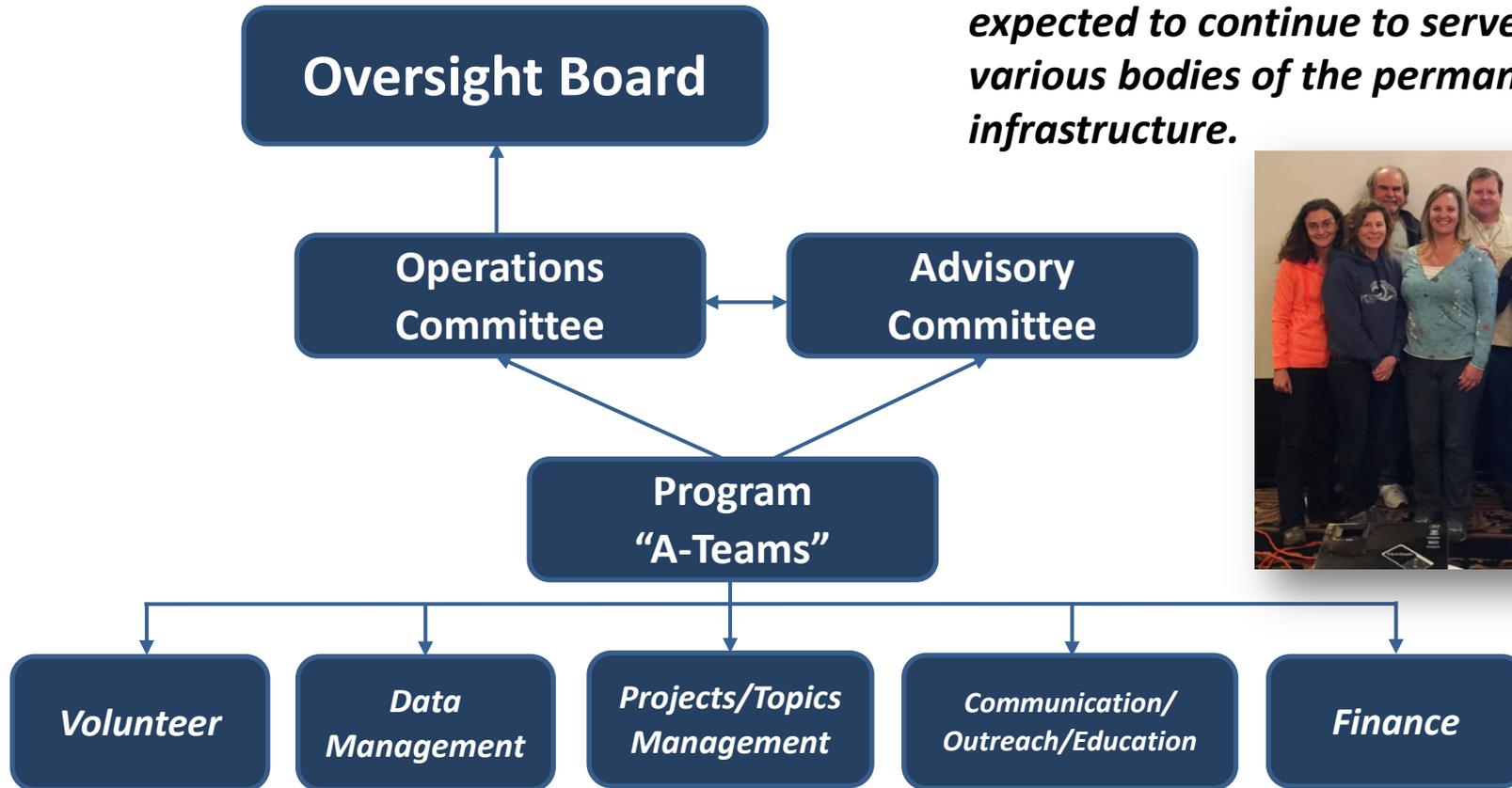
#### Short term –

- Support projects that will become inclusive of providing program support;
- Initiate a kickstarter project;
- Develop program partnerships - engage other organizations and agency partners on a successful project



# Tiered Program Structure\*:

**\*\*Organizing Committee members are expected to continue to serve key roles in various bodies of the permanent infrastructure.**



# SAFMC Citizen Science Program – *Challenges*

## 1. Funding –

- Opportunities to directly receive funding are limited (*can only receive direct funds from NMFS*)
- Program will need to be creative on this front (*partnerships will be key*)

## 2. Program Staff –

- No dedicated staff to pursue program level support or project funding and general organization

## 3. Initial Project –

- Need for a successful project that is applied directly to the science and management used by the Council;
- Risk - if first project fails, the program is at risk of failing.



# SAFMC Citizen Science Program – *Pursuit of Funding*

## 2016 Efforts:

- Initial budget request to NMFS (\$173,000)
- Exploration of other program partnerships and project-level funding opportunities
- Partners begin approaching Council staff about engagement on Citizen Science projects
- Internal NMFS grant opportunity – Fishery Information System program focused on Electronic Reporting/Monitoring projects
- Submission of citizen science program kickstarter project idea – *scamp grouper discard proposal*



# Options for Pursuing Kickstarter Project

	<b>OPTION #1:</b> No Program/ Staff Support	<b>OPTION #2:</b> Temporary Staff Support	<b>OPTION #3:</b> Full Time Staff Support
<b>Activity:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build mobile app/database to receive data</li> <li>• Project is open to anyone; no oversight</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build mobile app/ database</li> <li>• Temporary staff for project oversight</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build mobile app/ database</li> <li>• Permanent FTE to develop program and manage project</li> </ul>
<b>Benefits:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low cost</li> <li>• Mobile app is built</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderate cost</li> <li>• Temporary staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program has support to get off the ground</li> </ul>
<b>Risks:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Success rate is low</li> <li>• No dedicated staff Project disorganized &amp; participants not satisfied</li> <li>• Less chance data could be used</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Success rate is moderate</li> <li>• Staff time/ availability limited</li> <li>• Buy-in limited</li> <li>• Temporary staff requires supervision</li> <li>• Data may not be available in time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Success rate is high</li> <li>• Cost is also high</li> </ul>

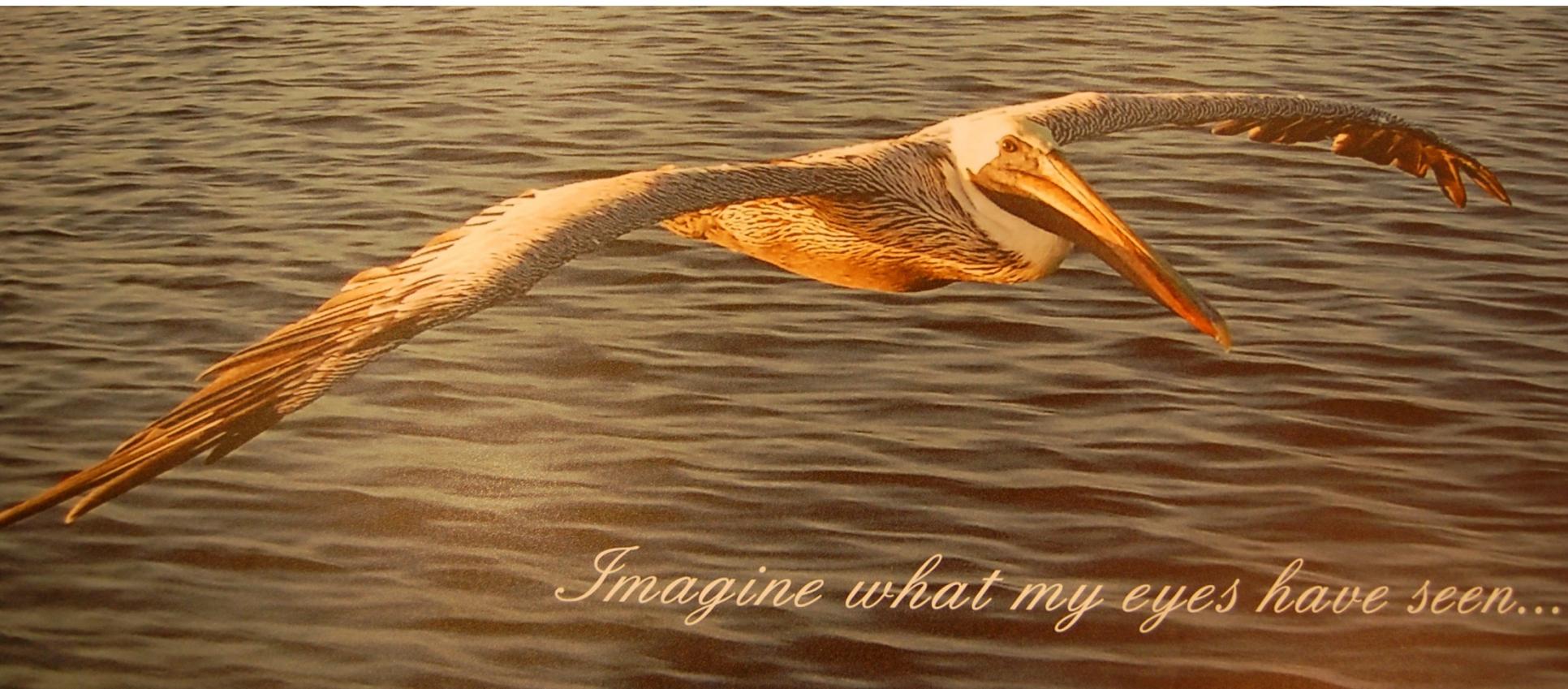
# Items to Consider for Next Steps:

- Existing staff time/resources to work on program – not sustainable
- Budgeting for full-time dedicated program staff with existing resources
- Kickstarter project funding
- Risk of losing stakeholder support and program development momentum
- Missed opportunities for partnership development





<http://www.safmc.net/citizen-science-initiative>



*Imagine what my eyes have seen...*