SAFMC Citizen Science Action Team Presentation

Projects/Topics Management

SAFMC Citizen Science Program
All-Hands Action Team Meeting
January 31, 2018

A-Team Roster

Scott Baker (co-chair)

Beverly Sauls (co –chair)

Walter Bubley

Robert Crimian

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A-Team Overview

- **Focus:** 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.

- **7 ToRs (7 priorities).** First few are the most difficult – others may be less so.

Topic #1 – Process and Mechanism to Identify Projects/Topics (Tor#1)

- The Team identified the existing processes and input for compiling ideas for citizen science topics/issues.

    o Existing processes include the SAFMC Res. & Mon. Plan and the SEDAR Res. recommendations. This includes input from the Council's APs, SSC and other input gathered during amendment development – as well as - input from engaged fishermen.

- However, there is not a mechanism to collect broader input from less engaged stakeholders.

- **Options (and/or):** **(1) Periodic solicitation window**
    (2) Vote on more vetted project topics

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Topic #2 – Recommendations for project criteria requirements (Tor#3)

- Team found this very difficult to do without identifying specifics for the type/scope/scale of project – too many variables and unknowns.

- Using recommendations from Amber from our discussions, we provided criteria requirement recommendations for the Scamp Pilot Project.

    o **Example.** Difficult to determine/rate the chance for Scamp project success without knowing the minimum number of data points needed across time and space to possibly impact the upcoming stock assessment.

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Draft Recommendations

- Topic #1 – Utilize existing resources / formats when possible

- Topic #1 – Provide opportunity for less engaged public to (1) provide suggestions (on an annual basis) and/or (2) rank potential projects that have been conceived/developed by experts.

- Topic #2 – Project criteria should be incorporated, when possible, into the Request for Proposals. Project developers need a better understanding of <u>what</u> and <u>how much data</u> is needed to be useful to management (Ex., 50 discard reports across 1 NMFS grid in Wave 2 or 5,000 reports??). The Council's existing resources provide broad topical suggestions – but not numerical guidance.

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Discussion Questions

- Role of "less-engaged" fishery stakeholders in process?

- Should experts provide guidance on minimum data requirements before, during or after project ideas collected?

- How do we give clear guidance to ensure proposals are relevant, without directing proposals and stifling new ideas?

- Want to avoid applicants being discouraged if proposals are not well received early in process.

- Should we focus our thoughts re: project topics / design on a specific example (Ex., Scamp discard project) – or should we try to anticipate all pitfalls associated with all types of projects?

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Discussion Questions

- Next steps - developing criteria that projects must meet to be endorsed by the program.

- Next steps – fleshing out the draft citizen science research needs document and considering a methodology for allowing input and feedback.

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