



South Atlantic Fishery Management Council **Citizen Science Program Evaluation**

CitSci Operations Committee Meeting



October 2019





SAFMC Scamp Release:

Goals

- **GOAL 1:** Test ability of citizen science conducted by fishermen to provide data useful for stock assessment.
- **GOAL 2:** Enhance trust among stakeholders – fishermen, managers, and scientists.
- **GOAL 3:** Address a “simple” data need for the purposes of a pilot project.
- **GOAL 4:** Improve understanding of fisheries science and how it feeds into the management process.





SAFMC Scamp Release: *Objectives*

- Develop a mobile application that will enable fishermen to submit detailed information on discarded fish. (*Goal 1 & 3*)
 - Variables to collect include date, capture location, depth, fishing methods, length, release condition, reason for discard (minimum size limit, seasonal closure, etc.), use of descending device, and a picture of a scamp that they intend to discard.
- Provide the application and necessary training to interested citizen scientist fishermen throughout the South Atlantic region to collect discard information, focusing first on scamp.
- Participants are involved in the development of the project and have the opportunity to provide feedback on the application as it is developed. (*Goal 1 & 2*)





SAFMC Scamp Release:

Objectives

- Engage new participants in the project and Program that are not typically involved in the Council process. (*Goal 2*)
- Submit data from the project for consideration in the SEDAR Scamp Assessment
- Demonstrate that data contributed improved the stock assessment. (*Goal 2*)
- Evaluate the tool and citizen science approach for addressing discard characterization information for scamp and other managed species





SAFMC Scamp Release: *Indicators of Success*

- Representative numbers of fishermen from all sectors participating
- Fisherman satisfaction with training
- Fisherman satisfaction with usability of app
- Fishermen satisfaction in participating in the project (e.g. think it was a good use of time, etc.)
- 80% of fishermen able to collect accurate data
- Sufficient data collected to make inferences with data
- Data used or appears useful for stock assessment
- Build broader interest from other partners in tool (Release app) to help characterize discards for other managed fisheries



SAFMC Citizen Science Program

Mission Statement:

“Improve information for fisheries management through collaborative science”

GOAL 1: Design, implement, and sustain a program framework to guide the development of projects that support fishery management decision making.

GOAL 2: Facilitate development of individual projects to address specific research priorities.

GOAL 3: Ensure data collected are accessible, robust, and fit for purpose.

GOAL 4: Build partnerships that foster mutual learning, collaboration, and programmatic support.

GOAL 5: Inspire active engagement through communication about purposes, processes, and impacts.

SAFMC Citizen Science Program

DRAFT Objectives

- Establish organizational infrastructure (e.g. Committees, APs, Action Teams, Ad-hoc Groups) to provide program administration and oversight (*Goal 1*)
- Develop program components and policies to guide development of projects that support SAFMC research priorities and needs (*Goals 1 & 2 & 3*)
- Update citizen science research priorities every two years using identified process to guide projects the Program pursues (*Goal s1 & 2*)
- Develop framework and implement CitSci Project Endorsement Program (*Goals 1 & 2 & 3?*)
- Develop and provide project support resources (e.g. best practices, templates, etc.) to assist in development of citizen science projects that support science and management decision making (*Goals 1 & 2 & 3*)



SAFMC Citizen Science Program

DRAFT Objectives

- Encourage design/development of projects by a diverse team of stakeholders (e.g. scientists, fishermen, etc.; *Goals 2 & 4 & 3?*)
- Evaluate individual projects' data collection tools, methods, results, and use of data to measure project effectiveness (*Goal 3*)
- Demonstrate that citsci project data have contributed to science and management decision making (*Goals 1 & 2 & 3*)
- Foster existing partnerships and develop new partnerships (*Goals 4 & 5*)
- Improve trust between stakeholders (scientists, managers, fishermen; *Goals 4 & 5*)
- Engage new stakeholders that are not typically involved in Council process (*Goals 4 & 5*)



SAFMC Citizen Science Program

DRAFT Objectives

- Develop Citizen Science Program communication and outreach plan to include routine program communication, program website, social media development, program support materials, and annual report (*Goals 4 & 5*)
- Develop CitSci Program volunteer engagement (recruitment, training, retention) strategies, products, and activities using best practices outlined by the CitSci Action Teams (*Goals 4 & 5*)
- Others?



SAFMC Citizen Science Program

Indicators of Success

- ??????

DRAFT

