



**Citizen
Science**

THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Updating Citizen Science Research Priorities



CitSci Research Priorities



Guide the projects the Program develops and supports



Narrow focus from many data needs to tangible ideas important to South Atlantic fishermen, scientists, managers



Share with other groups interested in developing or collaborating on citsci projects

CitSci Research Priorities



Citizen Science Research Priorities

Process to update citizen science research priorities

Sept 2025



**Update SAFMC's
Research &
Monitoring Plan**

Informed by SSC, SEP, APs,
SEDARs, and SAFMC

Launched Summer 2024



**Citizen Science
Project Idea Portal**

Online form to gather
project ideas from the
public

Oct 2025



**Update Citizen
Science Research
Priorities**

Citizen Science Projects
Advisory & Operations
Committees

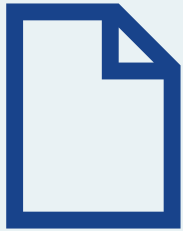
Dec 2025



**SAFMC Reviews
Updated Research
Priorities**

Council members review,
provide feedback, and
consider for adoption

CitSci DRAFT Updated Research Priorities



Draft incorporates
feedback from the CitSci
Operations & Projects
Advisory Panels



Italics summarizes
Advisory Committees'
feedback



Yellow and strikethrough
text highlights potential
additions / deletions to
research priorities



**Citizen
Science**

CitSci DRAFT Updated Research Priorities

* AP identified as a priority

^ Likely require high level of collaboration between multiple partners

Research Topic	AP Recommendation
Age Sampling [^]	Keep – update language
Discard Information*	Keep – update language
Genetic Sampling* [^]	Keep – update language
Fishing Infrastructure	Remove
Historical Fishing Photos	Keep
Fishery Oral Histories [^] & Historic Logbooks	Keep
Oceanographic & Environmental Conditions	Keep
Shifting, Rare, or Data Limited Species Observations	Keep
Observations in Managed Areas [^]	Keep
Movement & Migration	Keep – update language
Shark & Mammal Depredation	Keep
Habitat Characterization	Keep
Spiny Lobster	Keep – update language

Questions for consideration

- Are there any priorities that should be removed or added to this list?
- Are there any additions or deletions to the target species listed under the applicable priorities?
- Are there any additional Council Research and Monitoring needs where a citizen science approach may work that aren't included on this list?
- Which of the priorities may help address the most immediate needs for science and management?