



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph.D., Chair | Trish Murphey, Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA Citizen Science Committee The Beaufort Hotel Beaufort, NC

Thursday, December 7, 2023 – 8:30 A.M. – 10:30 A.M. (Times subject to change)

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes (June 2023)

1. Update Citizen Science Research Priorities (*Attachments 1a-1c*)
 - a. Overview of recommended updates to Citizen Science Research Priorities
 - b. **Committee Action:** Review, discuss, and consider adopting the updated Citizen Science Research Priorities
2. SciFish Update and Platform Demonstration (*Attachments 2a and 2b*)
 - a. Overview of SciFish policies & platform
 - b. **Committee Action:** Provide staff guidance, as needed
3. Citizen Science Projects & Program Update (*Attachment 3*)
 - a. Overview of project activities
 - b. **Committee Action:** Provide staff guidance, as needed

Other Business

Adjourn

Committee Members

Kerry Marhefka, Chair
Tom Roller, Vice-Chair
Robert Beal
Carolyn Belcher
Mel Bell
Gary Borland

LT Cameron Box
Tim Griner
Judy Helmey
Jessica McCawley
Trish Murphey
Tom Roller

Robert Spottswood, Jr.
Andy Strelcheck
Laurilee Thompson
Spud Woodward

Attachments

Attachment 1a: Citizen Science Research Priority Presentation

Attachment 1b: SAFMC DRAFT Updated Citizen Science Research Priorities

Attachment 1c: South Atlantic Research & Monitoring Plan for 2023-2027

Attachment 2a: SciFish Update and Platform Presentation

Attachment 2b: SciFish Policies and Procedures

Attachment 3: SAFMC Citizen Science Program Update Presentation

Staff Lead: Julia Byrd (julia.byrd@safmc.net)

OVERVIEW

Citizen Science Committee

The Committee will approve the minutes from the June 2023 Citizen Science Committee meeting and the agenda for the December 2023 meeting.

1. Update Citizen Science Research Priorities (*Attachments 1a-1c*)

The Citizen Science Research Priorities are updated every two years in conjunction with the Council updating their overall Research and Monitoring Plan. The research priorities guide the types of projects the Citizen Science Program will pursue and support. They are meant to help narrow down the focus from the many data needs in the South Atlantic to tangible ideas most important to fishermen, scientists, and managers in our region that would potentially work well with a citizen science approach.

The original Citizen Science Research Priorities were developed by the Citizen Science Action Teams during 2017/2018. Their development was informed by the Council's Research and Monitoring Prioritization Plan, SEDAR Consolidated Research Recommendations, and project ideas generated at the 2016 SAFMC Citizen Science Program Design Workshop. They were adopted by the SAFMC in June 2018. The Citizen Science Research Priorities were updated with input provided by the Citizen Science Operations and Projects Advisory Committees and adopted by the Council at their December meetings in 2019 and 2021.

The Council updated their Research and Monitoring Plan during the June 2023 meeting. The Citizen Science Operations Committee and Projects Advisory Committee held a joint meeting on October 27, 2023, to review and recommend updates to the Citizen Science Research Priorities. *Attachment 1a* provides background information on the process used to update the Citizen Science Research Priorities. The draft updated Citizen Science Research Priorities are in *Attachment 1b*. Recommended edits to the Research Priorities are highlighted in yellow or strikethrough text. Recommendations from the Citizen Science Operations Committee and Projects Advisory Committee are summarized in italics under each priority.

The following questions may be helpful to consider when reviewing and discussing the priorities:

- 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?

The South Atlantic Research and Monitoring Plan for 2023-2027 (*Attachment 1c*) is provided as an additional resource for the Committee's consideration when addressing this agenda item.

Required Committee Action: Review, discuss, and consider adopting the updated Citizen Science Research Priorities.

2. SciFish Update and Platform Demonstration (*Attachments 2a and 2b*)

Over the past three years, the Council, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF), and the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) have partnered to develop a citizen science platform, SciFish, to support the capture and sharing of information about fish stocks along the Atlantic coast. SciFish is a mobile application and menu-driven project builder designed to collect citizen science data. It will allow ACCSP partners to easily create a customizable app without the need to develop stand-alone applications for each new data need or project. This will help reduce the cost and time required to create an application from the ground up as well as increase consistency in data fields and structures.

SciFish currently houses the SAFMC Release project and NCDMF's Catch U Later project. It will soon be available to partners along the Atlantic coast. An Organizing Committee has been working to develop and beta test the SciFish platform and develop policies and procedures to support the development of new projects within SciFish. Staff will provide an overview of the SciFish policies and procedures and a demonstration of the platform.

Required Committee Action: Provide staff guidance, as needed.

3. Citizen Science Program Update (*Attachment 3*)

The committee will receive an update on the Citizen Science Program, highlighting program and project activities that have occurred since the last Citizen Science Committee meeting.

Required Committee Action: Provide staff guidance, as needed.

Other Business