



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston SC 29405
Call: (843) 571-4366 | Toll-Free: (866) SAFMC-10 | Fax: (843) 769-4520 | Connect: www.safmc.net

Trish Murphey, Chair | Jessica McCawley, Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA

Citizen Science Committee

Lumina Holiday Inn
1706 N. Lumina Avenue
Wrightsville Beach, NC

Tuesday, December 3, 2024, 1:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M. (Times subject to change)

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes (December 2023)

1. Citizen Science Program Initial Evaluation

- a. Program Evaluation Background (*Attachment 1a*) – Council staff
- b. Overview of Manager & Scientist Survey Findings (*Attachments 1b & 1c*) – Rick Bonney
- c. Overview of Fishermen Interview Findings (*Attachments 1d & 1e*) – Jennifer Sweeney Tookes
- d. Program Evaluation Overview & Recommendations (*Attachments 1f*) – Council staff
- e. Program Planning Progress Update & Recommendations (*Attachments 1g*) – Council staff

Committee Action: Discuss recommendations and provide programmatic guidance for the upcoming years

2. Citizen Science Projects & Program Update (*Attachment 2*)

- a. Overview of project activities – Council staff

Committee Action: Provide staff guidance, as needed

Other Business

Adjourn

Committee Members

Kerry Marhefka, Chair
Amy Dukes, Vice-Chair
Robert Beal
Carolyn Belcher
Gary Borland
Tim Griner

Judy Helmey
Jimmy Hull
Jessica McCawley
Trish Murphey
Lt. Tom Pease
Charlie Phillips
Tom Roller
Robert Spottswood, Jr.
Andy Strelcheck

Attachments

Attachment 1a: Citizen Science Initial Program Evaluation Overview

Attachment 1b: Survey of Scientists & Managers Working in the Region Covered by the SAFMC – Bonney Final Report

Attachment 1c: Overview Presentation of Scientist & Manager Survey Findings

Attachment 1d: Decoding the Motivations of Fishers Considering Participation in Citizen Science Projects - Sweeney Tookes et al. Final Report

Attachment 1e: Overview Presentation of Interview Findings

Attachment 1f: Comparison of Research Findings, Citizen Science Program Efforts & Recommendations

Attachment 1g: Citizen Science Program Planning Progress Update

Attachment 2: 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 December 2023 Citizen Science Committee meeting and the agenda for the December 2024 meeting.

1. Citizen Science Initial Evaluation Plan (*Attachments 1a-1g*)

- a. At their December 2020 meeting, the Council supported working with Rick Bonney on an initial evaluation plan for the SAFMC's Citizen Science Program (Program). The detailed evaluation plan can be found [HERE](#). The plan focuses on gathering baseline data on knowledge, attitudes, collaborations, engagement, and trust from various stakeholder groups to help evaluate the Program's fourth goal to 'foster mutual learning, collaboration, and program engagement'.

In the original evaluation plan, baseline data was proposed to be collected in three phases: 1) interviews, 2) the development and piloting of an online survey, and 3) the implementation of the online survey. Rick Bonney presented [findings from the phase one interviews](#) to the Operations Committee in May 2023 and to the SAFMC in June 2023. Conclusions from the interviews noted the fisherman audience needed to be studied in much more detail and that research into the needs, desires, and motivations of fishermen and how best to reach fishermen will be critical to the Program. Bonney also noted that deploying an online survey to scientists and managers should not be too challenging, but deploying an online survey to fishermen could be challenging.

During summer 2022, additional funding was obtained for this project through NOAA Fisheries and the SAFMC. Staff consulted with Rick Bonney on how best to apply the funds to these evaluation efforts. The decision was made to have Rick Bonney lead the research to gather information from a broader group of scientists and managers through an online survey and to put out a request for proposals in December 2022 to gather information from a broader group of fishermen. [Jennifer Sweeney Tookes and Tracy Yandle's proposal](#) was selected for funding. They collected information from a broader group of fishermen via interviews. *Attachment 1a* provides background information on the Citizen Science Program's initial evaluation.

- b. Bonney conducted the online survey with scientists and managers from approximately March through September 2024. The final report summarizing survey findings is *Attachment 1b*. Bonney will present an overview of survey findings highlighting recommendations on how the CitSci Program can respond to this research (*Attachment 1c*).
- c. The Sweeney Tookes' et al. research team conducted interviews with fishermen from approximately July 2023 to February 2024. The final report summarizing survey findings is *Attachment 1d*. Sweeney Tookes will present an overview of survey findings highlighting recommendations on how the CitSci Program can respond to this research (*Attachment 1e*).
- d. Staff will provide an overview comparing key findings from the Bonney and Sweeney Tookes et al. research; share efforts the Citizen Science Program is currently undertaking

that help address report recommendations; and provide recommendations for additional strategies and activities the Program can implement to further respond to these research efforts (*Attachment 1f*). The recommendations presented were developed and reviewed by the Citizen Science Operations Committee at their October 2024 meeting.

The following questions may be helpful to consider when reviewing and discussing how the Citizen Science Program can be refined and adapt based on these research efforts.

- Does the Committee support the recommendations developed by the Citizen Science Operations Committee? Are there additional ways the Citizen Science Program should adapt or be refined based on these research efforts?
- What issues, challenges, and recommendations should the Program prioritize addressing in the short term (1-3 years)? In the long term (> 3 years)?

Committee Action: Discuss recommendations and provide guidance on strategies and activities the Citizen Science Program should prioritize to respond to these research efforts.

- e. During 2020, the Citizen Science Operations Committee developed and/or refined the Citizen Science Program’s Planning document which included a vision, mission, goals, objectives, and strategies. The Council reviewed and adopted these in December 2020. Since then, Council staff have used the Program Planning document to determine annual work plans and guide the overall direction of the Program. At their October 2024 meeting, the Citizen Science Operations Committee reviewed the Program Planning document; an overview of the Citizen Science Program’s activities under each goal and objectives; and provided recommendations for future activities. *Attachment 1g* provides an overview of the Citizen Science Program’s activities from 2019-2024 by goal and objective, as well as the recommendations from the Citizen Science Operations Committee on future programmatic activities.

The following questions may be helpful to consider when reviewing the Citizen Science Program’s activities to date and providing guidance on future planning efforts.

- Have the Citizen Science Program activities to date focused on the appropriate objectives and strategies for the Program?
- Are there any objectives whose strategies should be adjusted and/or edited?
- Are there specific objectives or strategies that have not been addressed or that haven’t been addressed fully that should be a priority for the Citizen Science Program?
- What objectives and/or strategies should the Citizen Science Program focus on prioritizing in the short term (1-3 years)? In the long term (> 3 years)?

Committee Action: Discuss recommendations and provide programmatic guidance for upcoming years.

2. Citizen Science Program Update (*Attachments 2*)

Staff will provide a brief update on the Citizen Science Program highlighting recent project activities.

Other Business

Adjourn