



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Melvin Bell, Chair | Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph.D., Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA Citizen Science Committee The Beaufort Hotel Beaufort, NC 28516

Thursday, December 9, 2021 – 11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. (Times subject to change)

Approval of Agenda

Approval of December 2020 Minutes

1. Updated Citizen Science Research Priorities (*Attachments 1a, 1b, and 1c*)
 - a. Overview of updated Citizen Science Research Priorities
 - b. **Committee Action:** Review, discuss, and consider the updated Citizen Science Research Priorities for adoption

2. Citizen Program and Projects Update (*Attachment 2*)
 - a. Overview of program and project activities
 - b. **Committee Action:** Provide staff guidance, as needed

Other Business

Adjourn

Committee Members

Kerry Marhefka, Chair

Trish Murphey, Vice-Chair

Robert Beal

Carolyn Belcher

Mel Bell

Chester Brewer

Chris Conklin

LT Robert Copeland

Tim Griner

Judy Helmey

Jessica McCawley

Tom Roller

Andy Strelcheck

Laurilee Thompson

Spud Woodward

Attachments

Attachment 1a: SAFMC Updated Citizen Science Research Priorities

Attachment 1b: Citizen Science Research Priority Presentation

Attachment 1c: South Atlantic Research and Monitoring Plan for 2021-2025

Attachment 2: SAFMC Citizen Science Program Update Presentation

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

OVERVIEW

Citizen Science Committee

The Committee will review and approve the minutes from the December 2020 Citizen Science Committee meeting and the agenda for December 2021 meeting.

1. Updated Citizen Science Research Priorities (*Attachments 1a, 1b, and 1c*)

Description: The Citizen Science Research Priorities are updated every two years in conjunction with the Council updating their overall South Atlantic 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 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. In 2019 the Citizen Science Research Priorities were updated with input provided by the Citizen Science Operations and Projects Advisory Committees through separate webinar meetings. These updated research priorities were adopted by the Council at their December 2019 meeting.

The updated SAFMC Research and Monitoring Plan for 2021-2025 was adopted by the Council at their June 2021 meeting. The Citizen Science Operations Committee and Projects Advisory Committee held a joint meeting November 1, 2021 to review and recommend updates to the Citizen Science Research Priorities. The draft updated Citizen Science Research Priorities are in *Attachment 1a*. Recommended edits to the Research Priorities are highlighted in yellow. Recommendations from the Citizen Science Operations Committee and Projects Advisory Committee are summarized in italics under each priority. *Attachment 1b* is a presentation staff will use to walk the Committee through the draft updated Research Priorities and contains similar information as *Attachment 1a*.

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 2021-2025 (*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 the updated Citizen Science Research Priorities for adoption.

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

Description: The committee will receive an update on the Citizen Science Program, highlighting program and project activities that have occurred since the September 2021 Council meeting (*Attachment 2*).

Required Committee Action: Provide staff guidance, as needed.

Other Business