



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

Key West Marriott Beachside
Key West, FL

Thursday, June 16, 2022 – 1:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M. (Times subject to change)

Approval of Agenda

Approval of December 2021 Minutes

1. Program evaluation interview results & next steps (*Attachment 1*)
 - a. Overview of interview results & discuss next steps
 - b. **Committee Action:** Review interview results and provide guidance on next steps in the Program evaluation, as needed

2. FISHstory Highlights (*Attachment 2*)
 - a. Presentation highlighting FISHstory results
 - b. **Committee Action:** Provide staff guidance on whether to continue to pursue funding for FISHstory and explore options to identify and archive additional photos.

3. Snowy Grouper project update (*Attachment 3*)
 - a. Update on potential development of a project to collect supplemental information on snowy grouper
 - b. **Committee Action:** Provide staff guidance on whether to pursue development of a citizen science project to gather supplemental commercial snowy grouper data.

4. Citizen Science Program Update (*Attachment 4*)
 - a. Overview of program 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 - DRAFT

Attachment 1: Citizen Science Program Evaluation Interview Report

Attachment 2: FISHstory Highlights Presentation

Attachment 3: Snowy Grouper Project Development

Attachment 4: 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 2021 Citizen Science Committee meeting and the agenda for the June 2022 meeting.

1. Program Evaluation Interview Results and Next Steps (*Attachment 1*)

Description: At the December 2020 meeting, the Council supported working with Rick Bonney on an initial evaluation plan for the SAFMC's Citizen Science Program. 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'. The baseline data collected through these efforts can then be compared with information about these attributes after stakeholders have engaged with the program over time.

Baseline data will be collected in three phases: 1) interviews, 2) the development and piloting of an online survey, and 3) the implementation of the online survey. Phases one and two have or will occur in 2021 and 2022. Phase three will occur later in 2022 or 2023, as funding allows.

During the May 2021 Operations Committee meeting, members provided feedback on the interview script and sample size. Operations Committee members, Council members, and Council staff provided suggestions for potential interviewees. The interview script was finalized and reviewed by the Cornell University and College of Charleston Internal Review Boards in summer 2021. Rick Bonney conducted interviews with 6 scientists, 6 managers, and 6 fishermen between October/November 2021 and March 2022. *Attachment 1* is a report summarizing interview findings. The information gained through the interviews is being used to help develop the online survey questions to gather information from a broader group of stakeholders. Rick Bonney will provide a brief overview of key findings from the interviews and with Council staff will provide next steps for the initial evaluation plan.

Required Committee Action: Review interview results and provide guidance on next steps in the Program evaluation, as needed.

2. FISHstory Highlights (*Attachment 2*)

Historic photos are an untapped source of potential fisheries data for years prior to the start of dedicated catch monitoring programs. The Citizen Science program developed the FISHstory pilot project to describe historic catch composition and develop length estimates from the 1940s to 1970s for the for-hire fleet fishing off Daytona Beach, FL. Photos for the project were provided by retired fisherman, Rusty Hudson. The project has three major components: digitizing and archiving historic photos, describing catch compositions using volunteers through the Zooniverse online crowdsourcing platform, and developing a method to measure fish in the photos and estimate length distribution. The Committee will receive a presentation from Council staff highlighting key findings and lessons learned from the pilot project (*Attachment 2*).

Required Committee Action: Provide staff guidance, on whether to continue to pursue funding for FISHstory and explore options to identify and archive additional photos.

3. Snowy Grouper Project Update (*Attachment 3*)

At the March 2022 meeting, the Council provided guidance to work with the Citizen Science Program to explore development of a project to gather supplemental snowy grouper data. Based on the Council's discussion, there was an interest in investigating if there were regional differences in size distribution for commercial snowy grouper in the South Atlantic. Council staff developed *Attachment 3* which summarizes snowy grouper commercial biological data available through current data collection programs and things to consider if the Council wants to pursue development of a citizen science project to supplement snowy grouper commercial biological data.

Required Committee Action: Provide staff guidance on whether to pursue development of a citizen science project to gather supplemental commercial snowy grouper data.

4. Citizen Science Program Update (*Attachment 4*)

Description: The committee will receive a brief update on the Citizen Science Program, highlighting program and project activities that weren't discussed through other agenda items (*Attachment 4*).

Required Committee Action: Provide staff guidance, as needed.

Other Business