

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

CITIZEN SCIENCE COMMITTEE

**Sawgrass Marriott
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL**

June 15, 2017

SUMMARY MINUTES

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Other Observers/Participants attached.

The Citizen Science Committee of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council convened at the Sawgrass Marriott, Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, Thursday morning, June 15, 2017, and was called to order by Chairman Chris Conklin.

MR. CONKLIN: We're back in open session. Thank you for your patience. The next agenda item is a program update to review the terms of reference for each of the five action teams, and Amber is going to lead the discussion, and the committee will have the opportunity to review and modify.

MS. VON HARTEN: Just quickly, just to give you an update on what we've been up to since the last council meeting, essentially, it's been working on developing this AP infrastructure and the A-Teams and working on the terms of reference that we'll be going over here shortly. Also, we've been refining the pilot project idea that we have and trying to seek some resources to get that supported.

Also, back in May, I was able to attend the Citizen Science Association Conference, and we presented a poster with -- You remember Dr. Jennifer Shirk, from our workshop, with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. She and I presented a poster on the council's work and kind of how it's a little bit different than what's going on in a lot of other citizen science disciplines. We got some great feedback, and we got to meet a lot of folks from around the world who are doing other types of marine work, and they're very interested in hearing what we're going to be accomplishing, and so it's been a busy spring.

Let's just dive right into these terms of reference, and, essentially, this is going to actually help guide the action teams in their work moving forward, and so it's very similar to what SEDAR does in developing terms of reference for the assessment teams, and we thought it would be helpful if our action teams had some sense of some of the items that we were interested in having them help develop, and so we came up with these based on -- We revisited Jennifer Shirk's paper on citizen science framework design, and we also went back to some of the notes, breakout group notes, from the workshop we had, to kind of further refine some of the specific program components that will need to be developed to help support the program so that we can help support projects.

This first one is the Volunteers Terms of Reference, and this is Attachment 3a. This is by no means exhaustive. This is just a beginning list of items for the A-Teams to consider, and so I highly encourage you to give us some suggestions, if you see some things missing or if something is not quite clear, that we could explain better.

For Volunteers, essentially, we are trying to really dig into -- Recognizing that volunteers bring skills to the table, and not that we're -- We can't assume that they have nothing to bring to the table and that they just need a bunch of training, but trying to understand what skills they have to bring to the table and also understanding their motivation to participate and what expectations they might have for participating in the program as well as projects.

We're looking at different ways to deliver training, depending on the project, and some type of certification program for volunteers to participate in the program. As we've all been hearing, there is a lot of outreach needs, in terms of what is citizen science and what is the council's intent with this program, and also just general knowledge about data collection and how to use scientific methods and why it's important to have that by design in your projects.

Then how data will actually be used from the projects and incorporated into science and management. It's also looking at incentives for participants who participate in the program and projects and also ways to connect volunteer fishermen with researchers to participate in projects and then also how to give feedback to volunteers. It's really important that we have that two-way communication with volunteers throughout the entire process, and so, if anybody has any feedback on these terms, that would be great.

DR. DUVAL: I don't have any comments. I think these look great. I think there's a little bit of overlap, isn't there, with the matchmaking tool, and I thought that I saw that in the terms of reference for one of the other A-Teams as well,

MS. VON HARTEN: Yes, and that's -- Several of these A-Teams, like Volunteers and Communication/Outreach, there is going to be a lot of overlap, and so I kind of did include that on most of these terms of reference, to coordinate with the appropriate A-Teams, where there is some overlap, which is why we felt that it was really important for the last webinar meeting before the council meeting is a plenary of all the Chairs that could be in communication about their recommendations, so that, if there is some overlap, we can note that for you all to review.

The next one is Projects/Topics Management, and so figuring out ways to identify and prioritize fishery issues and research needs and data gaps that could be addressed through citizen science projects and also how to promote project opportunities and solicit proposals, and so some kind of proposal submission process needs to be developed.

Project criteria requirements, so that they're meeting whatever data and science standards that we develop, and project evaluation, both for the program and the project, as it relates back to the program, and then project management, and that's considering data submission and how that data will be used by the program and participants. Then it's coordinating with all the other teams that have some overlap, and so any thoughts?

MR. CONKLIN: I don't see any thoughts. It looks pretty solid here. I will give you that much.

MS. VON HARTEN: Moving on into Data Management, obviously we're going to have to come up with a data management plan that kind of relates to this data life cycle that actually came out of the workshop. I believe Julie Defilippi presented that during one of the expert group breakouts, and we thought it was really great. Also, doing an inventory of existing data management resources and needs, that there obviously is already some existing resources, but the program may need some specific data management resources that are not currently in existence.

It's also developing some recommendations for data accessibility policies and data use and how the data will be cited and a QA/QC and validation system for project data, recognizing that there is going to be different levels of project complexity and how to account for that.

Minimum data standards that will meet program requirements. Also, how to incorporate existing research and data underneath our program, because there's lots of data out there that possibly could be incorporated into the program. Then short and long-term data storage options. Obviously the council doesn't have that capacity at this time, and so hopefully working with partners to develop that.

DR. DUVAL: Just looking at -- I think it's covered. I think I had a question about accessibility by folks who have provided the data, but I think that's covered in here, and so not a problem. Then the idea would be to use -- I mean, in terms of housing data, and that's going to be one of the big things, and there is a couple of options out there. Presumably, we would want to be taking advantage of some of those existing options, where possible.

MS. VON HARTEN: Recognizing that different levels of projects are going to have different types of data that may not require something as sophisticated as some of the existing database management systems that are out there, and so looking at the different levels.

Next is Finance, and so I think we've already got a good sense of that from our discussion earlier, but looking at developing an inventory of program funding needs, both in the short and long term, across the whole spectrum of all the different program components, and we'll build out, an inventory of program partners that could help facilitate and administer cooperative funding agreements, looking at long-term administrative funding for the program, as well as short-term project funding, to pursue projects.

Also, ways to utilize online kickstarter campaigns to support projects under the program, and then, as was mentioned earlier, researching how other agencies have utilized governmental foundations to support activities such as ours, and so like friends-of groups. I know some of the sanctuaries have foundation groups.

Then also opportunities or ideas for initiating a hackathon-style funding type of opportunity to develop technology that might be needed for some of our projects. If you remember, and I guess it was two years ago, John and Julia and I helped with the Fish Hackathon, where we met at the aquarium and we had a bunch of techno-geeks come in, and they had thirty-six hours. Zack and Mark were judges in that competition, and they have thirty-six hours to develop a mobile app type of prototype to collect data on a specific issue, and so some way to do that.

Then the last one is Communication/Outreach/Education, and so looking at an inventory of existing marine science citizen science efforts that can kind of serve as case studies, and so it helps folks understand where citizen science fits into the realm of fisheries.

Also, exploring the idea of establishing a program name and a brand. That was something that the organizing committee attempted to do a little bit, but they felt that it was better work for the A-Teams to kind of help come up with that, because this is -- When it comes to communication and outreach, it's not just -- It's program outreach as well as outreach about the projects, and so there's two components to this. It's developing ideas for outreach materials and also approaches to communicate about the program, and it's also the same about projects, and so looking at current outreach resources and ways to communicate those to those that might be participating.

Also, a train-the-trainer approach that would help support volunteers that are participating in projects, and some type of volunteer recognition plan to help recognize the contributions of those folks that are participating in projects, and the idea of this matchmaking service to connect fishermen and researchers to work on projects together, and then some type of participant feedback plan, so that we're continually evaluating volunteer participation and expectations and incentives, so that we can address that, as we go along, through projects.

DR. DUVAL: I just really appreciate all the effort, Amber, that you've put into this and John has put into this, and I think these terms of reference are great. I think we're going to get a lot out of these teams, and I am really looking forward to the next update in September, when hopefully we will have had at least a couple of A-Team meetings, and so I will leave it at that. I'm excited and looking forward to seeing what comes out of it, and great job on a shoestring.

MR. CONKLIN: Is there anything else to come before the Citizen Science Committee? Seeing none, we are adjourned.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on June 15, 2017.)

Certified By: _____ Date: _____

Transcribed By:
Amanda Thomas
July 20, 2017

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