

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
CITIZEN SCIENCE COMMITTEE
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Fort Lauderdale, FL
June 11, 2018

The Committee approved the June 2018 Citizen Science Committee meeting agenda and the minutes from the March 2018 meeting.

Appointments to the Citizen Science Operations Committee

The Committee discussed the establishment of the Citizen Science Operations Committee and recommendations for appointments to the Committee. The following appointment motions were made:

MOTION #1: MOVE TO APPOINT THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO THE CITIZEN SCIENCE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

- Holly Abeels
- Scott Baker
- Brett Fitzgerald
- Bob Lorenz
- Jack McGovern
- Marcel Reichert
- TBD – SEFSC designee

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #2:

MOVE TO APPOINT DR. MICHELLE DUVAL TO THE CITIZEN SCIENCE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE PENDING HER COMPLETION OF DUTIES WITH NCDMF

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

SAFMC Citizen Science Program Development Update

The Committee received an overview of the structure and function of the Citizen Science Program Operations Committee. In the 2016 Citizen Science Program Blueprint, recommendations for the organizational infrastructure of the Program were proposed to include the Action Teams, Advisory Committee, Operations Committee, and Program Oversight Board. The Citizen Science Advisory Panel Pool and associated five Action Teams have been working since August 2017 and developing recommendations for the program components associated with Projects/Topics Management, Data Management, Finance & Infrastructure, Volunteers, and Communication/Outreach/Education. The recommendations being developed by the Action Teams will be used to create Standard Operating Policies & Procedures (SOPPs) for the Citizen Science Program. The group identified in the Blueprint to develop SOPPs is the Citizen Science Operations Committee. Members of the Action Teams and other advisors from the Council's SSC, SERO, and SEFSC will be appointed and serve on the Operations Committee. The Committee will meet via webinar and have a two day, in-person meeting in Charleston in August

2018. The anticipated timeline of SOPPS development is for the Council to review a draft in September 2018 and adopt by December 2018.

Review draft SAFMC Citizen Science Research Priorities

Staff presented the draft citizen science research priorities that are being considered for the Council's Citizen Science Program. The draft priorities were informed by the Council's 2018-2022 Research & Monitoring Plan and also developed in coordination with the Action Teams and recently reviewed by the Snapper Grouper and Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panels. The Committee provided feedback on the topics under consideration to include suggestions for additional topics, additional species to consider for each topic, and suggestions for potential project partners. The following suggestions were provided by the Committee.

Feedback on Topics:

- For Item #1 (Age Sampling) – add knobbed porgy and the porgy complex;
- For Item # 2 (Maturity Data) – need to ensure that if red porgy is included that we consider the current seasonal closure in certain sectors of this fishery that could be challenging for data collection.
- For Item #3 (Discard information) - To get the most value out of this type of information, consider adding length as one of the data elements to collect (length of discards) and also the reason why the fish was discarded.
- For Item #4 (Genetic Sampling) – consider adding hogfish, red grouper, and white grunt
- For Item #6 (Monitoring in Managed Areas) – if a project is developed in this topic area, consider potential overlap with other topics (such as #3, Discard data) where data could also be collected .

General Feedback:

- Add a bullet under each topic for 'Potential Partners' to help identify researchers, agency staff, and fishermen that are involved with research for each particular topic.
- The suggestion was made to include fish tagging efforts as another tool for citizen science projects to collect data for a specific research question.

Potential Partner Suggestions:

- Barbara Garrity Blake is a NC-based researcher that would be a good point of contact for the socioeconomic topics #7-9 (Fishing Infrastructure, Historic Photos, and Oral Histories).

Update on Citizen Science Program/pilot project

The Committee received an update from staff about the work of the Action Teams, including the products and materials produced by the Teams for both the development of the Program and the scamp pilot project. Additionally, staff briefed the Committee on the progress of the scamp pilot project, the work of the scamp project planning team, and how the Action Teams are developing plans for data management, communication, and volunteer training for the project. The Committee asked how the Program would approach partnerships for projects. Staff discussed the research and suggestions from the Finance & Infrastructure Action Team about the need to identify other programs, agencies, or organizations with goals, objectives, and research interests that align with the Council's Program and approach partnerships based on a mutually beneficial relationship.

Other Business

No further business was brought before the committee.

Note: Council staff drafts the timing and task motion based on Committee action. If points require clarification, they will be added to the draft motion. The Committee should review this wording carefully to be sure it accurately reflects their intent prior to making the motion.

Timing and Task(s)

No additional motions were made.