

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
CITIZEN SCIENCE COMMITTEE
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Via Webinar
December 10, 2020

The Committee approved the December 2020 Citizen Science (CitSci) Committee meeting agenda and the minutes from the June 2020 meeting.

Citizen Science Program Planning

Staff and Rick Bonney gave a brief overview of the program and evaluation planning activities conducted by the CitSci Operations Committee during 2020. These activities included revision and development of the Program's vision, mission, goals, objectives, strategies, and indicators, as well as, identifying audiences and potential evaluation questions.

The goals, objectives, strategies, and indicators were initially reviewed by the Council at their June 2020 meeting. Since this meeting, the Ops Committee has drafted revised vision and mission statements and identified two new indicators. The Council reviewed and discussed these items in the revised Program Planning document and made two suggestions:

- Add clarifying language to note the new indicator about research priorities is focused on the diversity of research priorities that have been addressed.
- Add language to the new indicator about endorsement letters clarifying that these may only be solicited for external projects.

The following motion was made:

MOTION #1: ADOPT THE REVISED CITIZEN SCIENCE PROGRAM VISION, MISSION, GOALS, OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES, AND INDICATORS WITH MODIFICATIONS AS NEEDED.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

NOTE: The revised vision, mission, goals, and objectives will be incorporated and updated in the Citizen Science SOPPS. The strategies and indicators will be housed in documents outside of the SOPPS.

Program Evaluation Proposal

Evaluating the SAFMC's Citizen Science Program will require determining whether its mission, vision, and goals are being realized after a set period of time. Because many of the program's goals will take years to accomplish, overall evaluation results will not be evident for many years. However, a comprehensive program evaluation should be adopted early on because baseline data must be collected against which change over time can be measured.

Work to address the Program's first three goals (developing, implementing, and maintaining a program framework; facilitating development of individual projects; and ensuring project data are accessible, robust, and fit for purpose) is underway. Evaluating whether these goals are being achieved can be done after project results are in and can be examined. The fourth goal (fostering learning, collaboration, and engagement) will be much harder to measure. To address this goal, we will need baseline information on the knowledge, attitudes, collaborations, engagement, and trust levels of the various stakeholders. The baseline data can be compared with information about these attributes after the stakeholders have engaged with the program for longer periods of time.

Rick Bonney and staff presented an overview of the draft Citizen Science Program Evaluation Proposal which is focused on collecting this baseline information. The proposal was informed by the Citizen Science Ops Committee's discussions and has been reviewed by Ops Committee members. The proposal includes a three-phase approach consisting of interviews and the development and implementation of a survey. The suggested approach is to address phases one and two in 2021 using funds designated for the 2020 Citizen Science Ops meeting and consider phase 3 in 2022.

Overall the Committee was supportive of the proposal. Council members were asked to help identify potential interview participants. Potential interviewees would ideally be identified by January 2021. Staff can provide background information, as needed, to help recruit potential participants.

Citizen Science Program Update

The Committee received an update from staff on the Citizen Science Program, highlighting program and project activities that have occurred since the September 2020 Council meeting. A brief summary of the programmatic activities is below.

- Program evaluation plan development
- CitSci Advisory Panel Meetings: Operations Committee met Oct. 2020 and Projects Advisory Committee met Nov 2020
- FISHstory project included in FY19-20 NOAA CitSci Report to Congress
- Bioscience manuscript submitted with revisions and accepted for publication
- Continued outreach efforts: citsci social media, bimonthly emails, quarterly newsletter articles

The Committee also received updates on projects and collaborations in progress and under development. Updates were given on the two pilot projects in progress: SAFMC Scamp Release and FISHstory, as well as a The Nature Conservancy led project focused on promoting Gray's reef through engaging Georgia anglers.

The projects and collaborations under development include a project to collect data on rare species observations to potentially serve as an early warning system for shifting species; a project to collect diver observations on data limited species; potential collaboration to expand the NEFSC's eMOLT (Environmental Monitoring of Lobster Traps and Large Trawls) project; and a potential collaboration with the Dolphinfish Research Program to expand their tagging efforts. Additionally the Program has continued the collaboration with the SEFSC to coordinate a series of Dolphin Wahoo participatory workshops.

Other Business

No further business was brought before the Committee.