

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
CITIZEN SCIENCE COMMITTEE
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Atlantic Beach, NC
December 4, 1017

The Committee approved the agenda and the minutes from the June 2017 Citizen Science Committee meeting.

Address policy on Citizen Science AP Pool and Action Team Appointments

Council staff explained the AP appointment policy used for the SEDAR AP Pool that allows members to be appointed to a SEDAR as needed during the assessment process with the approval of the Council Chair, SEDAR Committee Chair, and Executive Director. Staff described the utility of implementing a similar policy for the Citizen Science AP Pool to allow AP members to be added to the AP Pool and appointed to Action Teams as needed. The Committee approved the following motions:

MOTION #1. ADD THE CITIZEN SCIENCE AP POOL TO THE AP APPOINTMENT POLICY IN THE SOPPS.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Review progress report from each Citizen Science Action Team

The committee received an update from staff about the activities and progress to date of each of the Citizen Science Action Teams – Data Management, Volunteers, Projects/Topics Management, Communication/Outreach/Education, and Finance & Infrastructure.

Data Management – The Action Team has completed a Data Management Resources Inventory using a form that was sent to state, federal, non-profit, and private agencies and organizations that have existing data management systems in place or citizen science projects that collect data to understand the existing data management capacity and resources in the region. The Team will continue work on compiling information about data standards/policies and data management costs.

The committee recognized that QA/QC for project data will be rather costly and should be considered when developing the budget and funding needs for the program. The committee also discussed the need to ensure that when designing projects there is an end user in mind and to include them in the design and development of the project so that the data is collected in a format and manner that is appropriate for the end user. This can also mitigate costs for data management as well.

Volunteers – The Action Team has completed an inventory of example citizen science projects and the types of data collected about volunteers; and a draft Volunteer Interest Form to collect volunteer profile information on stakeholders interested in volunteering with a citizen science project. The Team will continue to work on the form with the Projects/Topics Management Action Team to incorporate questions targeting scientists,

academics, and NGOs. The Team will also begin work on four case studies of fishery-related citizen science projects and the training approaches used for these projects; and a sample volunteer training plan using the proposed SAFMC pilot project.

Projects/Topics Management – The Action Team has identified a proposed process for establishing fishery issues and project priorities for the program using a tiered approach drawing upon the SAFMC Research & Monitoring Plan. The Team will continue to work on developing the tiered approach including reviewing a draft citizen science research needs document and drafting a project design and development plan using the proposed SAFMC pilot project.

Communication/Outreach/Education – The Action Team has compiled an inventory of communication approaches used in example citizen science projects and an inventory of approaches for how to share project results and recruit volunteers. The Team will continue to finalize the initial draft recommendations on communication approaches to be used by the SAFMC Citizen Science Program.

Finance & Infrastructure – The Action Team has developed a draft operational and programmatic budget to help guide further development for program and project support; and a promotional flyer about the program to target potential partners for the program. The Team will continue expanding the membership of the team and identifying funding partnership models working with nonprofit organizations and others to support projects.

No motions were made during the discussion.

Update on Citizen Science Program Partnerships and Pilot Project

Rick Bonney from the Cornell University Lab of Ornithology and Council staff provided the committee with an overview of marine and fisheries citizen science efforts, how these examples may inform the development of the Council's Program, and the upcoming citizen science pilot project. The pilot project will focus on collecting data on scamp grouper discards using a mobile application and will also incorporate a research study to document how the Council's program planning efforts can shape successful citizen science projects that are applied to science and management. Upon funding approval, the project is slated to start in early 2018.

No motions were made during the discussion.

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.