

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
CITIZEN SCIENCE COMMITTEE
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
St. Augustine, Florida
June 12, 2023

The Committee approved the June 2023 Citizen Science (CitSci) Committee meeting agenda and the transcript from the June 2022 meeting.

Citizen Science Project Portal Tool

Staff provided an overview of the Citizen Science Project Portal that is being developed as an online tool to gather citizen science project ideas from stakeholders. The portal will be monitored by staff and include a feedback mechanism to follow up with stakeholders that submit ideas. The information gathered through the tool will be compiled and considered when updating citizen science research priorities. It could also help connect fishermen and scientists with similar citizen science research interests.

Staff presented the draft questions included in the online tool. The Committee recommended the following edits to the questions.

- Edit the question on project description to read:
 - Provide a brief description of the project idea and how it would improve conservation and management (5-7 sentences).
- Add the following questions:
 - Do you have support for this project idea from any organizations?
 - Have you submitted this project idea through another avenue (e.g. grant proposal)?

The Committee provided the following guidance to staff.

- Target keeping the online tool open year-round but consider closing for time periods if the number of submissions presents a challenge for staff.
- Consider incorporating the Citizen Science Operations Committee into the review process.
- Consider making project idea submissions available on the website.
- Keep expectation management in mind when launching this tool.
- Implementing this tool could provide an opportunity to launch the Project Endorsement Plan outlined in the Citizen Science SOPPS.
- Having an inventory of citizen science projects available in the South Atlantic region could be helpful, so stakeholders could be connected if projects underway are similar to their submissions.

The following motion was made:

MOTION #1: ADOPT THE CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT IDEA PORTAL ONLINE TOOL FOR USE WITH MODIFICATIONS AS SUGGESTED.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Citizen Science Program Update

Staff provided an overview on Citizen Science Program and project activities highlighting current efforts on the SAFMC Release project, upcoming FISHstory scanning nights that will be held this fall, and an overview of the Program Evaluation work being conducted by Rick Bonney, Jennifer Sweeney Tookes, Tracey Yandle, and Bryan Fluech.

Other Business

Staff noted that appointments/reappointments to the Citizen Science Operations Committee will need to be made in December 2023.