

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

The Committee approved the June 2020 Citizen Science (CitSci) Committee meeting agenda and the minutes from the December 2019 meeting.

**Program Evaluation**

Staff and Rick Bonney gave a presentation highlighting the importance of evaluation and the efforts the CitSci Program has made toward developing a Program evaluation plan. The presentation summarized the work done by the CitSci Operations Committee in developing Program goals, objectives, strategies, and indicators which are critical to the development of an evaluation plan.

The Committee reviewed and provided feedback on the draft CitSci Program goals, objectives, strategies, and output indicators of success (Attachment 1a). The Committee noted the importance in documenting the contribution of citizen science projects to SAFMC research priorities and science and management decision making and sharing this information with Program participants. Committee members also noted the importance of Goal 4 and its objectives which focus on learning, collaboration, and engagement. They noted that volunteer engagement can be challenging and that sharing information with volunteers about how their data has been used can be important for retention. Members suggested existing state level programs (e.g. carcass collection programs) could be shared with stakeholders as examples of successful citizen science projects.

After reviewing the Program Planning document, Rick Bonney gave a presentation sharing examples of citizen science projects and project outcomes that were measured through evaluation. The presentation also highlighted potential evaluation tools and resources available online. Dr. Bonney described next steps for the development of the CitSci Program's evaluation plan which include identifying Program outcomes, evaluation questions, and potential audiences. He noted that having someone with evaluation expertise can be extremely helpful when measuring Program outcomes and noted the importance of collecting baseline data for all audiences.

Staff will continue to work with Rick Bonney and the CitSci Operations Committee to develop Program evaluation plan options which will be presented to the Council for their review at the September or December 2020 meeting.

**Citizen Science Program and Project Update**

The Committee received an update from staff on 2020 Programmatic activities. A brief summary of these activities is below.

- Program Evaluation Plan Development
- CitSci Advisory Panel Meetings: Operations Committee met Jan, Mar, & May 2020
- Co-Organizing AFS Symposium with NOAA partners: focuses on how citizen science and other non-traditional data collection methods can be better incorporated into science and management decision making
- Revisions of Bioscience manuscript
- Participation in NOAA CitSci Workshop
- CitSci Social Media

- April 2020 CitSci Month campaign highlighting volunteers and program activities
  - Development of CitSci social media strategy
- CitSci email distribution list expansion
- Presentations:
  - Spring 2020: I&E AP and SEP
  - March 2020: College of Charleston Marine Policy Class
  - April 2020: NOAA Citizen Science Workshop

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 FISHstory update included a summary of the project's accomplishments since launching in Zooniverse on May 26.

The projects under development include a project to collect data on rare species observations to potentially serve as an early warning system for shifting species and a project to collect diver observations on data limited species. 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.