

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
CITIZEN SCIENCE COMMITTEE MEETING
Jekyll Island, GA
March 6, 2017

The Citizen Science Committee met March 6, 2017. Council staff provided an update on implementing the Council's recommendation to back-fill the Outreach Specialist position and designate a Program Manager for the Council's Citizen Science program. This recommendation has been implemented and both positions have been filled.

Review of Draft Year 1 Plan of Work

The Committee reviewed the draft Year 1 Plan of Work for beginning to develop the Council's Citizen Science Program. Objectives in the draft plan include:

- Objective 1:** Establish programmatic resources to support initiation and coordination of the SAFMC Citizen Science Program.
- Objective 2:** Create a system of organizational governance to support the infrastructure and activities of the SAFMC Citizen Science Program.
- Objective 3:** Develop programmatic communication strategies to promote the SAFMC Citizen Science Program to stakeholders.
- Objective 4:** Initiate a "kickstarter" citizen science project to serve as a test project for the SAFMC Citizen Science Program.
- Objective 5:** Develop comprehensive outreach and training approaches to support the SAFMC Citizen Science Program and associated projects.
- Objective 6:** Foster development of partnerships to support the SAFMC Citizen Science Program and funding and administration of projects.
- Objective 7:** Pursue funding opportunities to support citizen science projects under the SAFMC Citizen Science Program.

Council discussed the plan of work and provided further guidance to address Objectives 3 and 5 to develop a more formal approach to gather ideas from stakeholders on data needs that could be addressed by citizen science projects and supported by the program. The Council supported the plan of work.

Proposed Transition Team

Staff presented a proposed approach for moving forward with the initial steps towards building the organizational infrastructure using a "Transition Team" approach. For the past two years, the Council's Citizen Science organizing committee has served in the role of organizing the January 2016 Citizen Science Program Design workshop and drafting the Citizen Science Program Blueprint. The Transition Team would include members from the initial organizing committee and expand membership to include additional team members from other agencies/organizations in order to maximize potential resources and provide additional perspectives to program development activities. The role of the Transition Team would be to provide broad administrative support for the program as the organizational infrastructure is developed. The Team may provide guidance on ways to develop different components of the infrastructure such as the Program Oversight Committee, Advisory Committees, and/or the five Action Teams as outlined in the program blueprint – *Volunteers; Data Management; Project/Topics Management; Communication/Outreach/Education; and Finance*. All Transition Team activities would be reported on to the Council's Citizen Science Committee. Once the Transition Team provides guidance on the initial infrastructure, oversight of the program would be transferred to the Council's Citizen Science Committee.

Council provided input on the proposed Transition Team approach to include,

- Consider adding additional NGO representation (possibly up to three) in an effort to gain broad stakeholder buy-in to the program;
- Consider a member from the Duke University Fisheries Forum program;
- Consider state agency representation on the team or in subsequent Action Teams as they are developed for the program.

NOAA General Counsel provided guidance on considerations for how the Transition Team is set up under the guidelines of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and whether or not the Team may need to be set up as an advisory panel or working group. Additional guidance was provided by NOAA General Counsel that the team should be set up as an Advisory Panel/Team of the Council because it will include non-federal members and to ensure the group is covered under FACA. At the next Council meeting (June 2017), appointments will be designated for the Citizen Science Advisory Panel.

Review of the South Atlantic Research and Monitoring Prioritization Plan for 2015-2019

Council reviewed the South Atlantic Research and Monitoring Prioritization Plan for 2015-2019 to provide guidance on how to include citizen-science related priorities into the plan. Council recommended flagging the research priorities in the plan that could be addressed using a citizen science approach. Council also suggested adding some priorities for an evaluation of release mortality rate/ratio for red snapper and collecting information on the general use of descending devices by stakeholders. Staff noted the red snapper discard mortality literature review included as part of the Snapper Grouper committee for the March 2017 Council meeting.

No further business was brought before the committee.