Citizen Science Program Evaluation – DRAFT Survey Questions
4/27/2022

**Background**

We are very early in the development of survey questions and are really interested in getting feedback from the Committee to help shape the survey. During the Council's recent Socio-Economic Panel (SEP) meeting (April 25), we asked for input on survey logistics and distribution. In addition to providing feedback on these items, the SEP also suggested additional resources that could be helpful to consider when developing the survey which we haven't had an opportunity to dig into yet. Several members were also willing to review draft survey questions.

When reviewing the DRAFT survey questions, we thought it might be helpful to include details from Rick's evaluation proposal on what we are hoping to accomplish with the interviews and survey (see italics below).

- *To determine whether the program is fostering mutual learning, collaboration, and engagement (CitSci Program Goal 4), and to learn whether it is supporting the program's vision of advancing science and increasing trust, 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 at least a year and probably longer.*

**Draft Survey Questions**

*What state do you live in?
(Or, please provide your zip code)

*Which category best describes your role in the saltwater fisheries community? (If you fit into multiple categories, please choose the one that describes you best or for which you spend most time.) (Julia says may be hard to pick one, but if they don't, we can't use logic to direct the questions.)

    Commercial fisherman
    For-hire fisherman
    Private recreational fisherman
    Recreational Diver
    Wholesale/dealer/retail
    Fisheries scientist
    Fisheries manager
    Other? (please describe?)

(Depending on the answer, the survey questions will differ a bit. Most will be the same regardless of category.)

*For how many years have you been … (fishing commercially) (leading charters) (fishing recreationally) (diving) (owned your seafood business)(etc)

Fill in the blank or give ranges

*For Fishermen:

*For the fish species that (you most often catch) (your clients seek the most) (you see while diving) (you prefer to purchase), do you feel that over the past 10 years their populations have:

Significantly increased
Increased somewhat
Stayed the same
Decreased somewhat
Significantly decreased

(space for comments if desired)

*For Scientists and Managers, a similar question to the above? Problem is, very hard to word

*Are you familiar with the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council (SAFMC)?

I am very familiar with the SAFMC
I am somewhat familiar with the SAFMC
I have heard of the SAFMC but am not sure what it does
I am not familiar with the SAFMC

*For those who answer very familiar:

*Have you been involved with the SAFMC? If so, please check all of the ways that you have been involved:
Served on the council
Served on an advisory panel or scientific advisory committee
Attended a public meeting
Submitted public comments
Participated in a SEDAR stock assessment workshop

*To make recommendations for managing fisheries, SAFMC requires (large quantities of) reliable data about fisheries biology and fish populations (and socioeconomic data). Please indicate the sources of data used by the SAFMC with which you are familiar (check all that apply).

Onboard observers
Fishermen logbooks
Dockside sampling
Port sampling
Surveys by scientists
Cooperative research
Citizen Science

*Do you feel that these sources, taken together, provide sufficient data on which to base management recommendations?

Yes, sufficient data are available
Sufficient data are available for most species
More data would be helpful for most species
Insufficient data are available for most species

Comments:

*For those who check that they are familiar with citizen science:

(*Or, leave citizen science off the above list, and ask separately if they are familiar with citizen science)

*Have you engaged personally with citizen science?

Yes, a lot
Yes, some
No
I'm not sure

*For those who have engaged:

*In what ways have you engaged with citizen science? (check all that apply)

Designing projects
Collecting data
Classifying data (photos or online data)
Analyzing data

*Assuming that citizen science projects are professionally developed by knowledgeable scientists, managers, and fishermen, do you think that citizen science can be a useful tool for collecting data that could inform fisheries management?

Yes, very much so
Possibly
No
I'm not sure

*For those who say possibly or no

*What concerns do you have about citizen science? (check all that apply)

The data won't be collected according to protocol
The data won't be collected randomly
Fishermen may not be truthful about their data

Other (elaborate)

*Are you interested in participating in or continuing to participate in citizen science?

Yes
Maybe
No

*For those who answer yes, provide list of research priorities from SAFMC website, and ask them to rank top five that they would be interested in participating in

*For those who answer maybe or no,

*Why are you not interested in participating or continuing to participate in citizen science?

Takes too much time
Takes too much effort
Don't think the data will be used
Other (fill in blank space)

*For those who check that they are *not* familiar with citizen science:

*Citizen science refers to projects for which non-scientists collect and submit data about the natural world. In the past, several citizen science efforts have involved fishermen, such as fish tagging projects. Are you personally interested in participating in citizen science?

Yes, very much so
Possibly
No

*For those who answer yes, provide list of research priorities from SAFMC website, and ask them to rank top five that they would be interested in participating in

*For those who answer maybe or no,

*Why are you not interested in participating or continuing to participate in citizen science?

     Takes too much time
     Takes too much effort
     Don't think that data will be used

More possible questions to work in but not sure where …
     Do you think that managers use science to make management recommendations?
     Do you trust managers to consider the needs of fishermen in making recommendations?
     Do you trust fishermen to provide accurate data?

I think we discussed not really getting into stock assessment … really interested in opinions about whether to go in this direction. These are not well worded at this point.

*How familiar are you with the stock assessment process that (the South Atlantic Fisheries Council uses to recommend fisheries management regulations (to NOAA?)?
Very familiar
Somewhat familiar
Not familiar

(need to think whether the answer to the above uses logic to move forward)

*Do you think that the SAFMC has sufficient data for the stock assessments that are used in making fisheries management recommendations?

Very sufficient data
Somewhat sufficient data
Neutral
Somewhat insufficient data
Very insufficient data

*If not sufficient data:

*How do you think that more data could be best acquired?
(Ranking)
Observers on boats
Dockside surveys
Logbooks
(all of the above are already done for commercial fishermen, but I don't know to what extent—need to think if this wording can work for all types of fishermen)
Citizen Science