

Process for Identifying SAFMC Citizen Science Program Research Priorities

This process serves as the mechanism for establishing research priorities for the Program and how often they are reviewed and evaluated.

The three-step process involves,

Step 1: Reviewing and providing input on the Council's Biannual Research & Monitoring Plan.

Mechanism – Program staff will review and provide feedback on the plan in addition to input from the Council's SSC, SEDAR process, AP discussions and other issues that arise during FMP development.

Step 2: Developing a Citizen Science Program Research Priorities document.

Mechanism - Program staff will work with administrative advisory groups to develop a separate Citizen Science Program Research Priorities document that is informed by the Council's Research & Monitoring Plan. The draft document will be reviewed review by the Council's AP's and the SSC.

Timeframe – The Citizen Science Research Priorities document will be reviewed biannually on the schedule of the Research & Monitoring Plan Review;

Review & Adoption – Council reviews and adopts biannual research priorities.

Step 3: Citizen Science Project Idea Portal

Mechanism – Develop an online form hosted on the Council's Citizen Science webpage where stakeholders can submit citizen science project ideas. The online form would be set up with a series of questions that are focused on topics related to the Citizen Science Program Research Priorities. The portal is monitored by staff with a feedback mechanism built in to provide comments to the person submitting an idea and to help connect them with potential collaborators. Information received via the form would be compiled and considered during the next review of research priorities.

Timeframe – open year-round

Additional Information – The online form would be set up with logic to walk the stakeholder through a series of questions or a checklist of items:

- Initial questions to tell us about their project idea.
- Does the project idea fit under one or more of the items in the Council's Research & Monitoring Plan and/or the annual Call for Citizen Science Needs?
 - If so, check which item it addresses.
 - If not, why should this be considered (i.e., how could the idea inform assessments and/or management)?
 - If not, would you like to be matched with a researcher/scientist that can help you with your idea?
- Have you spoken with a researcher or scientist about your idea?
 - If so, who?
 - If not, would you like to be matched with a researcher/scientist that can help you with your idea?
- Have you spoken with other fishermen about the project that would be willing to volunteer?
 - If so, how many? Willing to share name or contact information?

- Would the project require payment to fishermen?
 - If so, it doesn't fit the program's criteria
 - If not, proceed.
- How much time do you think the project would take to complete?
- How much do you think the project would cost?
- How many people are involved in this project idea – what is your man power?
- Who will manage the project on behalf of the group and how?
- What kind of resources do you have in place?