

CitSci Program Growth & Scope of Projects

CitSci Operations AP
November 2026

CitSci Program has come a long way!



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Citizen Science

VISION
Advancing science and increasing trust, one project at a time.

MISSON
To build and maintain a program that improves information for fisheries management through collaborative science.

VALUE
Respect the knowledge and expertise of fishermen and volunteers

SAFMC Citizen Science Program Approach

- Fill data gaps & address research needs
- Complement existing programs & partnerships – NOT compete or replace
- Intentional project design - direct application/use in management and stock assessments
- Fishermen & Scientist collaboration
- Umbrella to support projects – internal & external

Citizen Science

Project Scope

Projects to date focused more on traditional citizen science approaches

SAFMC Release

FISHstory



Participation encouraged through regular communication, shared data summaries, and recognition programs

Program has not yet supported more cooperative research style projects

Project Scope

Broadening Program's scope to include citizen science & cooperative research style projects could have potential benefits & challenges

<u>Potential Benefits</u>

- Support more diverse set of projects
- Engage a wider range of fishing communities
- Others?

<u>Potential Challenges</u>

- Funding & sustainability
- How citsci vs cooperative research participants may feel about respective levels of compensation
- Logistics may require partnerships
- Others?

Discussion Questions

- How broadly should we define the scope of the CitSci Program and the types of projects it supports? Should it include both citizen science and cooperative research style projects?
- What opportunities or benefits do you see in including both citizen science and cooperative research style projects?
- What concerns or challenges do you see in including both citizen science and cooperative research style projects, and how might they be addressed?