



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Trish Murphey, Chair | Jessica McCawley, Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA

Citizen Science Operations Committees

Wednesday, May 14, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. – meeting via webinar

Webinar Registration Link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6311388503454459478>

1. Welcome & Meeting Overview
2. Citizen Science Program Update (*Attachments 1a and 1b*)
3. Citizen Science Program – Measuring & Communicating Impact (*Attachment 2*)
4. Citizen Science Program Organizational Structure (*Attachment 3*)

Other Business

Adjourn

Operations Committee Members

Scott Baker, Citizen Science Projects/Topics A-Team

Wally Bublely, SSC representative / SCDNR

Rob Cheshire, SEFSC representative

Michelle Duval, Fisheries Consultant

Will Heyman, Fisheries Consultant

Kathy Knowlton, GADNR

Nikhil Mehta, SERO representative

Bob Zales, Fisherman / SFA

Attachments

Attachment 1a: Citizen Science Program Update Presentation

Attachment 1b: SAFMC Citizen Science Program 2024 Annual Report

Attachment 2: Citizen Science Program – Measuring Impact & Draft Indicators of Success

Attachment 3: Citizen Science Program Organizational Structure

Staff Lead: Julia Byrd

OVERVIEW

Citizen Science Operations Committee

1. Welcome & Meeting Overview (*Attachment 1*)

Overview of webinar agenda, materials, and goals for the meeting

Meeting Goals:

- *Committee member welcome and introductions.*
- *Provide update on Citizen Science Program activities.*
- *Review Citizen Science Program draft indicators of success and discuss ways to measure Program impact.*
- *Review the Citizen Science Program organizational structure and discuss the role and need for the Citizen Science Program Advisory Panel*

2. Citizen Science Program Update (*Attachment 1a and 1b*)

Staff will provide a brief update on the Citizen Science Program highlighting recent programmatic and project activities that have occurred since the Committee's last meeting. Additionally, the Citizen Science Program's 2024 Annual Report is provided highlighting the program's achievements over the last year.

3. Citizen Science Program – Measuring & Communicating Impact (*Attachment 2*)

During 2020 the Citizen Science Operations Committee developed and/or refined the Citizen Science Program's Planning document which included a vision, mission, goals, objectives, strategies, and draft indicators of success. The Council reviewed and adopted these in December 2020. Since then, Council staff have used the Program Planning document to determine annual work plans and guide the overall direction of the Program.

At the Citizen Science Operations AP fall 2024 meeting, members reviewed the Program's activities under each goal, objective, and strategy from 2019-2024. The AP supported a continued focus on the objectives and strategies Program staff have concentrated on over the past five years and recommended additional strategies to prioritize in the upcoming years.

At the spring 2025 meeting, the AP will be asked to review and provide feedback on the Program's draft indicators of success. Indicators are metrics to help measure whether objectives have been reached. They can help monitor and evaluate programs – tracking progress, identifying areas for improvement, and evaluating impact.

When the Citizen Science Operations AP developed draft indicators of success in 2020, the discussion revolved around outputs (direct products of activities; typically easier to measure) and outcomes (changes to individuals, groups, and/or communities because of participation or experience; can be more challenging to measure). The draft indicators developed focused on outputs, with the idea that the Program evaluation research by Bonney and Sweeney Tookes et al. would collect baseline information to help measure outcomes in the future. Attachment 2 provides an overview of the Program's draft indicators with corresponding example Program measures.

The Committee will be asked to provide input focused on the following discussion questions.

- Are the draft indicators appropriate to measure the progress and impact of the CitSci Program? What metrics can best help measure these indicators?
- Are there indicators that should be removed from the list and/or new indicators that should be added to the list?
- Which indicators are most important when evaluating Program impact?
- What other metrics could the Program track to measure impact?
- How can the Program communicate impact? Are there specific outreach products that could help communicate Program impact?

4. Citizen Science Program Organizational Structure (Attachment 3)

The Citizen Science Program’s organizational structure, as specified in the SOPPS, includes the Council’s Citizen Science Committee, a Citizen Science Program Advisory Panel, two Citizen Science Advisory Panels – the Operations and Projects APs, and a Citizen Science Pool that can be used to create short term ‘ad-hoc’ work groups to address specified topics (Figure 1). More details on the roles and responsibilities, membership, and meetings of each of these groups are available in Attachment 3.

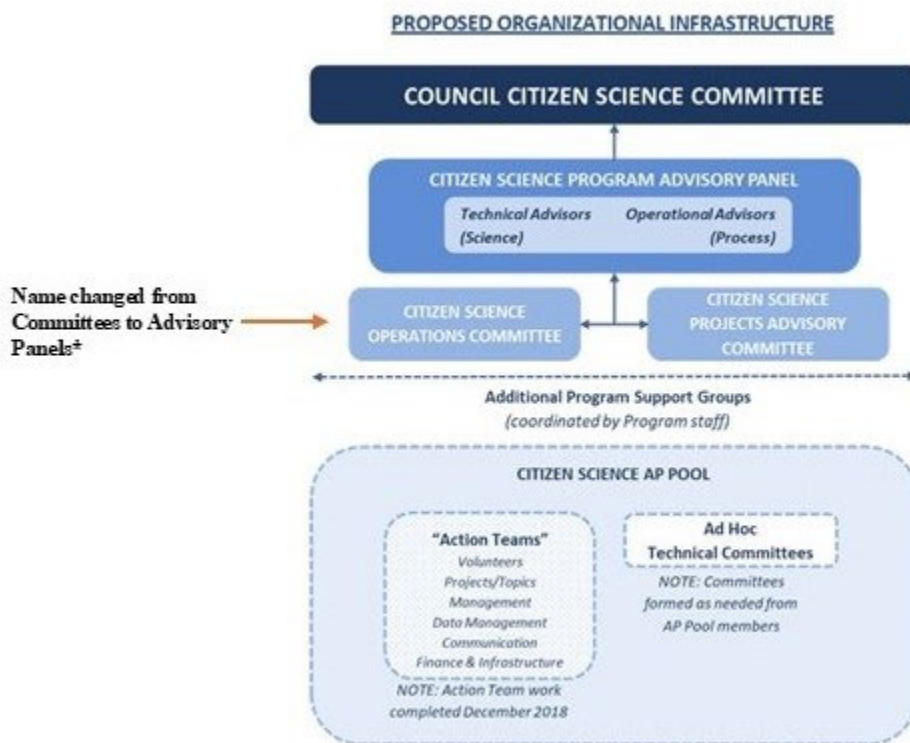


Figure 1. Citizen Science Program organizational structure as specified in the SOPPS.

*Council approved the name change for the Citizen Science Operations and Projects Advisory Panels 12/24. Names will be changed in the Citizen Science Program SOPPS when they are updated in fall 2025.

The Program currently has two active Advisory Panels – the CitSci Operations and Projects APs. The Citizen Science Program Advisory Panel has not yet been appointed/created. Ad-hoc work groups have not been appointed since the original ‘Action Teams’ which developed the CitSci Program’s overall approach and best practices in 2017-2018. However, as the

Program continues to grow, staff are interested in identifying ways to better engage members of the citizen science pool in Program activities via ad-hoc work groups.

At the Fall 2024 CitSci Operations meeting, the AP briefly discussed the CitSci Program's Organizational structure. AP members recommended exploring whether a Citizen Science Program Advisory Panel was necessary – noting that the CitSci Operations AP, CitSci Projects AP, and ad-hoc work groups may be sufficient for the Program at this time.

Staff will provide a brief overview of the Program's organizational structure. The AP will be asked to provide feedback on whether the Citizen Science Program Advisory Panel is needed at this stage of the Program's development.

Other Business

Adjourn