



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph.D., Chair | Trish Murphey, Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA

Citizen Science Operations Committees

Thursday, May 4, 2023 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. and Friday, May 5, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.– meeting via webinar

Webinar Registration Link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8333233141680700502>

1. Welcome & Meeting Overview
2. Citizen Science Program Update (*Attachment 1*)
3. Citizen Science Project Idea Portal (*Attachment 2a and 2b*)
4. Citizen Science Initial Evaluation Plan (*Attachments 3a, 3b, and 3c*)
5. Committee Membership

Other Business

Adjourn

Operations Committee Members

Holly Abeels, Citizen Science Communication & Outreach A-Team

Scott Baker, Citizen Science Projects/Topics A-Team

Rob Cheshire, SEFSC representative

Rick DeVictor, SERO representative

Michelle Duval, Citizen Science Finance & Infrastructure A-Team

Brett Fitzgerald, Citizen Science Data Management A-Team

Bob Lorenz, Citizen Science Volunteer A-Team

Wally Bublely, SSC representative

Attachments

Attachment 1: Citizen Science Program Update Presentation

Attachment 2a: Citizen Science Project Portal Tool Presentation

Attachment 2b: Citizen Science Project Portal Tool DRAFT Questions

Attachment 3a: Sweeney Tookes & Yandle Proposal

Attachment 3b: Sweeney Tookes & Yandle Presentation

Attachment 3c: Bonney DRAFT Scientist & Manager Survey Questionnaire

Staff Lead: Julia Byrd

OVERVIEW

Citizen Science Operations Committee

1. Welcome & Meeting Overview

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

Meeting Goals:

- *Provide update on Citizen Science program activities.*
- *Share information on the Citizen Science Project Idea Portal tool. Review and provide input on draft questions and timing of deployment.*
- *Share update on Citizen Science Program evaluation work. Provide input on the interview component for broader fishermen – particularly recreational fishermen recruitment - and on draft survey questions for managers & scientists.*

2. Citizen Science Program Update (Attachment 1)

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.

3. Citizen Science Project Portal Tool (Attachment 2a and 2b)

The Citizen Science Research Priorities are updated every two years in conjunction with the Council updating their overall Research and Monitoring Plan. The process used to update the research recommendations is described within the Citizen Science Program's [Standard Operating Policies and Procedures](#) (SOPPS) in Appendix B. The multi-step process was developed by the Project Topics Management Action Team and is depicted in Figure 1.

Process to update citizen science research priorities



Figure 1: Visual depiction of process used to update the Citizen Science Research Priorities.

The Citizen Science Research Priorities were initially drafted in 2018 and have been updated in 2019 and 2021. The Citizen Science Project Idea Portal (Project Portal) is under development now, so it was not used in previous updates to the citizen science research

priorities. The target is to launch the Project Portal later this year, so information gathered can be considered when updating the research priorities in 2023.

The Project Portal's goal is to develop an online tool to gather citizen science project ideas from stakeholders. The Project Portal will entail an online series of questions focused on topics related to research priorities. The portal will be monitored by staff and include a feedback mechanism to follow up with stakeholders that submit comments. The information gathered through the tool will be compiled and considered when updating citizen science research priorities. It could also help us connect fishermen and scientists with similar citizen science research interests.

The Committee is asked to review the draft Project Portal questions and provide feedback focused on the following discussion questions:

- Do the draft questions cover the needed information? Are there questions we should add or remove?
- How often and long should the Project Portal tool be deployed?
- What feedback should be provided to stakeholders that submit ideas? Are there different options that could be considered based on the resources available?

4. Citizen Science Initial Evaluation Plan (*Attachments 3a-3c*)

At their December 2020 meeting, the Council supported working with Rick Bonney on an initial evaluation plan for the SAFMC's Citizen Science Program. The plan focuses on gathering baseline data on knowledge, attitudes, collaborations, engagement, and trust from various stakeholder groups to help evaluate the Program's fourth goal to 'foster mutual learning, collaboration, and program engagement'.

In the original evaluation plan, baseline data was proposed to be collected in three phases: 1) interviews, 2) the development and piloting of an online survey, and 3) the implementation of the online survey. Rick Bonney presented [findings from the phase one interviews](#) to the Operations Committee in May 2023 and to the SAFMC in June 2023. Conclusions from the interviews noted the fisherman audience needed to be studied in much more detail and that research into the needs, desires, and motivations of fishermen and how best to reach fishermen will be critical to the Program. Bonney also noted that when collecting information from a broader group of fishermen, scientists, and managers deploying an online survey to scientists and managers should be achievable, but deploying an online survey to fishermen could be challenging.

During summer 2022, additional funding was obtained for this project through NOAA Fisheries and the SAFMC. Staff consulted with Rick Bonney on how best to apply the funds to these evaluation efforts. The decision was made to have Rick Bonney lead the research to gather information from a broader group of scientists and managers through an online survey and to put out a request for proposals in December 2022 to gather information from a broader group of fishermen. Jennifer Sweeney Tookes and Tracy Yandle's proposal was selected for funding (see *Attachment 3a*) and will conduct interviews with a broader group of fishermen.

Jennifer Sweeney Tookes will provide a brief overview of their research (*Attachment 3b*) and Rick Bonney will present a draft of the survey questions for scientists and managers (*Attachment 3c*).

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

FISHERMEN INTERVIEWS

- Regarding the recreational sector:
 - Do you have suggestions for additional strategies for recruiting in this sector?
 - Do you have suggestions for contacts in fishing clubs or other fishing organizations?
- Researchers are planning for the interview guides to address themes of:
 - attitudes to and willingness to work with management
 - fishery conditions
 - trust & well-being (social and economic)
 - social networks

If time allows, are there any additional themes you would recommend be addressed?

SCIENTISTS & MANAGER SURVEY

- Do the survey questions cover the right topics?
- Are there any topics not covered that should be incorporated?
- Are there any topics that you think should be removed?

5. Committee Membership

The Citizen Science Program's SOPPS note the terms for the Citizen Science Operations Committee are three to five years, dependent on Programmatic growth with no term limits specified. This summer (2023) will reach the five-year mark for many current Operations Committee members. The Committee will discuss membership, potential interest in reappointments, and timing for the appointment/reappointment process.

Other Business

Adjourn