



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Melvin Bell, Chair | Steven J. Poland, Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA

Citizen Science Operations Committee

Wednesday, May 19, 2021, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. – meeting via webinar

Webinar Registration Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6028125690020329488>

1. Welcome & Meeting Overview
2. Citizen Science Program Evaluation Update & Feedback (**Attachment 1**)
3. Citizen Science Program Update (**Attachment 2**)

Other Business

Adjourn

Committee Members

Holly Abeels
Scott Baker
Rick DeVictor
Michelle Duval
Brett Fitzgerald
Bob Lorenz
Wally Bublely
Erik Williams

Attachments

Attachment 1: Citizen Science Evaluation – Draft Interview Questions

Attachment 2: Citizen Science Program Update Presentation

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:

- *Review and provide feedback on DRAFT evaluation interview script*
- *Provide input on interview sample size*
- *Suggest additional potential interviewees, as needed*
- *Receive update on the Citizen Science Program*

2. Citizen Science Program Evaluation Update & Feedback (Attachment 1)

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 detailed evaluation plan can be found [HERE](#). 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’. The baseline data collected through these efforts can then be compared with information about these attributes after stakeholders have engaged with the program over time.

Baseline data will be collected in three phases: 1) interviews, 2) the development and piloting of an online survey, and 3) the implementation of the online survey. Phases one and two will occur in 2021 and early 2022. Phase three will occur later in 2022, as funding allows.

The first phase focuses on conducting interviews with members of the fishing community ‘ecosystem’ including at least one individual in each of the following audiences:

- People catching fish – including individual fishermen and organized recreational and commercial fishing groups
 - 3 sectors: commercial, for-hire (includes charter and headboat), and private recreational
- Scientists
 - Assessment specialists
 - Government biologist/researcher
 - Academic/researcher
- Managers
 - Federal (e.g. NOAA Fisheries)
 - Regional (Councils, Commissions)
 - State

Staff reached out via email to Council members, Council staff, and Operations Committee members to get suggestions for potential interviewees. Some additional suggestions were provided by various Advisory Panel (AP) members during Spring 2021 AP meetings. A summary of the suggested potential interviewees by audience type and state are found in Tables 1 and 2, respectively. The initial evaluation plan was to conduct approximately 12 interviews. However, based on the many, excellent interviewee suggestions, we believe it could be helpful to increase the number of interviews while decreasing the individual interview length to stay within the resources allocated for this project.

Table 1. Summary of suggested potential interviewees by audience type.

Audience	# of suggested interviewees
Fishermen	15
Commercial	5

For-Hire	6
Recreational	4
Scientists	7
Assessment Specialist	2
Government Biologist/Researcher	3
Academic/Researcher	2
Managers	9
Federal	1
Regional	4
State	4
Total	31

Table 2. Percentage of suggested potential interviewees by state.

State	% of suggested interviewees
NC	13%
SC	16%
GA	3%
FL	68%

Additionally, Rick Bonney has been working with CitSci staff to develop an initial DRAFT interview script (Attachment 1). This should be considered a very early draft. We are hoping to get feedback from the Operations Committee via the meeting today, as well as additional feedback from others with social science expertise. The information gathered through the interviews will be used to help inform the development of an online survey that would be given to the wider community.

During this meeting, staff would like the Committee to focus on:

- **Reviewing and providing feedback on the DRAFT interview script**
 - Does the interview script include the right types of questions?
 - Are there topics not covered that should be incorporated?
 - Are there any questions that you think should be removed?
- **Providing input on interview sample size**
 - Do you think it would be better to increase the number of interviews conducted and shorten the interview length OR do you think it would be better to stick to the initial plan of conducting fewer, more in-depth interviews?
- **Suggesting additional potential interviewees to help fill in audience or geographic location gaps, as needed**

3. Citizen Science Program Update (Attachment 2)

Staff will provide a brief update on the Citizen Science Program – highlighting recent programmatic activities, as well as an providing an update on on-going projects and other projects and collaborations under development.

Other Business

Adjourn