



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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

AGENDA

Joint Citizen Science Operations & Projects Advisory Committees

Friday, October 27, 2023, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. – meeting via webinar

Webinar Registration Link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3299964682308494174>

1. Welcome & Meeting Overview
2. Review & Update Citizen Science Research Priorities (*Attachments 1-4*)
3. Citizen Science Advisory Committee Membership (*Attachment 5*)
4. Citizen Science Program Update (*Attachment 6*)

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

Projects Advisory Committee Members

Scott Baker, Outreach & Communication
Steve Donalson, Mackerel Cobia AP
Bob Lorenz, Snapper Grouper AP
Jon Reynolds, Dolphin Wahoo AP
Thomas Newman, Mackerel Cobia AP
Jeff Soss, Habitat AP
Justin Smith, Spiny Lobster AP
Mimi Stafford, Spiny Lobster AP

Attachments

Attachment 1: SAFMC Citizen Science Research Priorities for 2021-2023

Attachment 2: Citizen Science Research Priority Presentation

Attachment 3: South Atlantic Research and Monitoring Plan for 2023-2027

Attachment 4: Citizen Science Project Types & Examples

Attachment 5: Citizen Science Advisory Groups

Attachment 6: Citizen Science Program Update Presentation

Staff Lead: Julia Byrd

OVERVIEW

Citizen Science Operations & Projects Advisory Committees

1. Welcome & Meeting Overview

- a. Introduction of Operations & Projects Advisory Committee members
- b. Overview of webinar agenda, materials, and goals for the meeting

Meeting Goals:

- *Review and update citizen science research priorities*
- *Discuss Citizen Science advisor committee membership*
- *Update Operations and Projects Advisory Committees on the Citizen Science Program*

2. Review and Update Citizen Science Research Priorities and Update as appropriate

(Attachments 1-4)

The Citizen Science Projects Advisory and Operations Committees will review and provide feedback to update the citizen science research priorities. Recommendations from the Committees will be incorporated, and the updated Citizen Science Research Priorities will be presented to the Council for their review and potential adoption at their December 2023 meeting.

The Citizen Science Research Priorities are updated every two years in conjunction with the Council updating their overall Research and Monitoring Plan. The Council updated their Research and Monitoring Plan at their June 2023 meeting. The original Citizen Science Research Priorities were developed by the Citizen Science Action Teams during 2017/2018. Their development was informed by the Council's Research and Monitoring Prioritization Plan, SEDAR Consolidated Research Recommendations, and project ideas generated at the 2016 SAFMC Citizen Science Program Design Workshop. They were adopted by the SAFMC in June 2018. The Citizen Science Research Priorities were updated with input provided by the Citizen Science Operations and Projects Advisory Committees and adopted by the Council at their December meetings in 2019 and 2021.

The Citizen Science Research Priorities are organized by topical area (*Attachment 1*). Staff will walk the Committees through the current priorities, providing examples of potential projects and sharing feedback provided when the priorities were updated in 2021 (*Attachment 2*). The updated SAFMC Research and Monitoring Plan for 2023-2027 is provided as an additional resource to help inform the discussion (*Attachment 3*). To help inspire new ideas for the Council's Citizen Science Research Priorities, *Attachment 4* briefly describes different citizen science project types and example fisheries and marine projects that use different approaches.

Requested Action:

Committee members are asked to review the current Citizen Science Research Priorities and recommend updates as appropriate. Members are also asked to help identify additional research and data needs across Council fishery management plans that could potentially be addressed through citizen science.

The following questions may be helpful to consider when providing feedback. Since members from the Operations and Projects Advisory Committees include fishermen, scientists, and managers – there are some questions that are more targeted toward a specific audience and

others that are more general. All members are encouraged to share their perspectives on any of the questions below and/or provide any additional feedback to the discussion.

- For each priority
 - Is this type of data feasible for fishermen or other volunteers to collect? If not, what type of data may be reasonable to collect?
 - Is this type of data collection more appropriate for a smaller, more targeted project and group of participants or a larger, broader project and group of participants?
- Do you think projects that require learning new skills (e.g. otolith removal) are of interest to volunteers? Would volunteers be more interested in participating in projects using existing skill sets and minimal training?
- Are there any priorities that should be removed or added to this list?
- Are there any additions/deletions to the species under the applicable priorities?
- Which of the priorities may help address the most immediate needs for science and management?
- For brainstorming new research and data needs
 - What information could be collected or observed through typical fishing activities that would be helpful for scientists or managers to know?
 - Are there changes in your fishery that would be helpful for scientists or managers to know? Would you and others be willing to help collect data on these issues?
 - Are there any issues that citizen science research projects could help address?
 - If you have specific citizen science project ideas, do they fit under the current research priorities? If not, what priority could be added to capture your project idea?

3. Citizen Science Advisory Committee Membership (*Attachment 5*)

The Citizen Science Program has three advisory panels: the Operations Committee, the Projects Advisory Committee, and Ad-hoc Committees. More details on the roles of these groups is available on the [Citizen Science Pool webpage](#). Participants on these advisory panels must be members of the [Citizen Science Pool](#) and/or be a member of another Council Advisory Panel.

The Council will be making appointments/reappointments to the Citizen Science Pool and the Operations and Projects Advisory Committees at their December 2023 meeting. The Committee will discuss membership on these Committees, potential interest in reappointments, and timing for the appointment/reappointment process.

4. Citizen Science Program Update (*Attachment 6*)

Staff will provide a brief update on the Citizen Science Program – highlighting recent programmatic and project activities.

Other Business

Adjourn