ADOPTED BY SAFMC - Dec 2019

SAFMC Citizen Science Program

Citizen Science Research Priorities

1. Age Sampling:

a. Target volunteers: Recreational
b. Data needed: otolith collection
c. Target species: cobia, greater amberjack, scamp, snowy grouper, gag, knobbed porgy, porgy complex
d. Anticipated outcome: characterize the age of catches
e. Potential cost: $$

2. Maturity Data:

a. Target volunteers: Recreational and commercial; tournaments
b. Data needed: gonad collection (either actual biological samples or pictures)
c. Target species: cobia, red porgy, snowy grouper, spiny lobster
d. Anticipated outcome: improved reproductive information
e. Potential cost: $$

3. Discard Information:

a. Target volunteers: Recreational and commercial
b. Data needed: length of fish; depth caught/released; number of fish; reason for discard; devices used
c. Target species: all SAFMC managed species in particular, scamp grouper, red snapper, deepwater groupers, red porgy, greater amberjack, cobia, king mackerel (sub-legal releases), and gray triggerfish
d. Anticipated outcome: improved discard removals estimates, ability to characterize size composition of discards
e. Potential cost: $-$$

4. Genetic Sampling:

a. Target volunteers: Recreational and commercial; bait and tackle shops; tournaments
b. Data needed: fin clips
c. Target species: cobia, hogfish (both stocks), red grouper, white grunt
d. Anticipated outcome: stock identification
e. Potential cost: $-$$

5. Fishing Infrastructure:

a. Target volunteers: Recreational, commercial, and community members/citizens
b. Data needed: GPS location of existing and previously existing/closed fishing-related infrastructure (commercial fishing facilities, marinas, bait/tackle shops, ice house, fuel docks, boat ramps, piers, roadside seafood stands, retail markets, etc.)
c. Anticipated outcome: Baseline for fishing-related infrastructure to help document potential impacts from regulations
d. Potential cost: $

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6. Historical Fishing Photos:

a. Target volunteers: Recreational and for-hire
b. Data needed: digitized images (will need to scan print photos into digital format)
c. Target species: commonly caught charter/headboat species
d. Anticipated outcome: length comps for certain species; improved historical information
e. Potential cost: $-$$

7. Fishery Oral Histories:

a. Target volunteers: For-hire and commercial captains
b. Data needed: interviews with fishermen to learn about the history and current state of a fishery; possibly pair interviews with topic #8 (Historical Fishing Photos)
c. Anticipated outcome: documentation of how fisheries operated over time (catchability changes over time with improvements in technology; markets; clients; species distribution; size of fish; weather; etc.) and other observational data
d. Potential cost: $

8. Oceanographic/Environmental/Weather Conditions:

a. Target volunteers: Recreational and commercial
b. Data needed: Bottom temperature; weather impacts to fishing; presence/absence of sargassum and size of area; movement of forage fish (bait) and shifts in patterns of a fishery (i.e., mackerel)
c. Anticipated outcome: building database on climate and conditions; distribution of sargassum; how forage fish impacts patterns in a fishery
d. Potential cost: $-$$

9. Rare or Data Limited Species Observations:

a. Target volunteers: Recreational and commercial
b. Data needed: Point observations of data limited or unusual or rarely encountered species
c. Anticipated outcome: baseline for species shift; increasing information available for data limited species
d. Potential cost: $-$$

10. Diet Samples:

a. Target volunteers: Recreational, for-hire, and commercial
b. Data needed: stomach collection
c. Target species: TBD
d. Anticipated outcome: improved diet information
e. Potential cost: $$

11. Personal Fishing Logbooks/Diaries:

a. Target volunteers: For-hire and commercial
b. Data needed: translate fishermen logbooks into electronic data/database
c. Anticipated outcome: develop relative indices of abundance
d. Potential cost: $-$$