

SAFMC Staff Report June 2024

IRA Funding Update

No IRA funds have been yet received. The initial distribution (\$375k) is expected soon. NMFS provided the feedback on the second phase proposals. A response was provided in an attempt to further clarify the projects and address NMFS concerns.

- Job 1: Recommended that SAFMC and GMFMC combine their program review projects to reduce costs. After discussion with GMFMC, there are concerns with the logistics and outcomes of attempting a combined project.
- Job 2: Recommended alternative stocks for the data limited fisheries project: Spanish Mackerel, Wreckfish, or Tilefish. Additional negotiation may be required, as these stocks do not meet the criteria of data limited, unassessed, and limited scope.
- Job 3: Supported the proposed EFH and stock boundaries evaluation.
- Job 4: Questioned data collection components and cost for the communities project. Additional negotiation is required to adjust the project objectives.

Applications have been accepted and interviews held for the Climate Coordinator position to be funded with the initial project funds. Due to the ongoing delays in receiving these funds, the position will not be filled until an official letter notifying that funds are available is received. Delays in receiving funds and filling this position will likely require considerable revisions to project timelines and may require changing the scope of some projects to comply with the funding deadline.

Website and Digital Communications Updates

- Developed comprehensive social media guidelines document.
- Website development:
 - New Habitat webpage, Mackerel Port Meetings webpage, BFP MVP webpage.
- “What It Means To Me” project development and editing.
 - Completed Chip Berry Project and commenced Mark Phelps Project.
- ICAST design elements.
- Continued general website maintenance, posting meetings, pages, and news.
- Continued public comment upkeep.
- Continued social media management.
- Continued FishRules updates and management including regulations review and overhaul.

ICAST 2024

The Council will once again have an exhibit at [ICAST 2024](#), the “World’s Largest Sportfishing Tradeshow” scheduled for July 16-19, 2024 in Orlando, Florida. The trade show is open to retail and wholesale participants and offers a unique opportunity to meet with attendees as well as exhibitors on the floor. The 10X20’ SAFMC exhibit space is part of the Conservation Corner, featuring partners in conservation, including FWC, SCDNR, FL Sea Grant, The Nature Conservancy, and Return ‘Em Right. This year, the Guy Harvey Foundation will join us as part

of the Conservation Corner. The SAFMC exhibit space will focus on the Council’s Best Fishing Practices (BFP) and Citizen Science Programs as well as informing attendees about the SAFMC. New display panels are being designed for the exhibit that can be used at Council meetings and other outreach events.

A special event, “Donuts and Descending Devices” will be held in the Conservation Corner on Thursday morning of the trade show. Council staff are collaborating with other partners to promote the use of descending devices and other best practices during the event that features free fresh donuts and coffee. The event will include BFP trivia as an incentive for attendees to visit various booths to learn more about BFP and to obtain raffle tickets for prize packages. Many thanks to the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Pure Fishing, The Nature Conservancy, Return ‘Em Right, Engel Coolers, and CCA Florida.

Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) Flyingfish-Dolphinfish Working Group Meeting

The first meeting of the WECAFC Flyingfish-Dolphinfish Working Group took place in Puerto Rico from June 4-5, 2024.

East Coast Climate Coordination Group

The East Coast Climate Coordination Group (EC3G) met in Charleston SC, May 14 -15. The Group reviewed its Charter, updated climate action priorities, and received updates on NMFS climate and ecosystem efforts. Members agreed to focus priorities during 2024 and 2025 on IRA projects. A workshop will be convened August 15-16 in Philadelphia for coordination and integration of Council and NMFS climate response efforts along the Atlantic coast. Information about the group and activities is hosted by the MAFMC: <https://www.mafmc.org/e3cg>

Citizen Science Program

- The FISHstory project was included in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy’s FY21-22 Citizen Science Report to Congress. In addition to being included in the report, it was also one of four NOAA projects mentioned in the introduction.
- The Citizen Science Program Manager was appointed to serve on ACCSP’s SciFish Advisory Panel which provides primary oversight of the SciFish platform.
- Citizen Science staff were invited to present on the SciFish platform at NOAA Fisheries’ ‘Use of Citizen Science and Remote Sensing for Improving Recreational Fishing Economic Data and Analysis’ Workshop in April 2024 in Miami, FL.
- Citizen Science staff virtually presented on the SciFish platform during the ‘Using web or app-based citizen science to engage communities or stakeholders’ session at NOAA’s Enterprise Data Management Workshop in May 2024.
- Citizen Science staff will be presenting a poster and lightning talk on the SciFish platform at the 2024 Virtual Conference for Advancing Participatory Sciences in June 2024.

- Citizen Science staff are participating in a Citizen Science Working Group for Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary (GRNMS) which is assessing the opportunities for citizen science to support current and future science needs within the GRNMS.

CCC Communications Workgroup

During the May 2024 CCC meeting, the CCC Communications Workgroup provided an update on tentative outreach plans for a 50th Anniversary celebration of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The Workgroup is scheduled to meet in August 2024 and will consider input from the CCC for this effort. The CCC Communications Workgroup will also develop CCC Hosting Guidance to assist the regional councils in preparing for the annual meetings and receive media training as part of their August meeting.