



SAFMC Citizen Science Initiative:

Program Development Update

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SAFMC Socio-Economic Panel Meeting

Why Citizen Science?

- Many data needs & limited resources
- Interest by fishermen to provide information & to work with scientists
- Opportunity to increase fishing public's scientific understanding
- Should complement existing programs & partnerships





Citizen Science Program Design Workshop: *Jan 19-21, 2016*

- **Over 55 invited participants**
- **All fishery sectors, scientists, researchers, agency staff**
- **Develop recommendations for a South Atlantic Citizen Science Program**



Workshop Overview:



- **What is Citizen Science?**
- **Traits of Successful Projects**
- **Designing Sample Projects**
- **Expert Guidance Themes**
 - *Participants/Users*
 - *Researchers*
 - *Communication*
 - *Science Standards*
 - *Data Management*
 - *Governance*



Workshop Product:



SAFMC Citizen Science Blueprint



SAFMC Citizen Science Program Blueprint Proposal

*Prepared by the SAFMC Citizen Science Planning Workgroup, based on
recommendations of the SAFMC Citizen Science Workshop*

Program Identity

- A. **Program Official name:** South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Citizen Science Program
- B. **Brief name:** The program will be branded using a shorter name that could possibly form a catch acronym or other brief name to refer to the program. This will be developed by the Operations Committee.
- C. **Mission Statement:**
"Improve fisheries management through collaborative science"
- D. **Vision Statement:**
"more collaboration + more data + more trust = better management"
- E. **Values:**
 - empower
 - include
 - engage
 - respect
 - reliable
 - trust
 - mutual
- F. **Definition of "Citizen Science" for the Program:** The definition of citizen science for this specific program is yet to be defined. Establishing a definition for the program will be one of the first tasks charged to the Operations Committee and Oversight Board.

Goals & Objectives

The planning workgroup drafted preliminary potential goals for a citizen science program that will be modified once the program launches and development begins. Specific objectives will be developed in coordination with the program A-Teams and reviewed by the Operations Committee.

- GOAL 1: Adopt and sustain a new approach to increase the data available to address research and management needs.
 - Objectives should consider all aspects of fisheries including fish, fishery, ecosystem, fishermen.
- GOAL 2: Ensure data collected are appropriate, relevant, reliable, accessible, timely and useful.
- GOAL 3: Build partnerships for mutual learning and collaboration.
- GOAL 4: Enhance stewardship for the resources of the South Atlantic.
- GOAL 5: Foster active engagement and communication about processes, results and impacts.
 - Objectives should consider strategies for providing feedback on usage, collection

March 2016

1

- **SAFMC Citizen Science Program Blueprint**
- **Workshop Proceedings**
 - *In preparation*



SAFMC Citizen Science Program

Working definition for SAFMC:

“A growing field in which trained members of the public collaborate and engage with scientists in the inquiry and discovery of new knowledge.”

Vision Statement:

“more collaboration + more data + more trust = better management”

Mission Statement:

“Improve fisheries management through collaborative science”



Core Program Goals:



GOAL 1: Adopt and sustain a **new approach** to increase the data available to address research and management needs.

GOAL 2: Ensure data collected are **appropriate, relevant, reliable, accessible, timely and useful.**

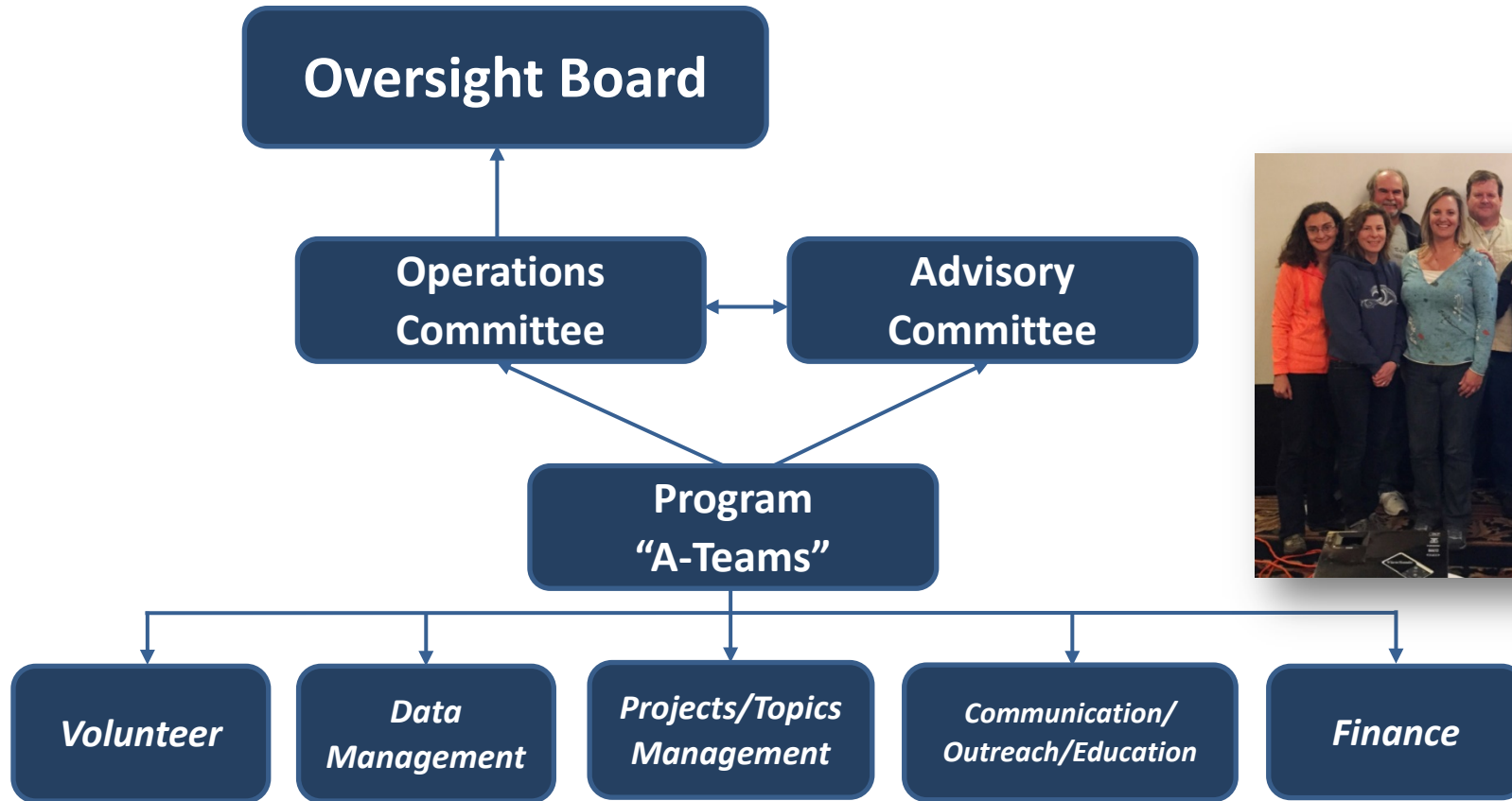
GOAL 3: Build **partnerships** for **mutual learning and collaboration.**

GOAL 4: Enhance **stewardship** for the resources of the South Atlantic.

GOAL 5: Foster **active engagement and communication** about processes, results and impacts.



Tiered Program Structure*:



2016 – Program Development

March 2016:

- ***Council Reviews and Adopts SAFMC Citizen Science Program Blueprint***

May 2016:

- ***Council Staff Present Citizen Science Program Development Efforts for NMFS QUEST Webinar Series***

July 2016:

- ***Council Cit Sci Organizing Committee present Council's work at International Marine Conservation Congress***



2016 – Program Development *(cont.)*

September 2016:

- *Citizen Science Council Committee is initiated*

November 2016:

- *NMFS Grant Opportunity – kickstarter project*

December 2016:

- *Council supports FTE position to manage the Program*



SAFMC Citizen Science Program – *2017 Program Development*

Build initial program infrastructure

- *Citizen Science Advisory Panel Pool*
- *Topical Action Teams*

Partnership Development

- *Program and project-level funding opportunities*

Pilot Project

- *Seeking support for a citizen science program pilot project idea*



SAFMC Citizen Science Program –

Citizen Science Advisory Panel Pool

Cit Sci AP Pool

- *Operates similarly to the SEDAR Pool (pool of individuals to serve on specific teams)*
- *Existing AP members and workshop participants considered for pool*
- *Online application – DUE APRIL 26!*

Action Teams

- *Members of the Pool appointed as needed to Action Teams*
- *Volunteers, Data Management, Project/Topics Management, Funding, Communication/Outreach/Education*

Next Steps – June 2017 Council meeting

- *Members of AP appointed by AP Selection Committee*
- *Citizen Science Committee Selects A-Team members*



SAFMC Citizen Science Program – *Advisory Panel Pool & Action Teams*

VOLUNTEERS:

How to work with **volunteers**
on citizen science projects

Volunteers

- **Recruiting/Retention**
- **Training**
- **Incentives**
- **Role in project ID & research needs**
- **Expectations**



SAFMC Citizen Science Program – *Advisory Panel Pool & Action Teams*

DATA MANAGEMENT:

How to effectively **manage citizen science data** and create **data standards and policies**

Data Management

- Managing entity
- Data Life Cycle
- Data Policies
- Access
- End-user citations
- Validation
- Use guidelines
- Infrastructure
- Electronic tools
- Data documentation
- Applicable data standards
- Platforms for data
- Presentation & marketing



SAFMC Citizen Science Program – *Advisory Panel Pool & Action Teams*

PROJECT/TOPICS MANAGEMENT:

How to select **citizen science topics** for the program and ways to develop and **manage citizen science projects** under the program

Projects-Topics Management

- ID topics/research needs
- Application process
- Approving/endorsing projects:
- Prioritization of needs
- Selecting projects for support, endorsement
- Soliciting ideas
- Outlining project expectations
- Training for science methods in citizen science
- Evaluation of projects



SAFMC Citizen Science Program – *2017 Program Development*

Communication- Outreach-Education

- Approaches & Tools
- Media Plan
- Feedback-Recognition Plan
- Training Plan
- Newsletters/Reports:
- Technology Platforms

FUNDING

- Administrative funding
- Project funding

COMMUNICATION/OUTREACH/ EDUCATION:

How to provide **outreach, training, and communication** about the program and projects under the program

FUNDING:

How to identify **resources and funding** to support the program and citizen science projects





For more information:
<http://www.safmc.net/citizen-science-initiative>

Contact

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Photo credit: Don DeMaria