



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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

AGENDA

Citizen Science Committee

World Golf Village Renaissance

St. Augustine, FL

Monday, June 12, 2023 – 4:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. (Times subject to change)

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes (June 2022)

1. Citizen Science Project Idea Portal (*Attachments 1a and 1b*)
 - a. Overview of project idea portal tool
 - b. **Committee Action:** Provide feedback on tool and consider adopting tool for use

2. Citizen Science Projects & Program Evaluation Update (*Attachments 2a-2c*)
 - a. Overview of project activities
 - b. Progress update on program evaluation
 - c. **Committee Action:** Provide staff guidance, as needed

Other Business

Adjourn

Committee Members

Kerry Marhefka, Chair
 Tom Roller, Vice-Chair
 Robert Beal
 Carolyn Belcher
 Mel Bell
 Gary Borland

Chester Brewer
 LT Cameron Box
 Tim Griner
 Judy Helmey
 Jessica McCawley
 Trish Murphey

Tom Roller
 Andy Strelcheck
 Laurilee Thompson
 Spud Woodward

Attachments

Attachment 1a: Citizen Science Project Portal Tool Presentation

Attachment 1b: Citizen Science Project Portal Tool DRAFT Questions

Attachment 2a: Citizen Science Project & Program Evaluation Update Presentation

Attachment 2b: SAFMC Citizen Science Program 2022 Annual Report

Attachment 2c: Sweeney Tookes and Yandle Proposal

Staff Lead: Julia Byrd (julia.byrd@safmc.net)

OVERVIEW

Citizen Science Committee

The Committee will approve the minutes from the June 2022 Citizen Science Committee meeting and the agenda for the June 2023 meeting.

1. Citizen Science Project Portal Tool (*Attachments 1a and 1b*)

The Citizen Science Research Priorities are updated every two years in conjunction with the Council updating their overall Research and Monitoring Plan. The process used to update the research recommendations is described within the Citizen Science Program’s [Standard Operating Policies and Procedures](#) (SOPPS) in Appendix B. The multi-step process was developed by the Project Topics Management Action Team and is depicted in Figure 1.

Process to update citizen science research priorities



Figure 1: Visual depiction of process used to update the Citizen Science Research Priorities.

The Citizen Science Research Priorities were initially drafted in 2018 and have been updated in 2019 and 2021. The Citizen Science Project Idea Portal (Project Portal) is under development now, so it was not used in previous updates to the citizen science research priorities. The target is to launch the Project Portal later this year, so information gathered can be considered when updating the research priorities in 2023.

The Project Portal’s goal is to develop an online tool to gather citizen science project ideas from stakeholders. The Project Portal will entail an online series of questions focused on topics related to research priorities. The portal will be monitored by staff and include a feedback mechanism to follow up with stakeholders that submit comments. The information gathered through the tool will be compiled and considered when updating citizen science research priorities. It could also help us connect fishermen and scientists with similar citizen science research interests.

The Citizen Science Project Portal draft questions are found in *Attachment 1b*. This draft incorporates feedback and recommendations from the Citizen Science Operations Committee who reviewed the document at their May 2023 meeting.

Required Committee Action: Review the draft Project Portal questions. Provide feedback focused on the following discussion questions and consider adopting the tool for use.

- Do the draft questions cover the needed information? Are there questions we should add or remove?
- How often and long should the Project Portal tool be deployed?
- What feedback should be provided to stakeholders that submit ideas? Are there different options that could be considered based on the resources available?

2. Citizen Science Projects and Program Evaluation Update (*Attachments 2a-2c*)

Project Update

The committee will receive a brief update on the Citizen Science Program and projects highlighting activities that have occurred since the last committee meeting, including SMILE, SAFMC Release, and upcoming FISHstory scanning nights. The Citizen Science Program's 2022 Annual Report is provided as an additional resource on Program activities (*Attachment 2b*).

Program Evaluation Update

Staff will provide a progress update on the Citizen Science Program evaluation. 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'.

In the original evaluation plan, baseline data was proposed to be collected in three phases: 1) interviews, 2) the development and piloting of an online survey, and 3) the implementation of the online survey. Rick Bonney presented [findings from the phase one interviews](#) to the SAFMC in June 2022. Conclusions from the interviews noted the fisherman audience needed to be studied in much more detail and that research into the needs, desires, and motivations of fishermen and how best to reach fishermen will be critical to the Program. Bonney also noted that when collecting information from a broader group of fishermen, scientists, and managers deploying an online survey to scientists and managers should be achievable, but deploying an online survey to fishermen could be challenging.

During summer 2022, additional funding was obtained for this project through NOAA Fisheries and the SAFMC. Staff consulted with Rick Bonney on how best to apply the funds to these evaluation efforts. The decision was made to have Rick Bonney lead the research to gather information from a broader group of scientists and managers through an online survey and to put out a request for proposals in December 2022 to gather information from a broader group of fishermen. Jennifer Sweeney Tookes and Tracy Yandle's proposal was selected for funding (see *Attachment 2c*) and will conduct interviews with a broader group of fishermen.

Required Committee Action: Provide staff guidance as needed.

Other Business