



South Atlantic Fishery Management Council **Citizen Science Program Update**

**Council Coordinating Committee Annual Meeting
Sitka, Alaska**

Mark Brown
SAFMC Vice-Chair
Citizen Science Committee Chair

May 2018



Program Initiation & Development

Jan-Mar 2016

- Cit Sci Workshop & Blueprint

Feb-Jul 2016

- Promotion/ feedback on efforts

Sept 2016

- Council Cit Sci Committee formed

Dec 2016

- Council supports FTE position

Jan 2017

- Program Manager starts

Activities 2017 and into 2018

Build initial program infrastructure

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

Partnership Development

- *Program and project-level funding opportunities*

Pilot Project

- *Funding secured March 2018*
- *Project to address scamp discards*

Additional Work

- *Activating Operations Committee - SOPPs*
- *Review Cit Sci Research Priorities*

Citizen Science Action Teams

Projects-Topics Management

- ID topics/research needs & prioritize
- Project endorsement program
- Soliciting ideas
- Outlining project expectations
- Training for science methods in citizen science
- Evaluation of projects

Data Management

- Managing entity
- Data Life Cycle
- Data Policies: Access; End-user citations; validation; use guidelines
- Infrastructure
- Applicable data standards
- Platforms for data

Finance & Infrastructure

- Program/project funding
- Operational support

Volunteers

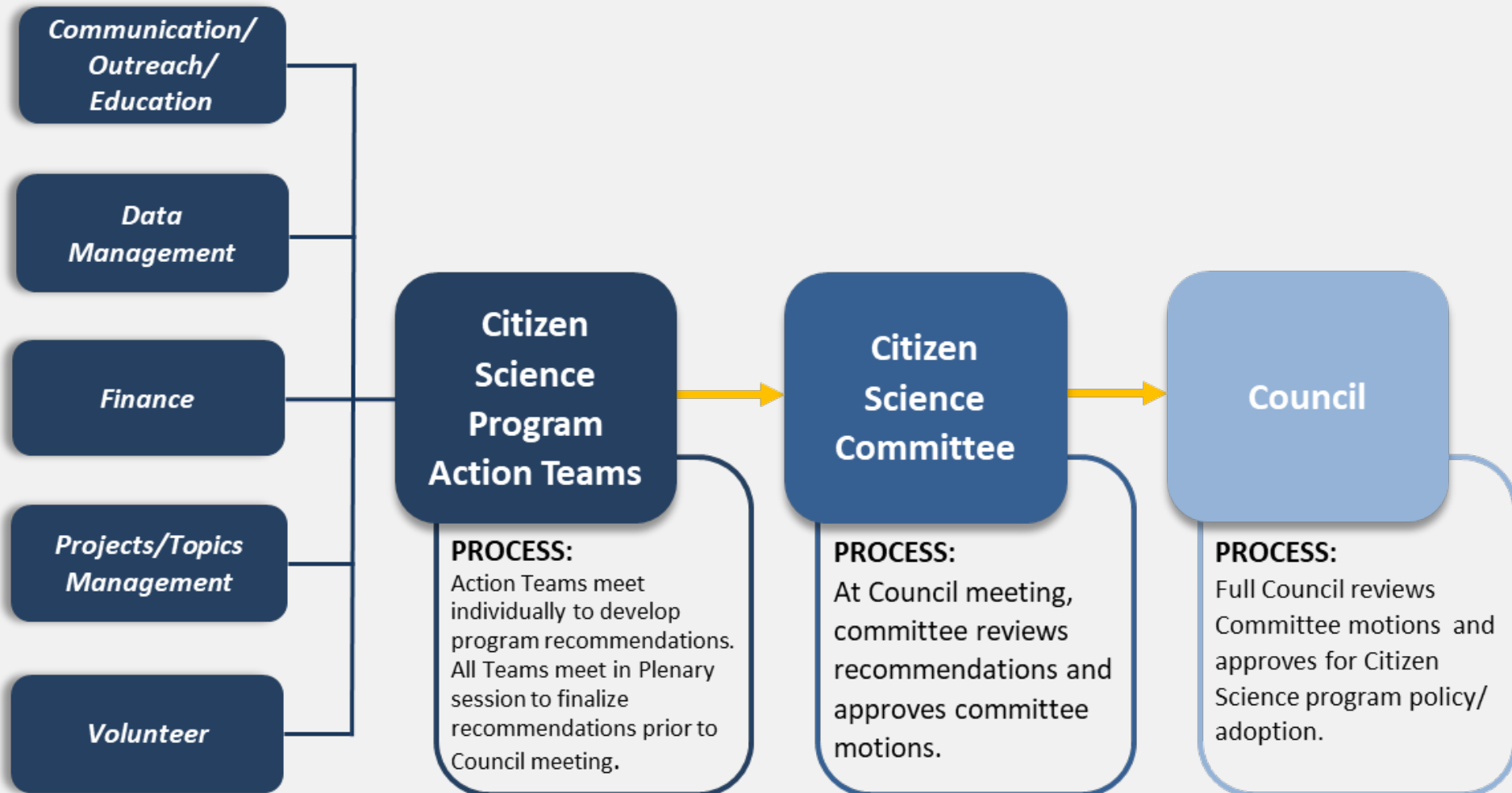
- Recruiting/Retention
- Training
- Incentives
- Role in project ID & research needs
- Expectations

Communication- Outreach-Education

- Approaches & Tools
- Media Plan
- Feedback-Recognition Plan
- Training Plan
- Sharing Results

Citizen Science Action Teams & The Council

Developing Program Recommendations



An underwater photograph of a large, dark-colored fish, possibly a scamp, swimming in a reef environment. The fish is positioned in the lower half of the frame, facing right. The background is filled with colorful coral and reef structures, with a clear blue sky visible at the top. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

SAFMC

Citizen Science Program: *Pilot Project*

Engagement: recruit and train fishermen volunteers as citizen scientists to provide supplementary data on scamp discards using a mobile app

Data: discard data (length, depth, images)

Use: consideration for use in 2019 SEDAR stock assessment



Pilot Project:

Applicability for Citizen Science

- **Addresses a need identified by fishermen and scientists**
- **Fills a known data gap for difficult or expensive to access information – use for upcoming stock assessment**
- **Data desired are relatively simple to collect**
- **Data do not require costly equipment or specialized skills to collect**
- **Project is scalable -**
 - *Take place over a wide geographic area*
 - *Include fishermen from all sectors*
 - *Provide useful information within a short period of time with minimal start-up lag*



Scamp Pilot Project: *Current Status*

PC: Greg McFall, GRNMS

Project Design Team in place and meeting for initial app design

- *Fishermen*
- *SE Fisheries Science Center*
- *NC Sea Grant researcher*
- *Harbor Light Software (app developer)*
- *ACCSP (data partner)*
- *Citizen Science Association/ Cornell University (research study partner)*
- *Council staff*

A-Teams developing plans for the project – *Communication, Volunteer Training, Data Management*

Research Study with Cit Sci Assoc/Cornell University:

- *Dr. Jennifer Shirk – documenting process and how it supports projects*
- *Rick Bonney – developing evaluation metrics for the project*



For more information:

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

Contact

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Photo credit: Don DeMaria