Data Collection Tips

Measuring Fish

- Lengths of released fish are one of the most useful pieces of information collected through the SAFMC Release Project. Please try to record length information on all released shallow water grouper and Red Snapper!
- Please record total length NOT fork length. Length should be measured to the nearest inch.
- Photos are an important part of the data collection process. Try to capture the whole fish from snout to tail in the photo. It can also be helpful to have a fish on a measuring board or beside something of standard length (e.g. soda can) in the photos to help confirm reported lengths. If you don't have your phone ready to take a picture, it is better to release the fish quickly than to keep it on the deck of the boat while you get your camera ready.

Reel
Record
Release

SAFMC Release Species List

Red Snapper
Scamp
Graysby
Black
Yellow-mouth
Gag
Rock Hind
Yellowfin
Red Hind
Red
Coney

Learn more in our shallow water grouper species ID guide

Fish ID

- Some of the shallow water grouper species can be tricky to identify. If you have any doubt on the species, take a picture and send it to julia.byrd@safmc.net and include it in your SAFMC Release data entry. The Fish Rules app contains images and ID tips you can use while you're on the water.

Logging a No-Release Trip

- If you don't release a shallow water grouper or Red Snapper on a fishing trip, but catch and keep some, it is helpful to let us know by submitting a 'No Release' report. Share information on the species, size, depth of capture, and general fishing location information of the shallow water grouper you keep.

Using (Or Not Using) Your Phone

- If you'll be out of cell range, remember to log into the SciFish app before heading out on the water. You will still be able to record and save data, just remember to upload your data when you regain service.
- If you would like to collect data but don't have access to a smartphone, you can use the printable form. The data can then be entered into our database under your individual SciFish account. Please contact us for more information.

Julia Byrd
Citizen Science Program Manager
julia.byrd@safmc.net

Meg Withers
Citizen Science Project Coordinator
meg.withers@safmc.net