

# About SciFish



## What is SciFish?

**SciFish is a mobile application and menu-driven project builder designed to collect citizen science data.** It allows Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) partners to easily create a customizable app without the need to develop stand-alone applications for each new project or data need.

## Why SciFish?

**There has been growing interest in citizen science to supplement marine fisheries data collection.** As a result, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) and North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) partnered with ACCSP to develop SciFish to support the collection and sharing of information about Atlantic fish species. **This work will reduce the cost and time required to create applications from the ground up as well as increase consistency in data fields and structure.** This consistency will help increase the value of the data collected for use in management and research.

## How did SciFish start?

**The first step was to better understand the needs of fisheries communities in the Atlantic that could be addressed using citizen science.** Scoping was done in Spring 2021 via an online questionnaire, virtual town hall meetings, and a series of three virtual workshops with a core group of stakeholders. Workshops had 46 participants from 23 organizations across 15 states. From this work, we identified data gaps and deficiencies that could be addressed with a citizen science approach as well as key data fields to address the identified gaps. The report detailing workshop findings can be downloaded [here](#).

## What are the current projects?

SciFish launched in August 2021 with two projects that collect information on released fish:



**SAFMC Release:** This project partners with commercial and recreational fishermen to collect information on released shallow water grouper and red snapper.



**NCDMF Catch U Later:** This project partners with recreational fishermen to collect information on released flounder.

## What are the next steps?

**The development and testing of the SciFish customizable app and project builder are underway, and an Organizing Committee is drafting policies and procedures to support the development of new projects within SciFish.** Once development and testing are complete the app will move into production and be available to other partners, at which point, SciFish will move from a partner project to an app that ACCSP maintains. The project grant is scheduled to end May 2023, and at that time, SciFish will be assessed on its readiness for use by ACCSP partners according to ACCSP policies and procedures.



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