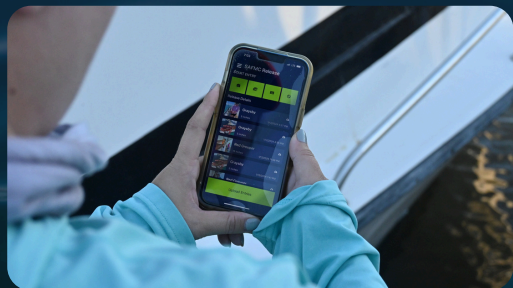


SAFMC Release

Participant Recognition Program



- About the Program -

The SAFMC Release Participant Recognition Program (PRP) is designed to celebrate the achievements of our project participants. With every released shallow water grouper and Red Snapper our participants record, they're helping us better understand the size and survival rates of released fish. They deserve a thank you for all their efforts!

A few notes about PRP:

- We do not share sensitive information through this program. Some information that could be shared includes name, number of releases, species released, fish sizes, and a photo of a release.
- Most milestones are measured on a calendar year and reset each year. For example, if a participant releases five fish, becoming a member of our Five Fish Club, they will need to release at least five fish the following year to remain a member of the club. However, some milestones run continuously and track participants' achievements across years. See the milestone descriptions below for more information.
- Some ways in which participants may be recognized include, but are not limited to, being featured on the SAFMC Release newsletter, the South Atlantic Bite newsletter, and the project's annual data summary. See below for more details.
- If there is a tie for a milestone, all individuals will be recognized.
- Participants can opt out of the recognition program at any time by emailing meg.withers@safmc.net.

- 2025 Milestones -

First Submission

Submit your first release and be featured in our SAFMC Release newsletter.

Five Fish Club

Record five releases and become a member of our Five Fish Club! You also earn a mention in the SAFMC Release newsletter.

Silver Jig

Record 15 releases and become a Silver Jig Participant! You earn a mention in the SAFMC Release newsletter and a thank you package from Sea Grant.

Golden Jig

Record 30 releases and become a Golden Jig Participant! You earn a mention in the SAFMC Release newsletter and a thank you package from Sea Grant.

Diamond Jig

Record 45 releases and become a Diamond Jig Participant! You earn a mention in the SAFMC Release newsletter and a thank you package from Sea Grant.

Size Matters

Submit the smallest or largest of each species included in SAFMC Release and be recognized in the project's annual data summary.

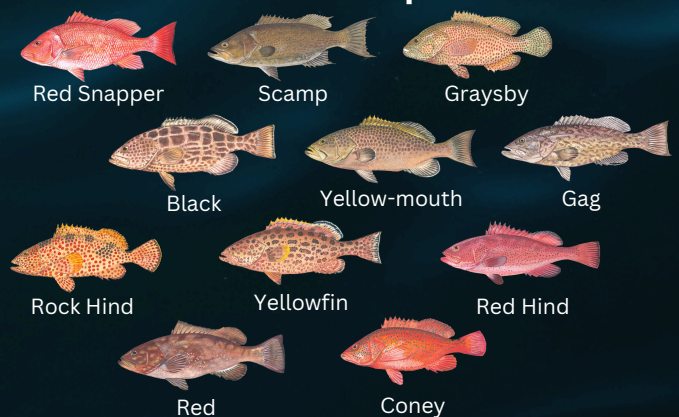
Around the Reef

This is a continuous milestone, meaning your submissions are tracked across years. Submit release data for all the species in the SAFMC Release project (it may take some time!) and be recognized in the Release newsletter and annual data summary. Front runners' progress will be shown in the newsletter.

Release Champion

Submit the most releases in a calendar year and become our Release Champion! You will be featured in the Release newsletter, the South Atlantic Bite (the general Council newsletter), and the annual data summary.

SAFMC Release Species



Sea Grant Milestones

Sea Grant has partnered with SAFMC Release to recognize you for the photos you include with your submissions! If your photo wins one of the three categories described below, Sea Grant will award you a Best Fishing Practices prize.

1. Photo of the Year

Submit a Release entry containing a particularly exceptional, captivating image! Photos are ranked according to technique and creativity. Technique includes image attributes like lighting, resolution, composition, etc. Creativity is up to you!



2. Best of the Best...Fishing Practices

Submit a photo that best demonstrates best fishing practices! From the moment it is hooked to the moment it is released, a caught fish faces a host of challenges to its survival. Best Fishing Practices are measures anglers can implement that mitigate different forms of catch trauma and improve the chances of survival after release. For a full description of these practices, visit the [Best Fishing Practices webpage](#). To be eligible for this award, submissions must clearly demonstrate at least one best fishing practice.

3. Grouper ID

Shallow water grouper can sometimes be difficult to identify. However, each species typically has a defining feature that separates it from others. This award is given to the angler that submits a picture that best highlights a species-specific characteristic. Find characteristics to highlight in this [Shallow Water Grouper ID Guide](#).

For questions regarding the Sea Grant milestones, please contact Greyson Webb (greyson.webb@safmc.net).

For information about the other PRP milestones, please contact Julia Byrd (julia.byrd@safmc.net) or Meg Withers (meg.withers@safmc.net).