



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



SAFMC Meeting

September 2020



Activities 2020

Program Evaluation

- *Working on with Rick Bonney, Jennifer Shirk, and Operations Committee*
- *Finalizing goals, objectives, strategies, and indicators*
- *Developing program evaluation questions and evaluation options*

Cit Sci Advisory Panel Meetings

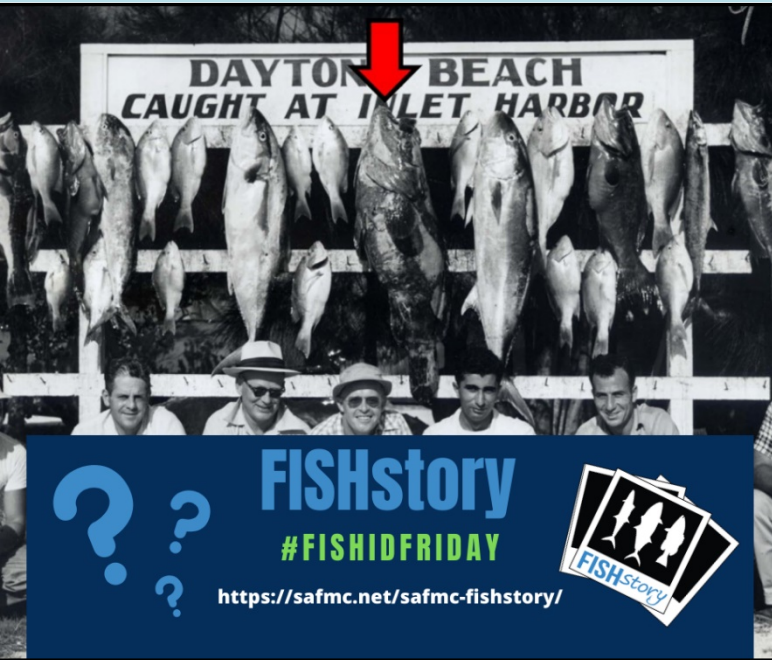
- *June, Aug & Oct 2020: Operations Committee*
- *Fall 2020: Projects Advisory Committee*

AFS Cit Sci Symposium with NOAA colleagues

- *Organizing symposium and virtual panel discussion*
- *Presentations on Program development and SAFMC Scamp Release & FISHstory*



Activities 2020



Bioscience manuscript, Bonney et al. – revisions almost complete; resubmit Fall 2020

Federal Inter-Agency Cit Sci Work Group

- *Advisor to help review draft programmatic docs*

Citizen Science Social Media Strategy

- *#CitSciFri branding*
- *Preliminary analytics review*

Citizen Science Email Distribution List

- *Working to grow distribution list*
- *Target to provide bi-monthly updates*

Cit Sci Corner in SAFMC Newsletter

Projects & Collaborations



PROJECTS IN PROGRESS:

- Scamp Release Pilot Project
- FISHstory Pilot Project
- Promoting Gray's Reef Through Engaging Georgia Anglers

PROJECTS UNDER DEVELOPMENT:

- Rare Species Observations
- Diver Observations for Data Limited Species

ADDITIONAL COLLABORATIONS UNDER DEVELOPMENT:

- Participatory Workshops
- SciStarter



Projects & Collaborations Under Development

Rare Species Observations

- *Partners: UNC, NOAA Fisheries, SECOORA, University of Tasmania*
- *May 2020: Submitted LOI to SECOORA*



Diver Observations for Data Limited Species

- *Partners: REEF and SECOORA*
- *Previously submitted proposals not funded*
- *Looking for other funding opportunities*

Dolphin Wahoo Participatory Workshops

- *Partners: SEFSC*
- *NC/VA Workshops:*
 - *Held March 2020*
 - *Analysis underway*
- *FL Keys Workshops*
 - *Originally scheduled Summer 2020*
 - *Postponed due to impacts from COVID*





PC: Gray's Reef

Promoting Gray's Reef Through Engaging GA Anglers

Project Focus

- Increasing awareness of Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary among recreational anglers
- Furthering use of best fishing practices for deep-water species
- Promoting collaboration through CitSci to help fill data gaps

Partners

- The Nature Conservancy (lead), Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (funding), GA Sea Grant, GADNR, FishSmart, SAFMC

Project impacted by COVID-19 – developing new outreach strategies for summer/fall 2020

Lead Project Contact:

- Bob Crimian, rcrimian@tnc.org or 912-598-2320



PC: Gray's Reef



FISHstory

A pilot project to document historic for-hire catch and length estimates using historic photos





For-Hire Catch Composition

as of September 18, 2020

- **1,325** volunteers
- **23,060** classifications
- **1,374** individual photos uploaded
 - All **1,374** photos have been linked to the FISH & PEOPLE: Count workflow
 - **500** photos have been linked to the FISH: Classify workflow
- **1,667** photos have been retired
 - **1,374** from FISH & PEOPLE: Count workflow
 - **293** from FISH: Classify workflow





For-Hire Catch Composition

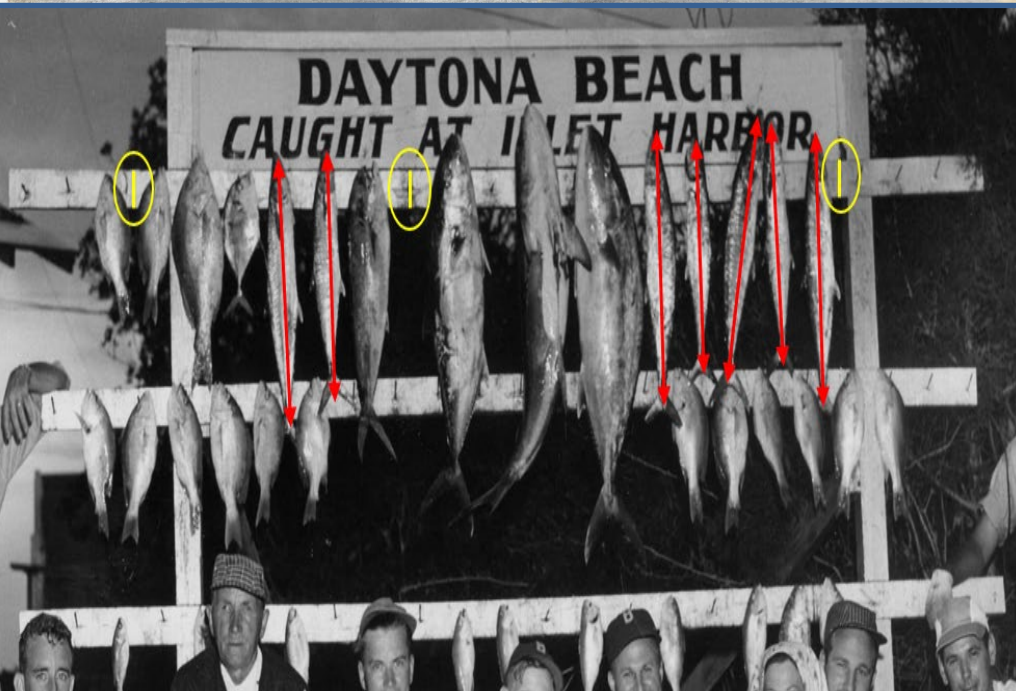
- **Design Team Meeting: July 2020**
- **Validation Team**
 - Beta test analysis complete
 - Regular meetings & training
 - Will begin verifying 'live' data soon
- **'Live' Data Analysis**
 - Preliminary analysis underway
 - Developing code to format & analyze data
 - Developing thresholds for Validation Team review





Length Analysis

- Protocol finalized & production length analysis underway
- 5 analysts assisting with production length measurements
- Measurements completed for 400 photos
- Developing resampling method to estimate length compositions from photos
- Staff met with South Atlantic King Mackerel analyst to discuss length methodology

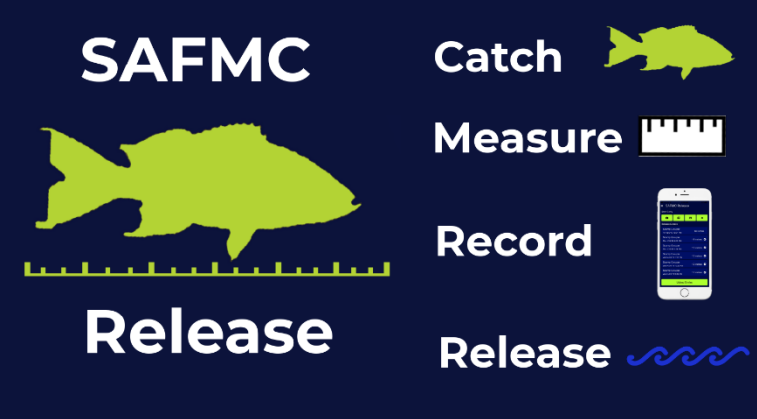




Outreach & Promotion

- FISHstory & SAFMC Outreach teams have been contacting industry, communication & education contacts
- FISHstory features:
 - [NC Sea Grant's Hook Line & Science](#)
 - [Episode 74 of the Fisheries Podcast](#)
 - [SCDNR Coastal Resources blog](#)
 - [The Fishing Wire](#)
 - [SciStarter: Dive into Summer Citizen Science](#)
 - [Guest blog for Sci/Starter/Discover CitSci Salon](#)
 - [Virtual Field Trip with Earth Echo: Sept 29](#)
 - Project feature in annual Zooniverse 'highlights' book

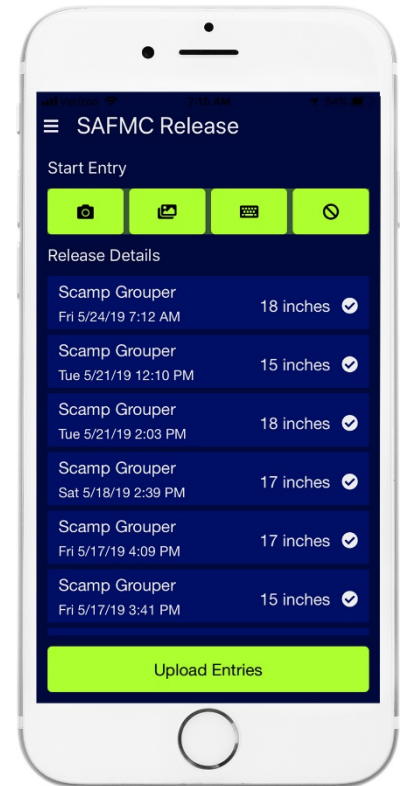




SAFMC Scamp Release

Pilot app launched June 2019

- Collecting info on scamp discards via mobile app
- Working on recruitment and retention of commercial, for-hire, & recreational fishermen
- Annual update provided to participants
- Data provided for review at SEDAR 68 (Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Scamp) Data Workshop



SAFMC Scamp Release

FY20 ACCSP Proposal - underway

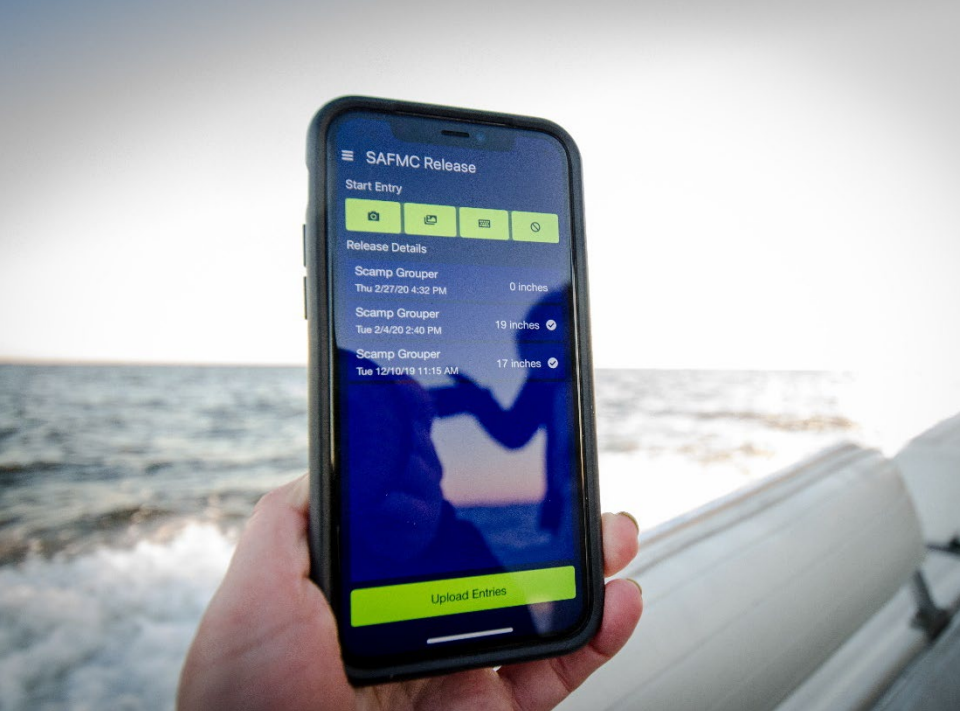
- Combine SAFMC Release & NCDMF's Catch U Later under ACCSP umbrella
- Expand SAFMC Release to all shallow water grouper
- Scoping meetings for development of customizable app

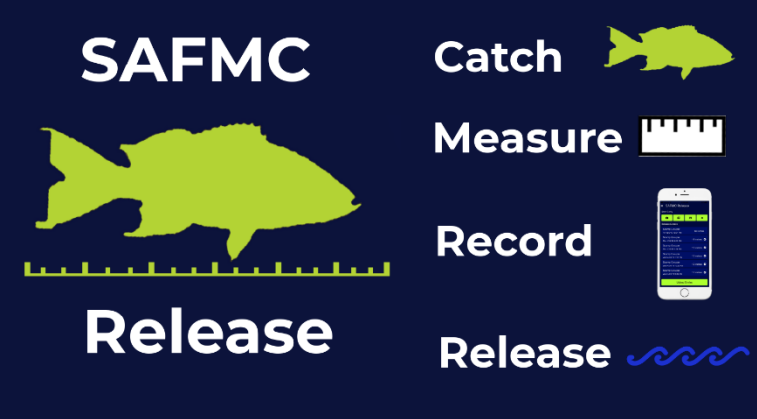
FY21 ACCSP Proposal - submitted

- Development of customizable app
- Expansion of app beyond biological discard data

College of Charleston Graduate Student: Nick Smilie

- Research will include user perceptions of the app to identify ways to improve user recruitment & retention
- Received 2020-2021 Research Assistantship from the College



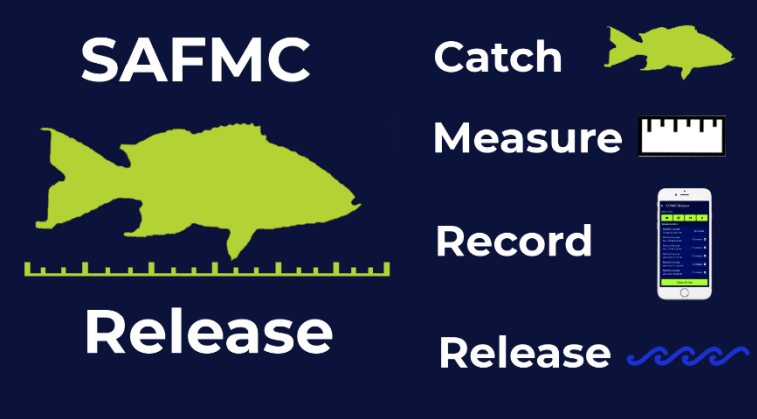


SAFMC Release

Need help with promotion & recruitment once app expands!

For initial project promotion:

- Used the CitSci A-Team's project communication plan
- Relied on partners to help identify potential users & contacts
- Used multiple avenues for initial recruitment & promotion
 - News release & other media
 - One on one contact – in person, phone, email
 - Fishing organization newsletters, magazines, emails, etc.
 - Fishing clubs contacts
 - Social media posts
 - Partners shared information through their communication networks



SAFMC Release

Need help with promotion & recruitment once app expands!

- Are there other avenues we should consider using for promotion & recruitment once the app expands?
- Are you or your organization willing to help us share info about the expanded app & help us recruit new users?
- Are you willing to help introduce the project or staff to contacts?

Keep Up with Projects & the Program!

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<http://safmc.net/citizen-science-program/>