



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

SAFMC Citizen Science Committee



December 2020



Activities 2020

Program Evaluation

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



Cit Sci Advisory Panel Meetings

- *Oct 2020: Operations Committee*
- *Nov 2020: Projects Advisory Committee*

NOAA FY19-20 CitSci & Crowdsourcing Report to Congress

- *FISHstory project highlighted*



Activities 2020

SAFMC CITIZEN SCIENCE PROGRAM

#CitSciFri

FISHstory feature in
SciStarter/Discover Magazine blog

DISCOVER
scistarter



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

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

Citizen Science Corner



Interest Growing in the Citizen Science Program's SAFMC Release Mobile App

Data collection through the SAFMC Scamp Release mobile app, the Council's initial Citizen Science pilot project, continues. See how other agencies plan to utilize the app's design to collect fisheries data as interest in the project expands. [Learn More](#) - and see how you can get involved!

Projects & Collaborations

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS:

- SAFMC 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
- Dolphinfish Research Tagging
- eMOLT Expansion

Projects & Collaborations Under Development

Rare Species Observations

- *Partners: UNC, NOAA Fisheries, SECOORA, University of Tasmania*
- *Looking for other funding opportunities*

Diver Observations for Data Limited Species

- *Partners: REEF and SECOORA*
- *Nov 2020: Submitted proposal to SECOORA*

Dolphin Wahoo Participatory Workshops

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



Projects & Collaborations Under Development

Environmental Monitoring of Lobster Pots (eMOLT)

- *NEFSC led program*
- *Industry, science, academic collaboration to collect environmental & oceanographic data*
- *Interested in expanding to South Atlantic*
- *Provided letter of support for proposal*

Dolphin Movement and Migration

- *Partners: Dolphinfish Research Program*
- *Exploring ways to collaborate to expand tagging efforts in the Atlantic*





FISHstory

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





FISHstory Project Components



Digitizing historic fishing photos – *complete*



For-hire catch composition - *underway*



Method to estimate length composition - *underway*



For-Hire Catch Composition

as of November 16, 2020

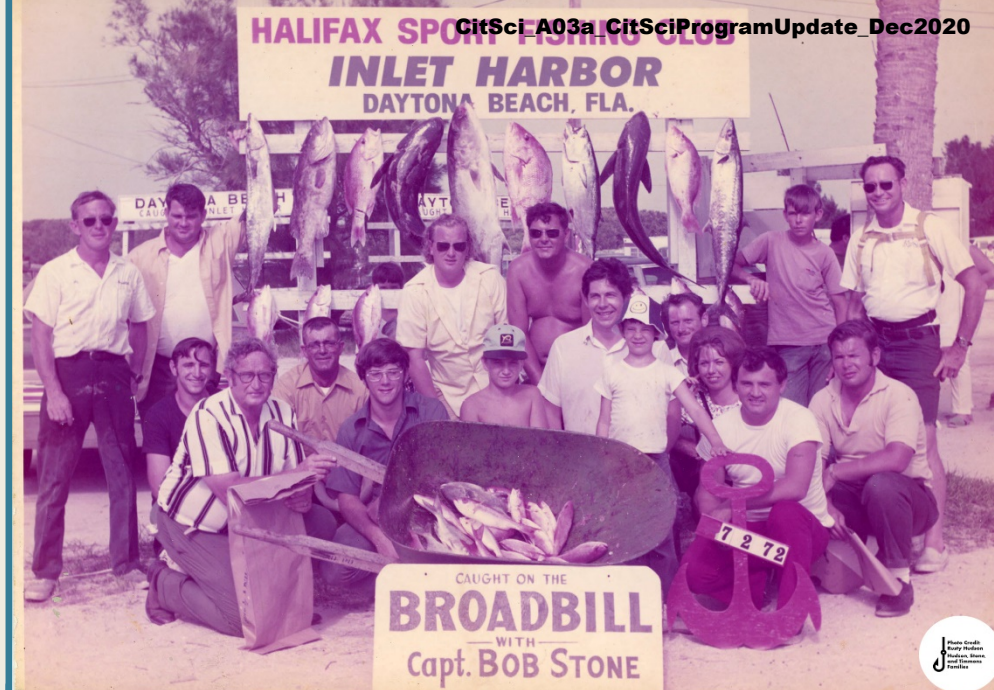
- **1,580** volunteers
- **27,110** classifications
- **1,374** individual photos uploaded
 - All **1,374** photos have been linked to the FISH & PEOPLE: Count workflow
 - **700** photos have been linked to the FISH: Classify workflow
- **1,884** photos have been retired
 - **1,374** from FISH & PEOPLE: Count workflow
 - **510** from FISH: Classify workflow





For-Hire Catch Composition

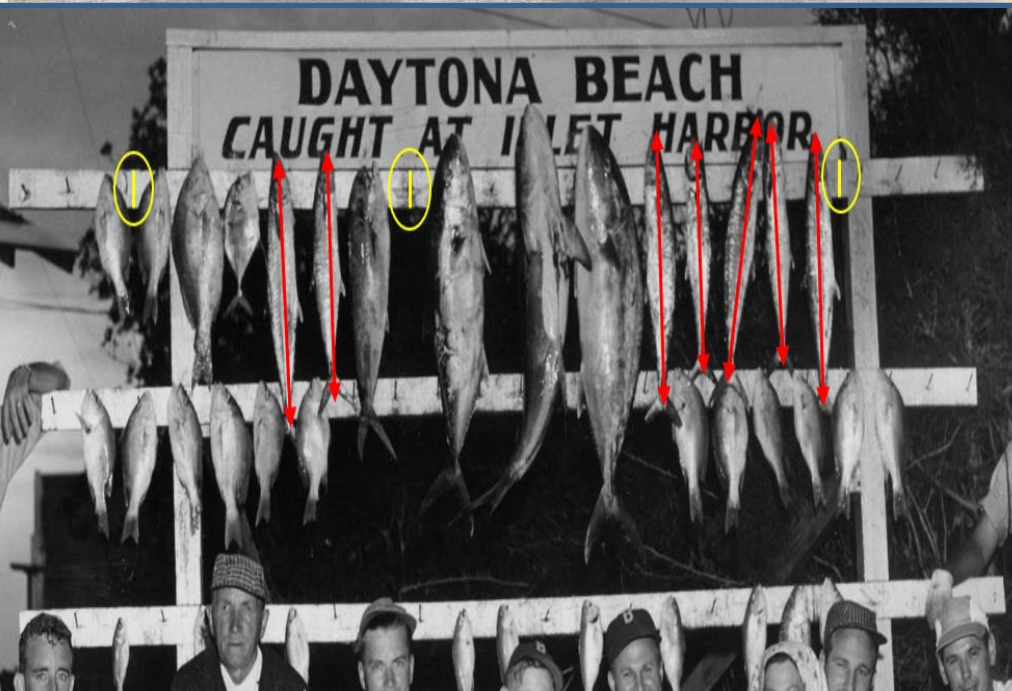
- **Validation Team**
 - Will begin verifying 'live' data soon
- **'Live' Data Analysis**
 - Preliminary analysis underway
 - Developing code to format & analyze data
 - Developing thresholds for Validation Team review
 - Exploring possibility of data analysis partners





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
- Methods reviewed by SSC at Oct 2020 meeting

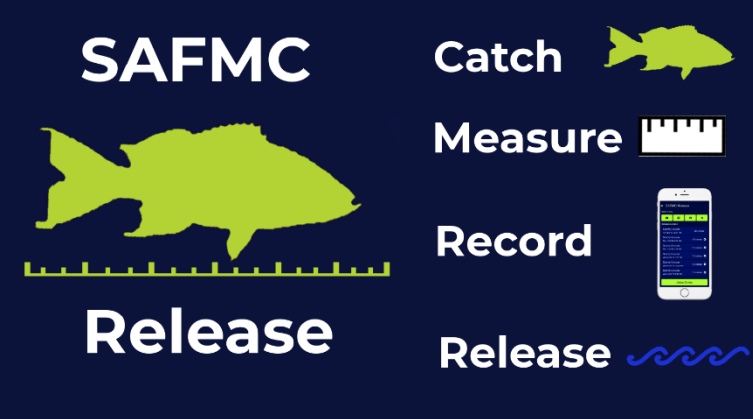




Outreach & Promotion

- 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 2020 Zooniverse 'highlights' book](#)
 - Seven Seas Media Article: Dec 2020 Issue

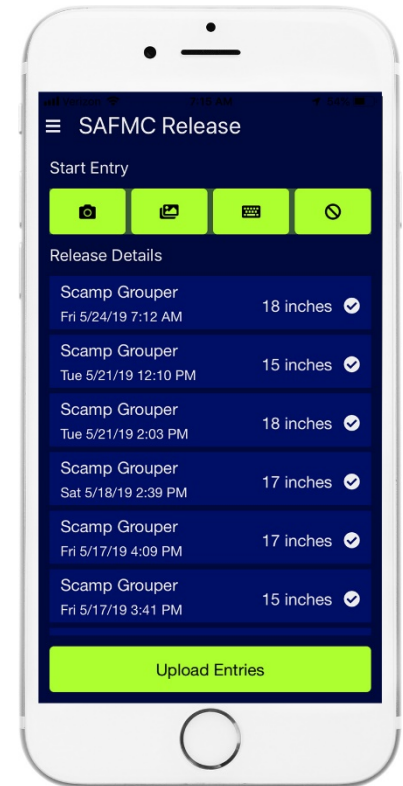




SAFMC Scamp Release

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

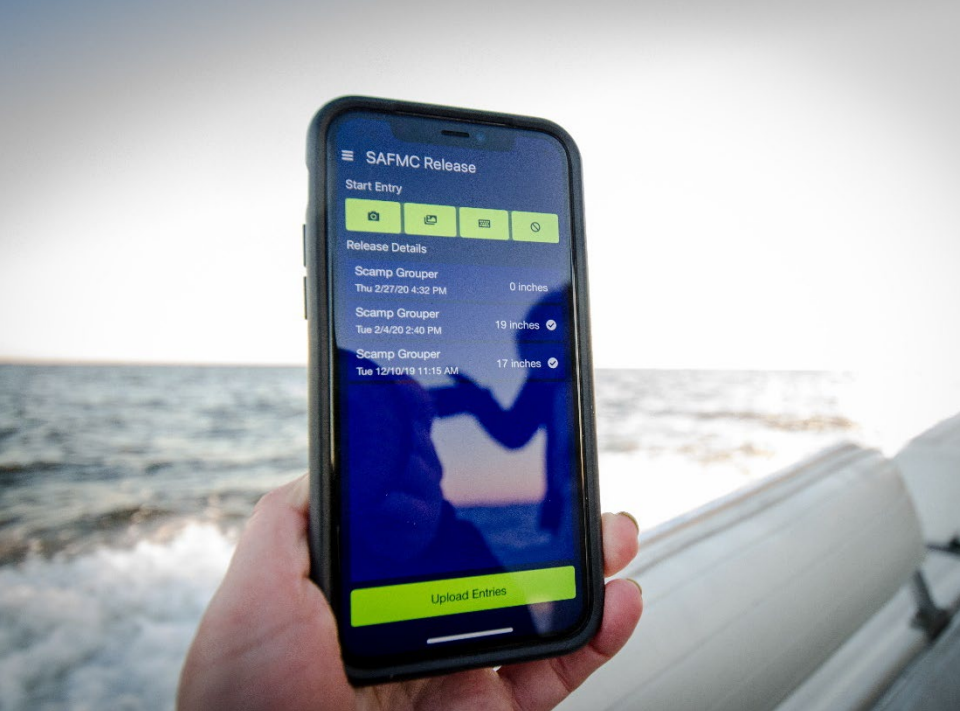
Scoping meetings for development of customizable citizen science app

- Series of short webinar meetings between Jan & March 2021
- Identify data needs & objectives

FY21 ACCSP Proposal - submitted

Development of customizable citizen science app

Expansion of app beyond biological discard data



College of Charleston Graduate Student: Nick Smillie

Research to identify best strategies to market self-report apps to fishermen to improve participant recruitment, retention & reactivation



Interviews with fishermen who have SAFMC Release accounts

Would like to talk with fishermen who have used the app and those who have not used the app



Further analysis of MyFishCount 2018 & 2020 survey results

Analyze marketing strategies that influence account creation & trip reports



Analysis will identify common themes between survey and interview responses

- Favored app features & functionalities
- Perceptions of self-report
- Motivations to participate (or not)
- Preferred and effective outreach & marketing strategies

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

Developing online dynamic resource where fishermen can learn about Gray's Reef, understand best practices, and learn about data collection opportunities

Lead Project Contact:

- Bob Crimian, rcrimian@tnc.org



PC: Gray's Reef



PC: Gray's Reef

Keep Up with Projects & the Program!

Julia Byrd, Citizen Science Program Manager

843-302-8439 / julia.byrd@safmc.net

Allie Iberle, Citizen Science Project Coordinator

843-225-8135 / allie.iberle@safmc.net



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