

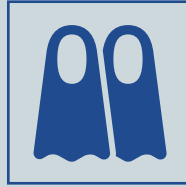


Citizen Science

Citizen Science Program Update

SAFMC Citizen Science Committee
December 2025

Program Activities



SMILE



FISHstory



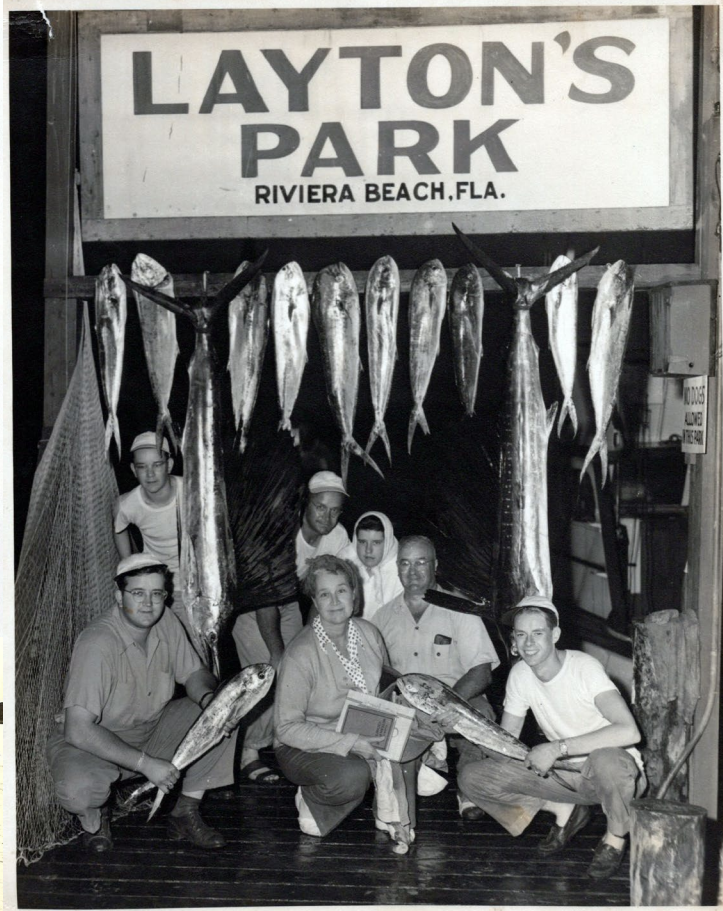
SAFMC Release



SMILE Project

- Partner with divers to collect length info on data limited species
- Laser-mounted Olympus underwater cameras
- 3 year pilot project wrapping up; additional year of funding secured
- Presented methodology to SSC at April 2025 meeting
- Survey conducted to better understand demographics, motivations, and barriers of recreational divers
- [SMILE presentation](#) – SAFMC Oct Seminar Series





FISHstory



Project Findings To Date



Over 2,300+ photos have been digitized & archived from the South Atlantic from the 1940s-1990s
Looking for more photos from the Carolinas



Over 4,000 volunteers analyzed 1,950 photos in Zooniverse
Validation Team reviewed 250 photos



FISHstory Validation Team



5 training sessions
23 members



Team members validate
photos in Zooniverse

FISHstory Validation Team
Photo Batch 2 - Update
September 22, 2025

Reel Classifiers
4 team members have validated this week
91% done with Photo Batch 2!
Target Deadline: Sept 24

Species Sleuths
4 team members have validated this week
99% done with Photo Batch 2!

Special shoutout to
Reel Classifiers: Julie Vecchio, Kevin Spanik, Dave Moss, and Erin Burge
Species Sleuths: Jimmy Hull, Richie Gomez, Alex Rocco, and George Sedberry
who have been validating like crazy over the past week!

Thank you for sharing your time & fish identification expertise with FISHstory!

Weekly updates when
team is active

Project Findings To Date



Over 2,300+ photos have been digitized & archived from the South Atlantic from the 1940s-1990s
Looking for more photos from the Carolinas



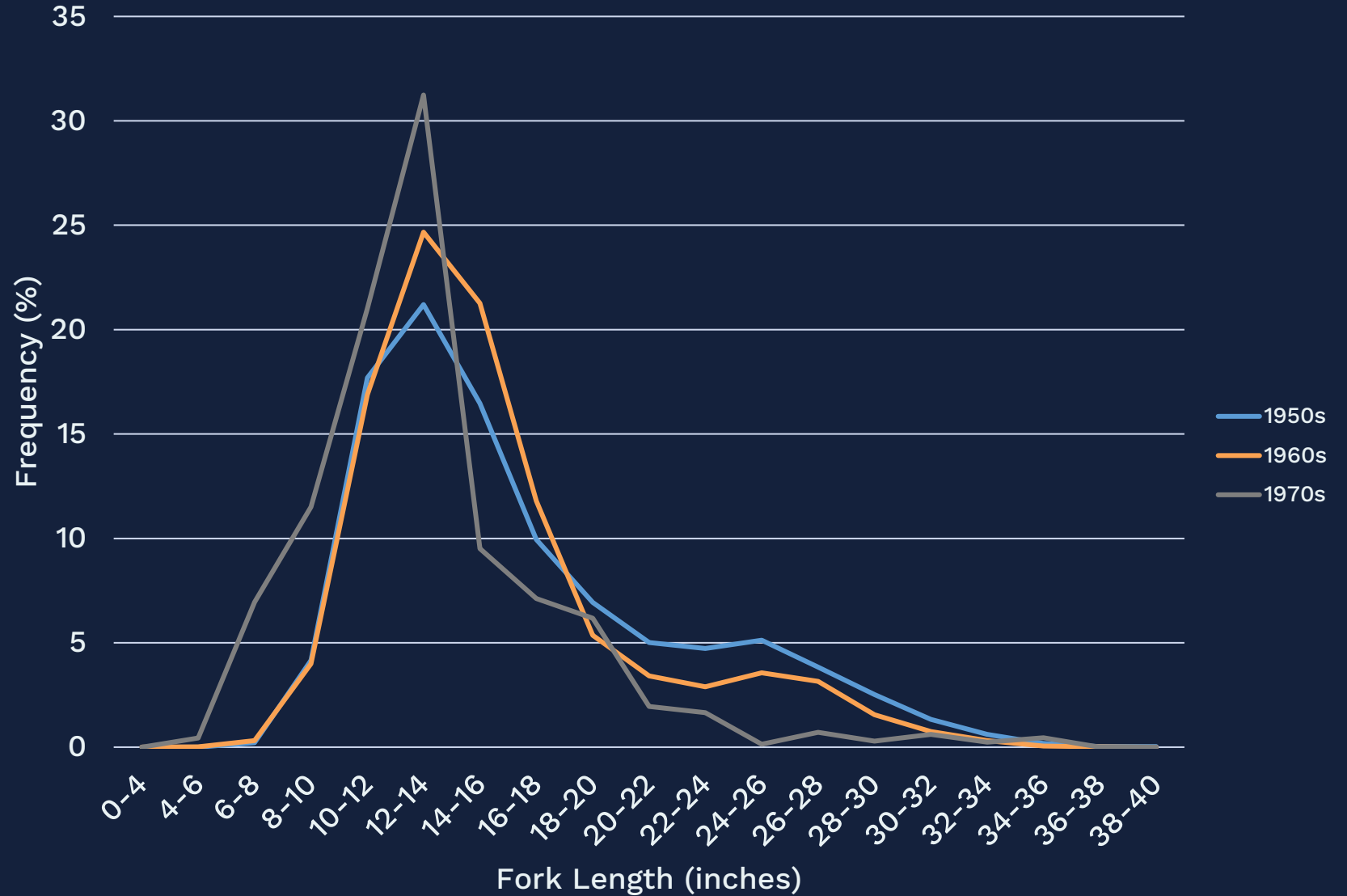
Over 4,000 volunteers analyzed 1,950 photos in Zooniverse
Validation Team reviewed 250 photos
Analysis underway by NC State analytical team



All King Mackerel & Red Snapper measured in current photo archive
Red Snapper length compositions were recommended for use by SEDAR 90 (South Atlantic Red Snapper) Data Workshop Panel
King Mackerel length compositions are being updated & will be presented at next SEDAR South Atlantic King Mackerel assessment



Red Snapper
FISHstory
length
compositions
by decade





SAFMC Release



Updates



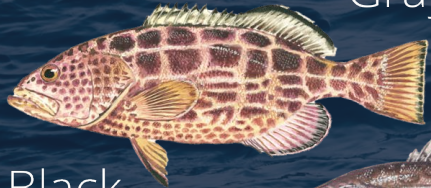
Red Snapper



Scamp



Graysby



Black



Yellowmouth



Gag



Rock Hind



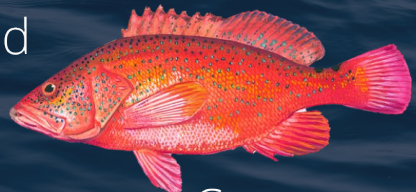
Yellowfin



Red Hind



Red



Coney

Participants recording released shallow water grouper and Red Snapper in SciFish app

Continued outreach & new content

SEDAR 90 Data Workshop Update

Sea Grant South Atlantic Release Rodeo

New Training & Outreach Content

Sea Grant / Z-man Media Trip



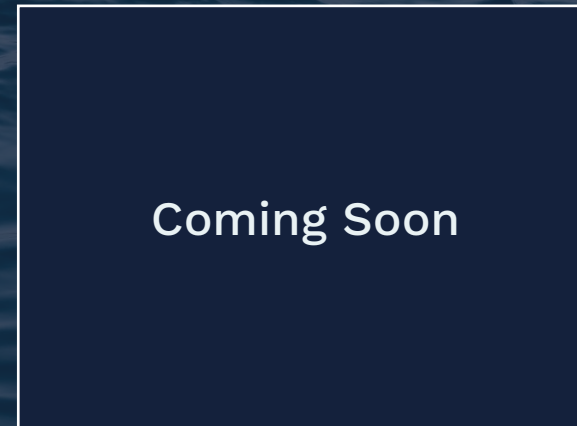
New SAFMC Release Demo Video



Content Creation Trips

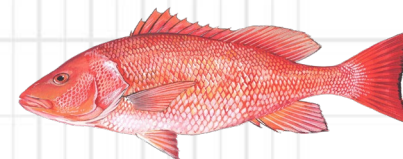
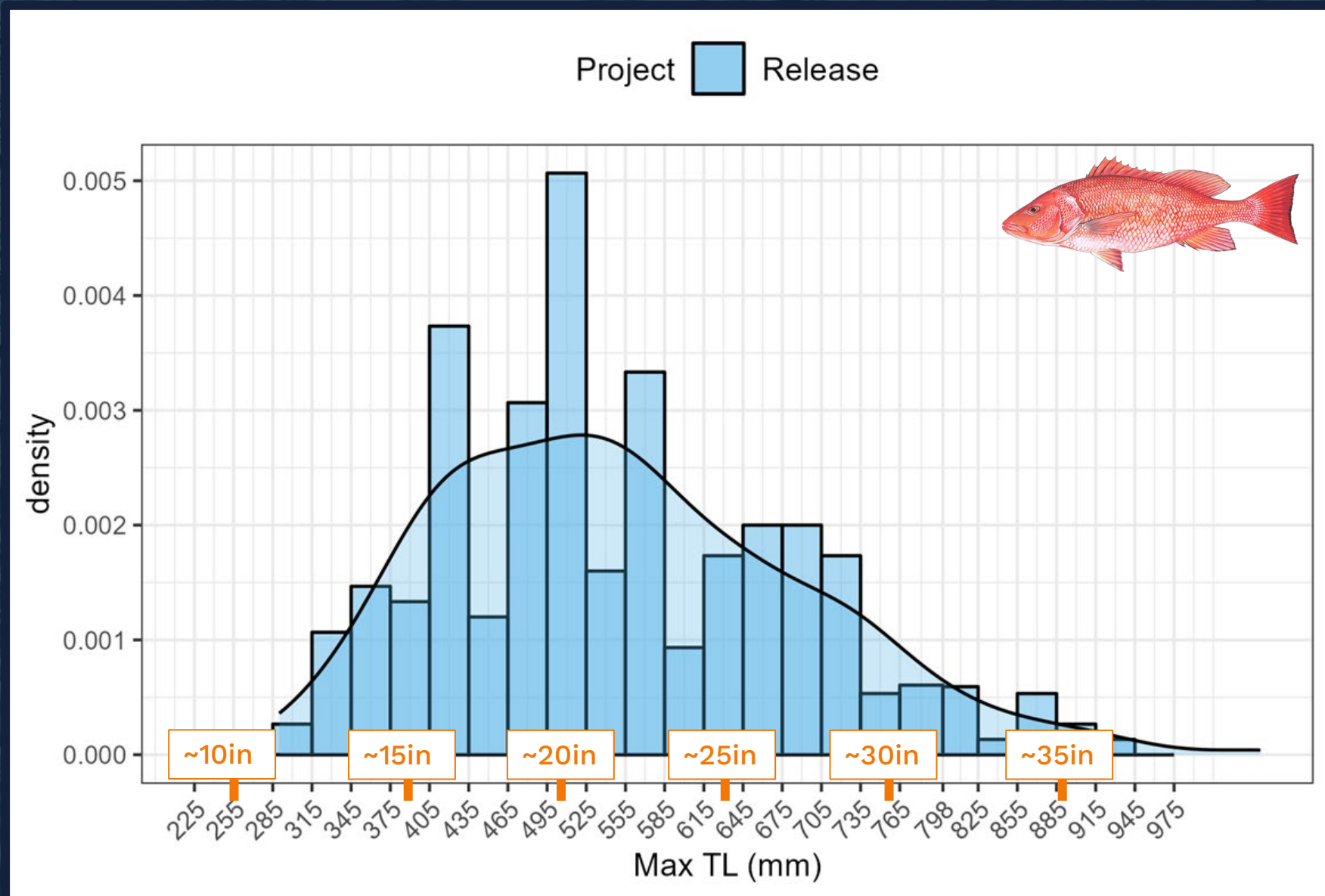


SAFMC Release Call-to-Action Video





SEDAR90-DW17: Red Snapper Release Length Composition, 2022-2024



Thank you to our SAFMC Release participants for sharing data with the project!



Sea Grant South Atlantic Release Rodeo



Sea Grant wants best fishing practices gear in fishermen's hands



SAFMC Release wants more entries that can be used for validation

Rodeo Structure



May - July



4 entries/month



8 entries/month if include ruler



2 names drawn by Sea Grant/month!



Sea Grant South Atlantic Release Rodeo: Outcomes



When comparing SAFMC Release submissions to challenge months during an average of previous years (2023 & 2024)



28% increase in submissions



Number of submissions with photos doubled



Number of submissions with photos that can be used for length validation almost tripled



Sea Grant South Atlantic Release Rodeo: Outcomes



Best fishing practices gear distributed by Sea Grant to randomly select participating fishermen



Positive feedback from fishermen on challenge & Sea Grant giveaways



Built meaningful relationships with fishing community members



Keep up with projects
& the Program!

safmc.net/citizen-science-program/



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