



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

**SAFMC CitSci Operations Committee**



**August 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

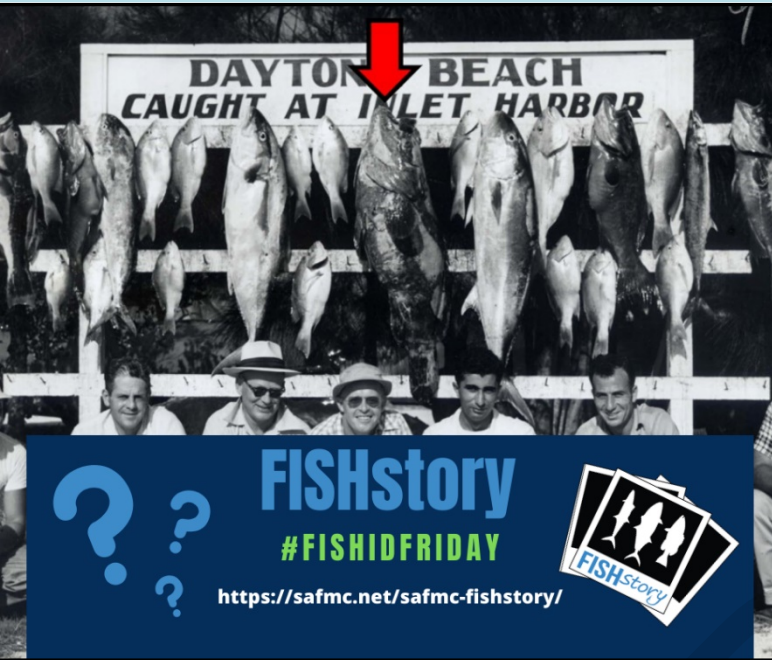
- *Jan, Mar, May, June, Aug & Oct 2020: Operations Committee*
- *Fall 2020: Projects Advisory Committee*

## 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

## Presentations

- *Spring 2020: SAFMC AP meetings*
- *March 2020: College of Charleston Marine Policy Class*
- *April 2020: NOAA Cit Sci Workshop*
- *Cit Sci presentation at April 2020 MAFMC meeting postponed*

## Citizen Science Program Outreach

- *Cit Sci month campaign*
- *Cit Sci social media strategy & branding*
- *Cit Sci Corner in SAFMC newsletter*
- *Cit Sci Program Annual Report*
- *Cit Sci email distribution list*



# 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

SAFMC

Catch



Measure



Record



Release

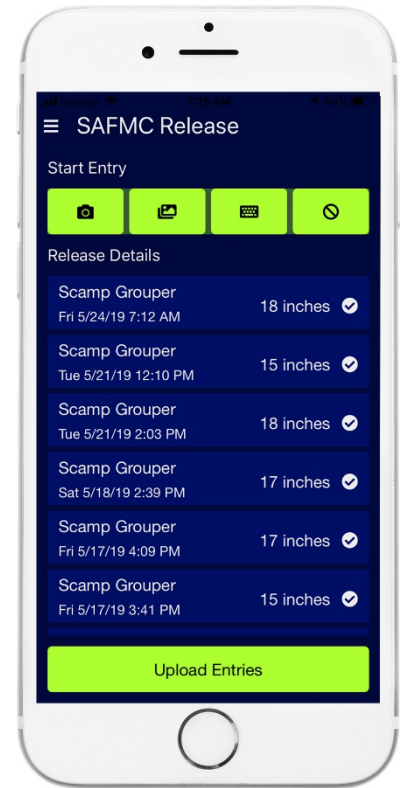
Release



# ***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**

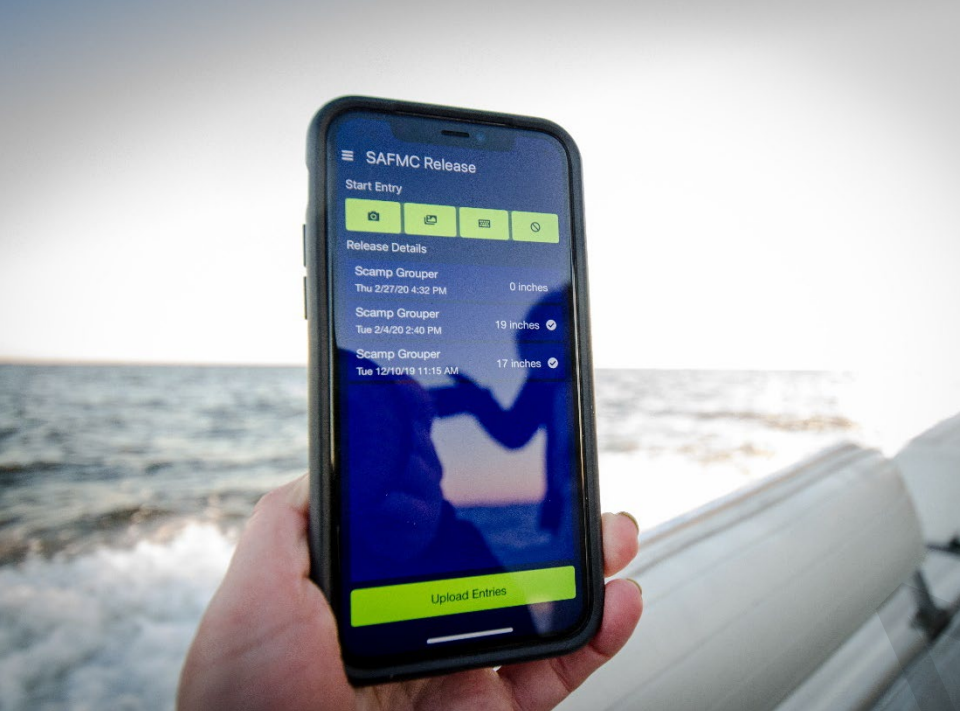
- Combine SAFMC Release & NCDMF's Catch U Later under ACCSP umbrella
- Expand SAFMC Release to all shallow water grouper
- Scoping meetings for development of customizable app

## **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







# ***FISHstory***

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







# For-Hire Catch Composition

*as of August 24, 2020*

- **1,129** volunteers
- **19,938** classifications
- **1,274** individual photos uploaded
  - All **1,274** photos have been linked to the FISH & PEOPLE: Count workflow
  - **500** photos have been linked to the FISH: Classify workflow
- **1,331** photos have been retired
  - **1,274** from FISH & PEOPLE: Count workflow
  - **57** from FISH: Classify workflow





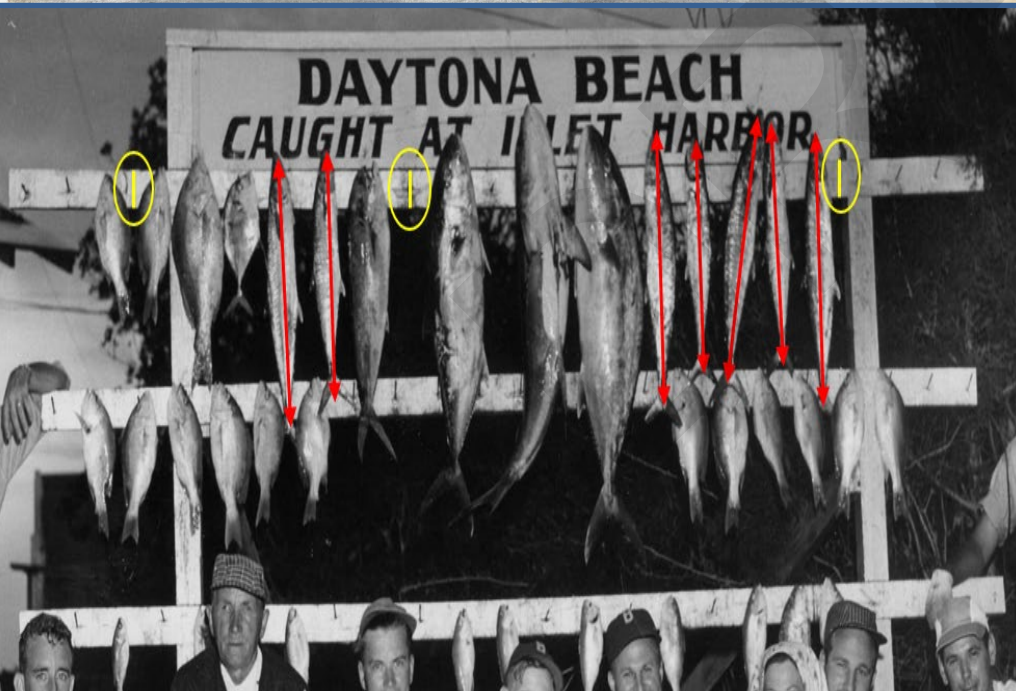


# For-Hire Catch Composition

- **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

- Pilot species: King Mackerel
- Preliminary accuracy & precision analyses complete
- 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







PC: Gray's Reef



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

## Focus Groups & Learning Exchanges

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

## Lead Project Contact:

- Bob Crimian, [rcrimian@tnc.org](mailto:rcrimian@tnc.org) or 912-598-2320





# 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:*
  - *3 workshops held March 2020*
  - *Analysis underway*
- *FL Keys Workshops*
  - *Originally scheduled Summer 2020*
  - *Postponed due to impacts from COVID*





# Keep Up with Projects & the Program!

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