



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

CitSci Operations Committee Meeting



May 2021



Activities 2020/2021

Cit Sci SOPPS updated with new vision, mission, goals, and objectives

BioScience article on development of Council's CitSci Program

NOAA FY19-20 CitSci & Crowdsourcing Report to Congress

- *FISHstory project highlighted*

CitSciVirtual Conference – May 2020

- *FISHstory poster*

Fisheries Special Issue Prospectus submitted with NOAA colleagues based on 2020 AFS Cit Sci Symposium

Helping coordinate 2021 AFS Symposium on angler engagement with various colleagues



Activities 2020/2021

NOAA releases [Citizen Science Strategy](#)

Citizen Science Program Outreach

- *#CitSciFri social media*
- *Cit Sci email updates*
- *April 2021 Cit Sci Month campaign*
- *2020 Annual Report underway*
- *NCTC & CofC Marine Policy Class Presentations*



Citizen Science Project Coordinator Position

- *Allie Iberle transitioning to SAFMC FMP position*
- *[Recruitment announcement](#) out now – application deadline May 28*



Initial Evaluation Plan

- Working with Rick Bonney to gather baseline data on knowledge, attitudes, collaborations, engagement, and trust levels of various stakeholders in three stages:



Interviews - 2021



Develop survey – 2021/2022



Implement & analyze survey - 2022



Projects & Collaborations Under Development

Rare Species Observations



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

Dolphin Movement & Migration



Partner: Dolphinfish Research Program
Exploring ways to collaborate to expand tagging efforts in the Atlantic

eMOLT



Industry, science, academic collaboration to collect environmental & oceanographic data
Interest in expanding to South Atlantic

Diver Observations of Data Limited Species



Partners: REEF & SECOORA
Jan 2021: NFWF pre-proposal

Promoting Gray's Reef Through Engaging GA Anglers

Developing online resource where fishermen can:

- Find out more about Gray's Reef
- Learn about best fishing practices
- Explore citizen science data collection opportunities

Target launch: June 2021

Partners

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

Lead Project Contact:

- **Bob Crimian**, rcrimian@tnc.org



PC: Gray's Reef



PC: SAFMC



Dolphin Wahoo Participatory Workshops

GOAL: Increase communication between scientists, managers and fishermen to better understand the Dolphin Wahoo fishery in the South Atlantic.

Method: Participatory conceptual modeling of the Dolphin Wahoo fishery in NC/VA & FL Keys

- *Map system of key factors that affect the fishery*
- *Identify major concerns, values and preferred objectives related to the fishery and ecosystem*
- *Develop hypotheses - how changes in system affect fishery, businesses & communities*
- *Identify key questions and information gaps*



Collaborators

- *SEFSC (lead): Mandy Karnauskas & Matt McPherson*
- *SAFMC: Julia Byrd and John Hadley*
- *MREP & Gulf of Maine Research Institute*
- *All of the fishermen & community participants!*





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, launch in Zooniverse May 2020*



Method to estimate length composition - *underway*



For-Hire Catch Composition

as of May 12, 2021

- **2,108** volunteers
- **33,283** classifications
- **1,374** individual photos uploaded
 - All **1,374** photos have been linked to the FISH & PEOPLE: Count workflow
 - **1000** photos have been linked to the FISH: Classify workflow
- **2,374** photos have been retired





For-Hire Catch Composition

as of May 12, 2021

- **2,108** volunteers
- **33,283** classifications
- **1,374** individual photos uploaded
 - All **1,374** photos have been linked to the FISH & PEOPLE: Count workflow
 - **1000** photos have been linked to the FISH: Classify workflow
- **2,374** photos have been retired

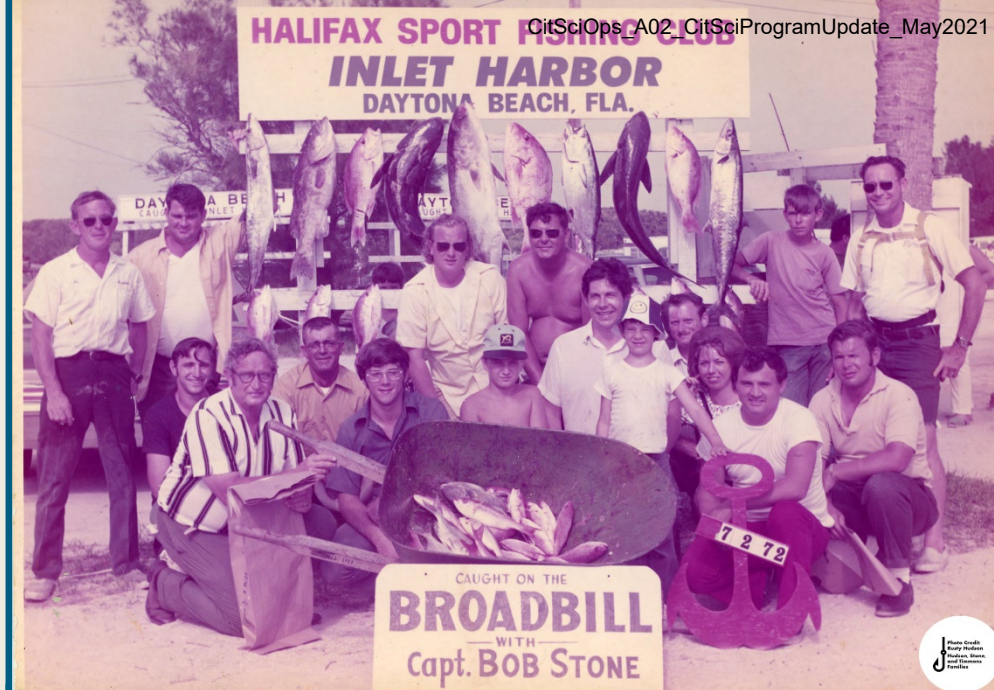
**Zooniverse Data
Collection Complete!**





For-Hire Catch Composition

- **Validation Team**
 - Photo validation for 'live' data began January 2021
 - Shiny app developed summarizing validation data
- **'Live' Data Analysis**
 - Photos being identified for Validation Team review
 - Shiny app developed summarizing 'live' data
 - Data analysis underway





Length Analysis

- Methods reviewed by SSC at October 2020 meeting
- King Mackerel measurements completed for 1,374 photos
- Length composition analysis will get underway in upcoming weeks





Outreach & Promotion

- New FISHstory features:
 - [Feature in 2020 Zooniverse 'highlights' book](#)
 - [Seven Seas Media Article: Dec 2020 Issue](#)
 - NC State and SciStarter's Make it Count Monday
- Developing questionnaire for volunteers to learn more about their motivations for participating

Next Steps

- Current grant funding will end mid-2021
- Looking for future funding opportunities

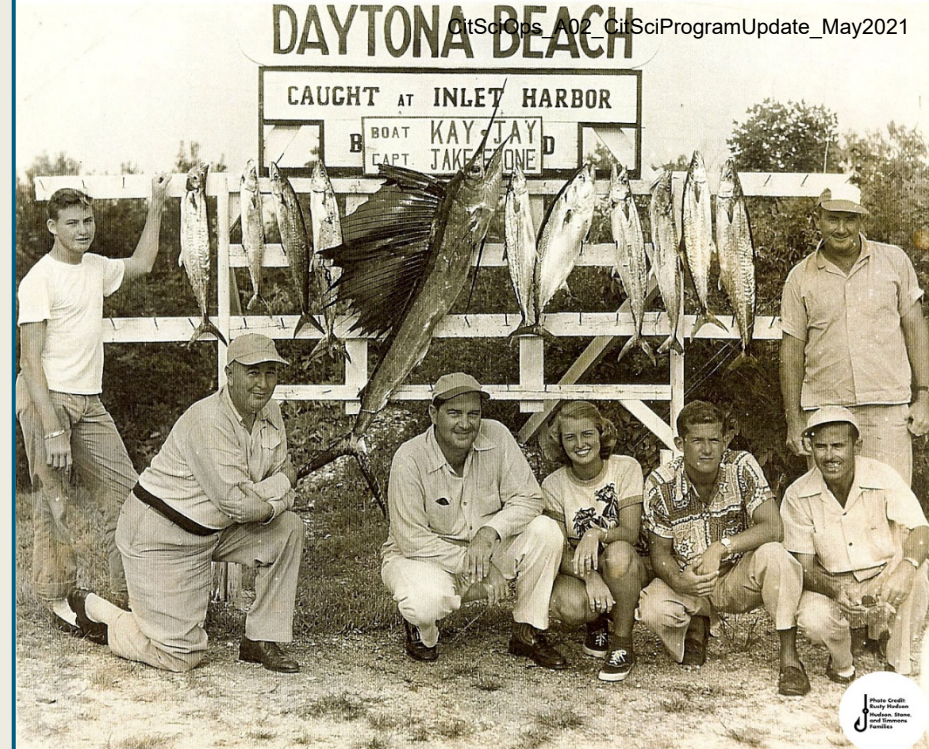


Photo Credit:
Rusty Hudson
Angler, Science
Enthusiast
Families

PC: Rusty Hudson



SAFMC Scamp Release

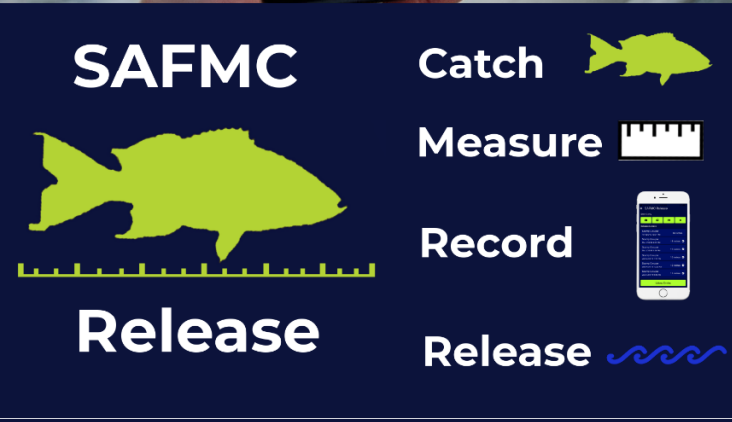
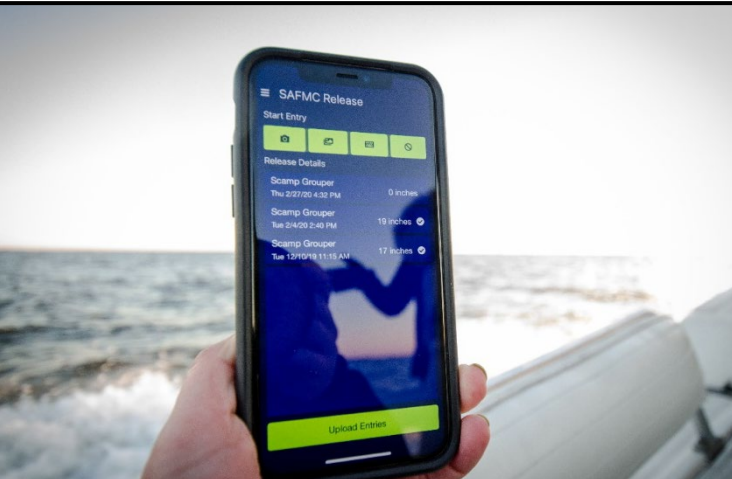
Continue work to recruit and retain commercial, for-hire, and recreational fishermen

Graduate student research

- Identify best strategies to market self-report apps to fishermen
- Interviews with SAFMC Release participants
- Analysis of MyFishCount survey results & marketing strategies

FY20 ACCSP Project - underway

- Combine SAFMC Release & NCDMF's Catch U Later under new ACCSP citizen science app
- Expand SAFMC Release to all shallow water grouper
- Target launch: Spring 2021



New ACCSP Citizen Science App

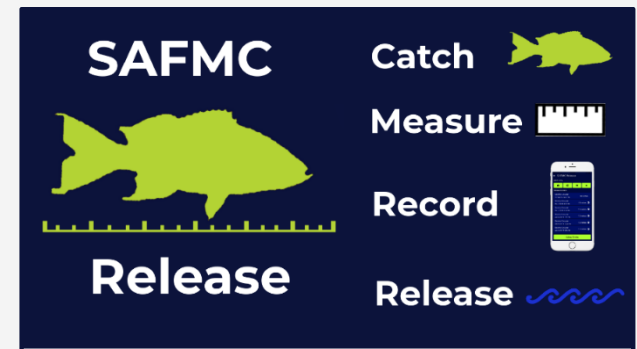
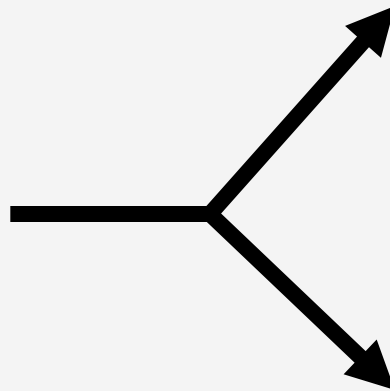
SciFish
FISHERMEN DRIVEN DATA COLLECTION

CITIZEN SCIENCE POWERED BY ACCSP



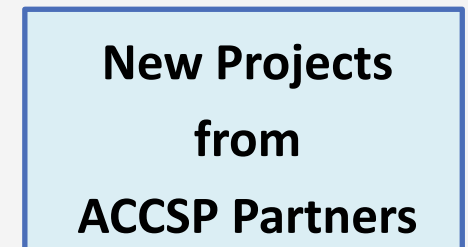
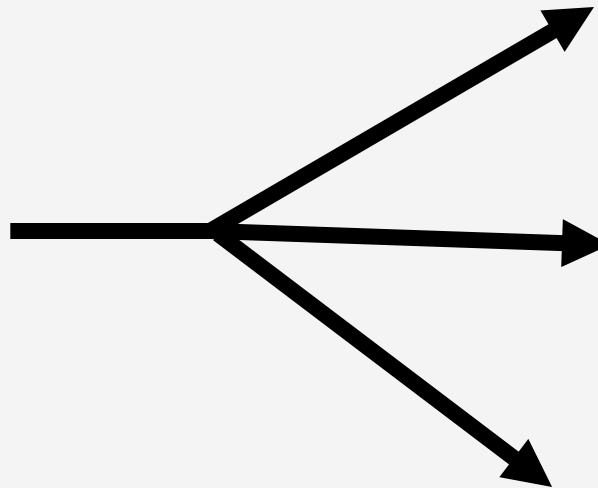
New ACCSP Citizen Science App

Target Launch: Spring 2021



New ACCSP Citizen Science App

Into the future...



Customizable Citizen Science App Scoping Meetings

To develop a mobile application that encourages & supports the capture and sharing of information about Atlantic coast fish



Online questionnaire

- To gather information from broad group of fishermen, scientists, and managers



Virtual town hall meetings

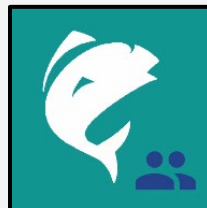
- March 9 at 5pm EST
- March 11 at 10am EST



Half day virtual workshops

- April 1 at 9am EST
- April 14 at 9am EST
- April 20 at 1pm EST

SciFish Demo



Keep Up with Projects & the Program!

Julia Byrd, Citizen Science Program Manager

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



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