



# Citizen Science

## **Citizen Science Program Update**

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CitSci Operations Committee  
May 2024

# Program Activities



Updated CitSci Research Priorities



CitSci Project Idea Portal



SMILE Project Update



SAFMC Release Update



SciFish Update



FISHstory Update



# SAFMC Citizen Science Research Priorities

## 2023-2025



# Citizen Science

Topic	Data Needed	Potential Outcome
Age Sampling	Otolith & fin clip (future) collection	Characterize the age of catches
Discard Information	Length, depth, quantity, discard reason, devices used, terminal gear, disposition	Characterize the size of discards, Improved discard removal estimates
Genetic Sampling	Fin clips	Stock identification, Species ID, Ageing (still developing)
Fishing Infrastructure	GPS location and details of fishing-related infrastructure	Baseline for fishing-related infrastructure, help better define communities for social analysis
Historical Fishing Photos	Digitized images	Species and length compositions, improved historical information
Fishery Oral Histories & Historic Logbooks	Fishermen interviews, digitized logbooks	Improved understanding of changes in fishery over time
Oceanographic & Environmental Conditions	Various environmental data including bottom temperature and weather	Database of climate and changing conditions, fishery patterns
Shifting, Rare or Data Limited Species Observations	Point observations of data limited or rarely encountered species; length info for data limited species	Baseline for species shift, increased information for data limited species
Observations in Managed Areas	Species, length, depth, videos, photos, effort, edge effects	Species composition, occurrence of spawning, info on compliance
Movement & Migration	Species, location, length, tag details, supporting existing tagging programs	Movement and migratory patterns
Shark & Mammal Depredation	Observations of depredation, location, species, photo, DNA swab	Document depredation observations
Habitat Characterization	Photos, videos - focused on EFH	Ground truth bathymetry data
Spiny Lobster Data	Catch, effort, length, sex, presence of eggs, presence/absence	Characterize fishery in FL and GA north (more data limited)

# **Share a project idea via the Citizen Science Project Idea Portal!**



Ideas will be used to update the  
Citizen Science Research Priorities &  
to help connect fishermen and  
scientists with similar research  
interests





# SMILE Project

- Partner with divers to collect length info on data limited species
- Laser-mounted Olympus underwater cameras
- Field testing in FL Keys
- Data analysis underway for first field season







# SAFMC Release





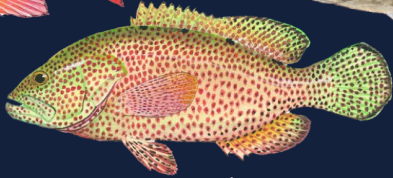
# Updates



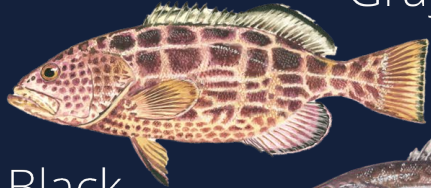
Red Snapper



Scamp



Graysby



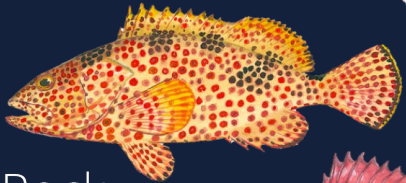
Black



Yellowmouth



Gag



Rock Hind



Yellowfin



Red Hind



Red



Coney

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

Continued outreach, including collaboration with Best Fishing Practices initiative

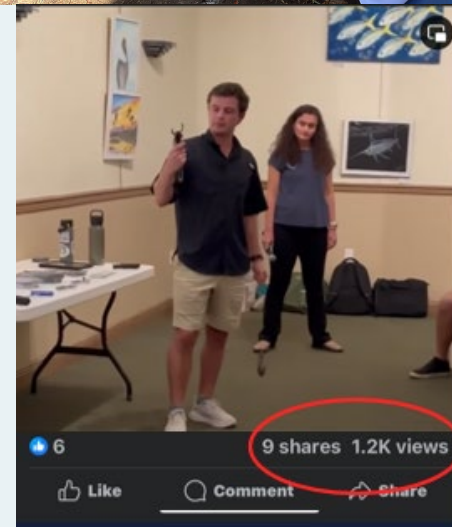
2023 Annual Data Summary

2024 Participant Recognition Milestones

# Florida Keys Outreach

*January 9-14, 2024*

- Tackle Shop Outreach
- BFP & SAFMC Release seminar at Tackle Box
- Sea Grant media headboat trip
- Florida Keys Seafood Festival







PC: C. Wiegand & B. Harrison

# Haddrell's Tackle Fishing Expo

*Charleston, SC*

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# Saltwater Sportsman's National Seminar Series

**ft. George Poveromo**

*Wilmington, NC  
Port St. Lucie, FL  
Myrtle Beach, SC*



# March / April 2024 Outreach

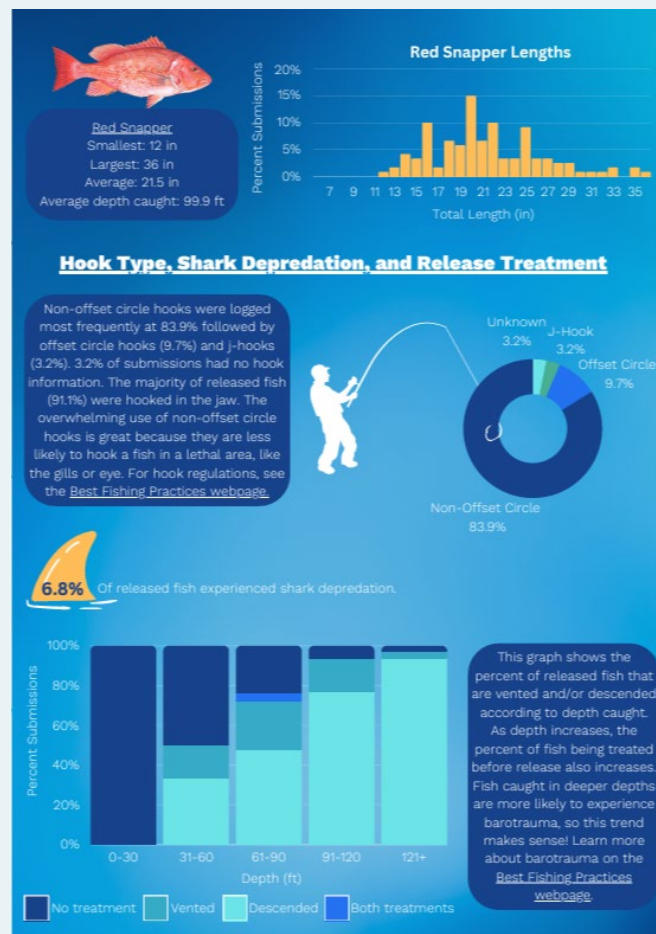
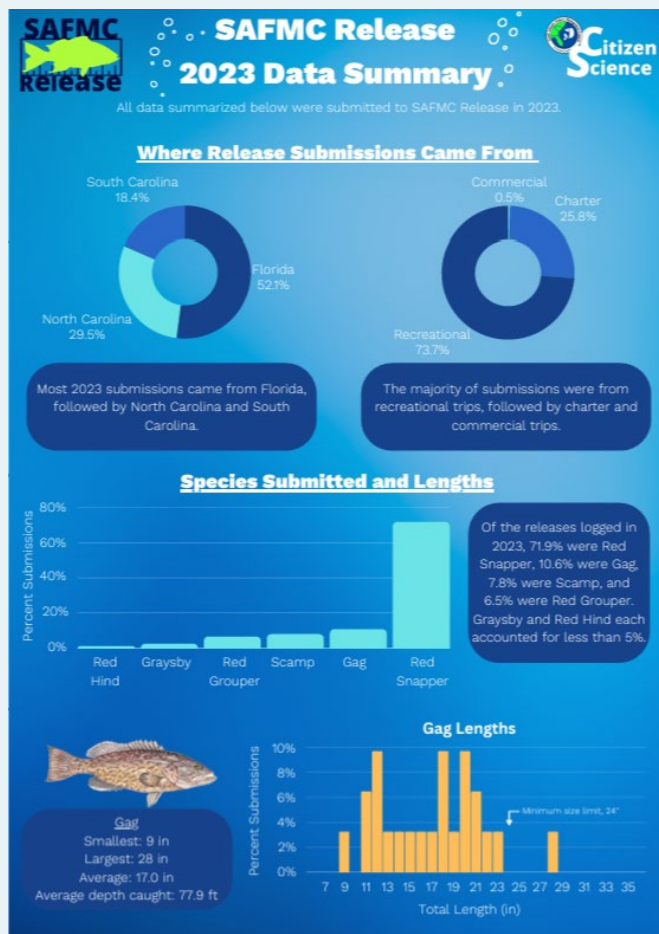
- GA Tackle Shop Outreach
- Pitman Creek Mailing
- Seminar with Capt. Mark Phelps at Haddrell's in Charleston, SC
- Seminar with Raleigh Saltwater Sportfishing Club
- BFP MVP workshops







# 2023 Data Summary



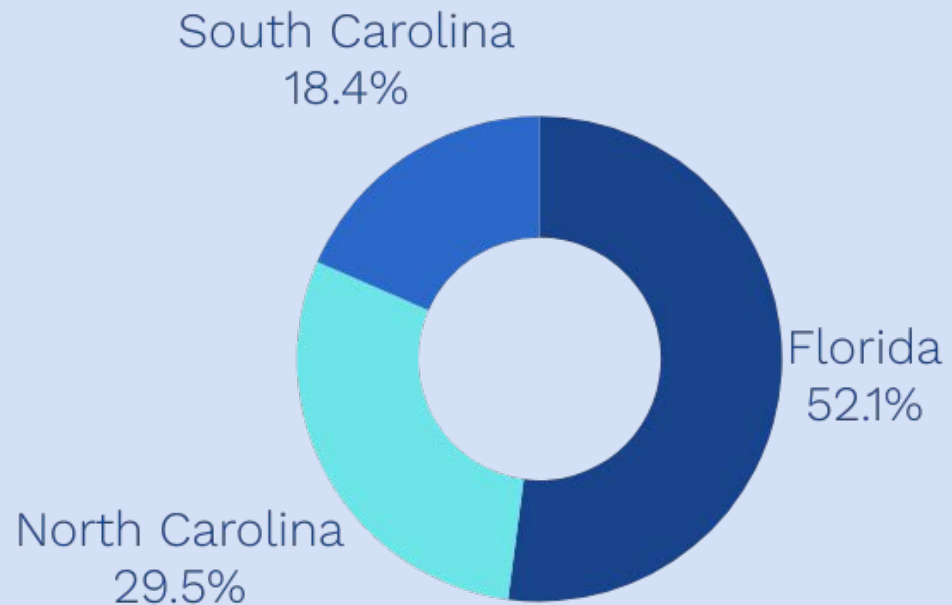
Summary includes:

- Release submissions by state & fishing sector
- Species submitted
- Length compositions
- Release treatment by depth
- Shark depredation
- Hook type & location
- 2023 Participant Recognition Milestones

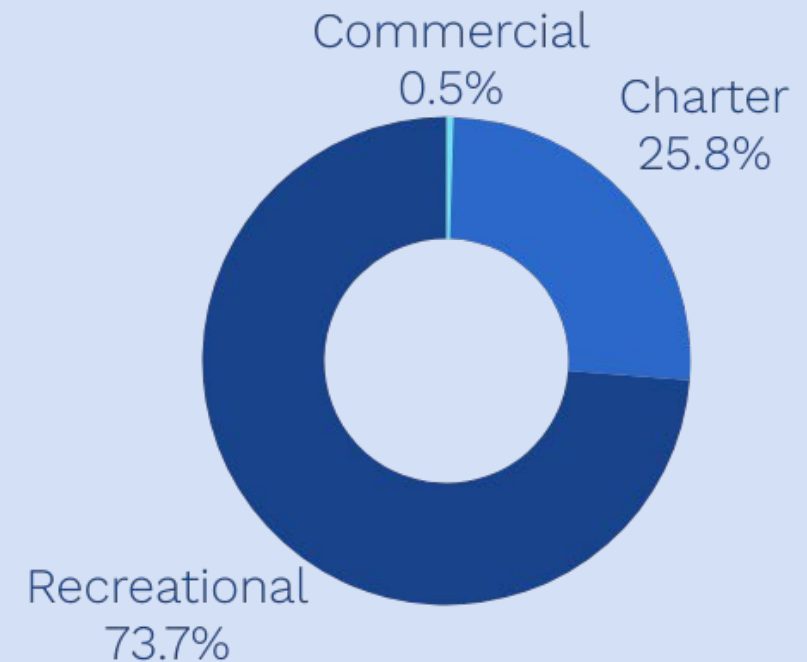


# 2023 Data Summary: Where Release Submissions Came From

By State

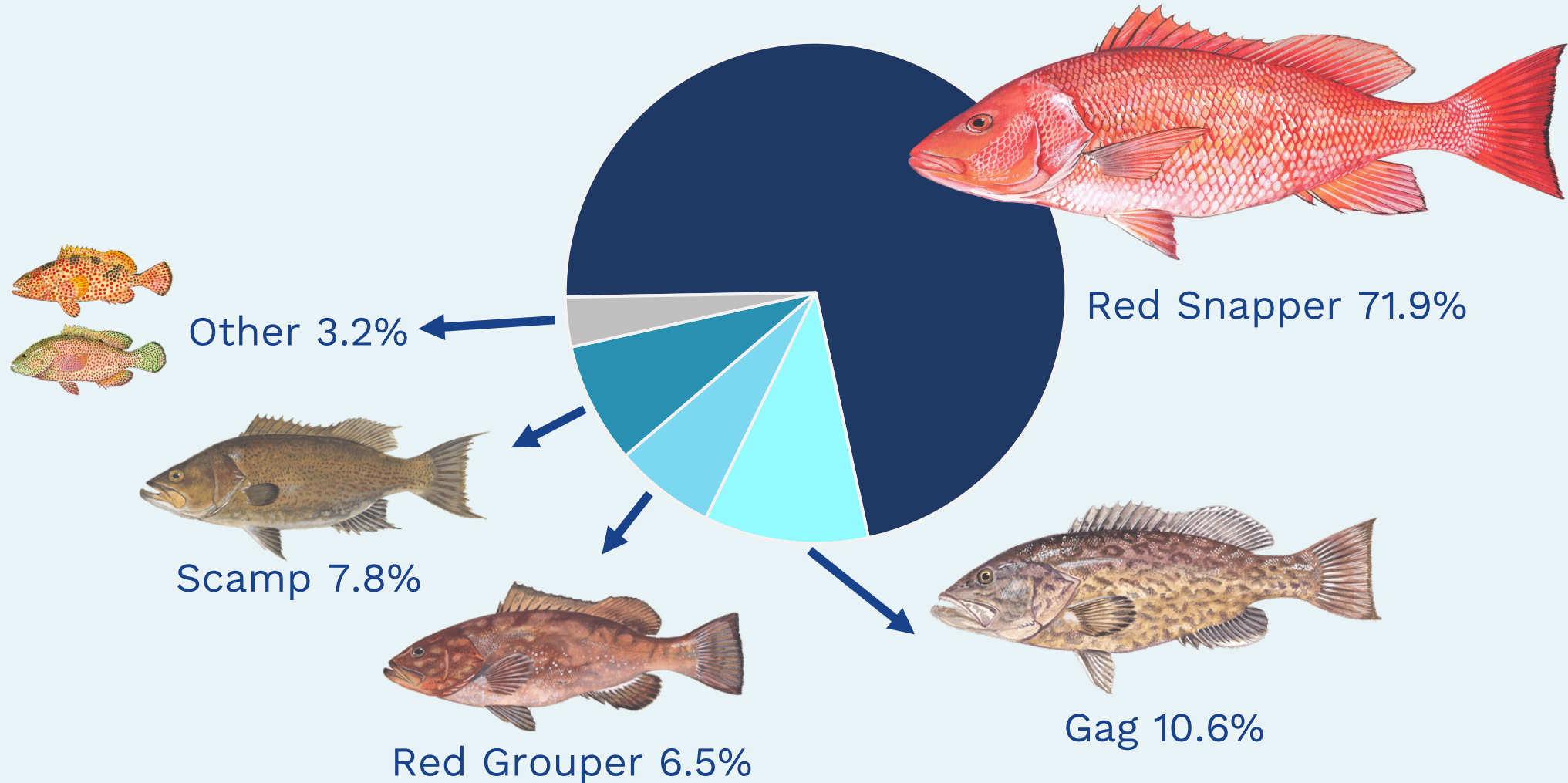


By Sector



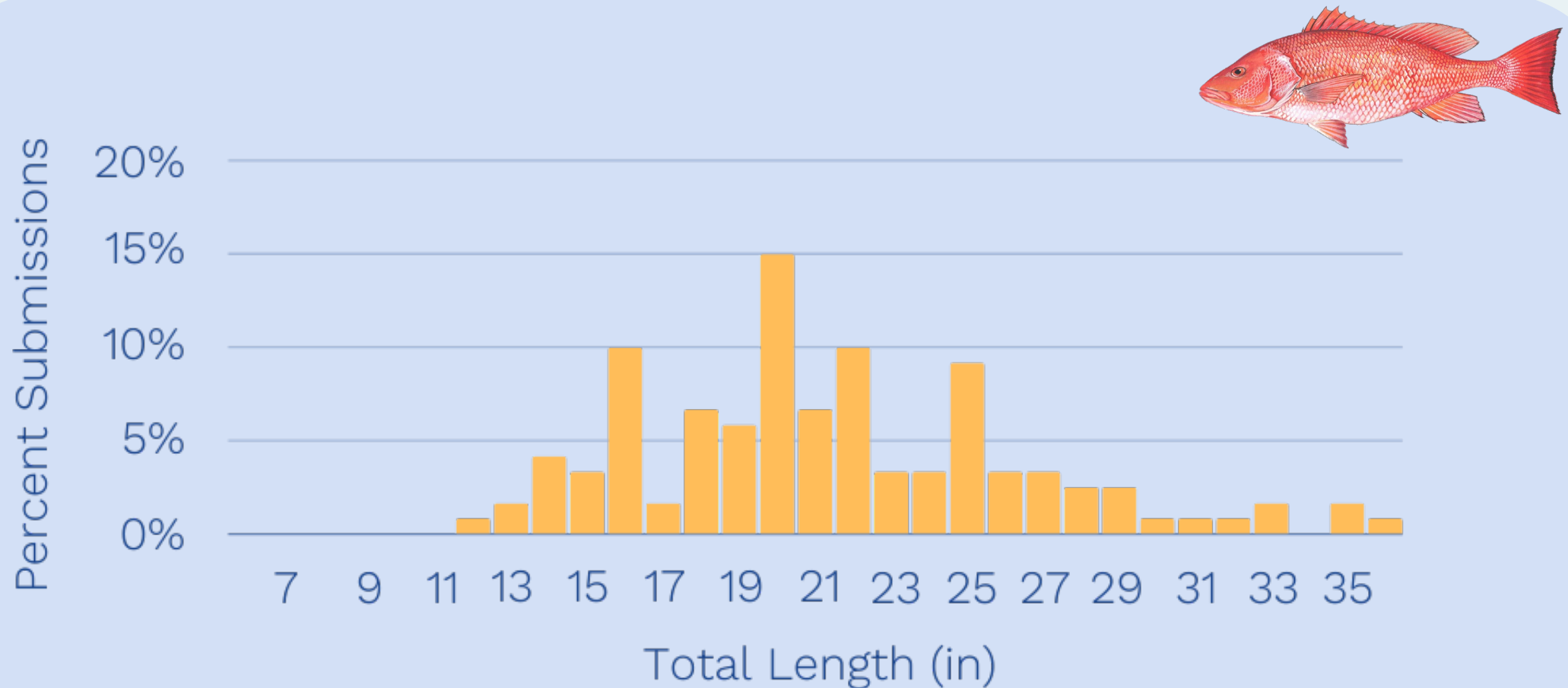


# 2023 Data Summary: Releases Logged by Species





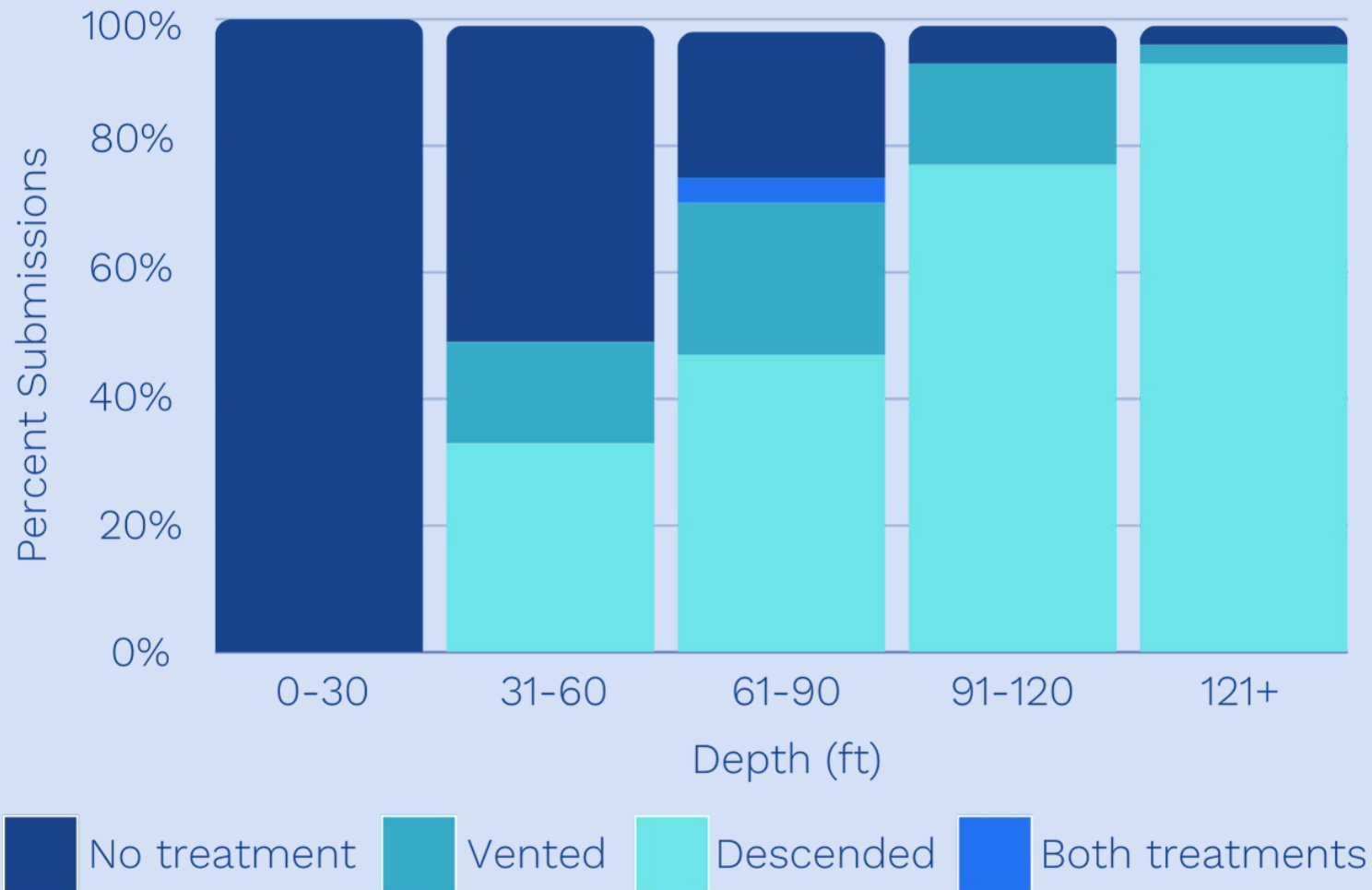
# 2023 Data Summary: Red Snapper Release Lengths







# 2023 Data Summary: Release Treatment by Depth





# Participant Recognition Program (PRP): 2023 Milestone Highlights

Smallest: 10 in  
Chris Kimrey

Largest: 19 in  
Chris Kimrey, Justin  
Carnes



Smallest: 9 in  
Chris Kimrey

Largest: 28 in  
Justin Carnes



Smallest: 12 in  
Darrin Willingham

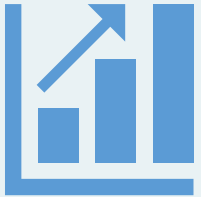
Largest: 36 in  
Tony Constant



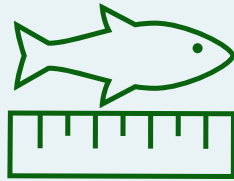


# PRP 2024 Milestones

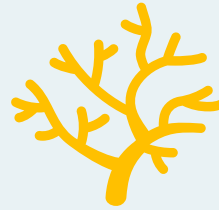
- 2023 PRP milestones were a success!
- 2024 Milestones include recognitions for:



Quantity of  
submissions



Smallest and  
largest of each  
species



Around the  
Reef: submitting  
all species in  
project



Sea Grant photo  
categories



# SciFish Platform

<https://www.accsp.org/what-we-do/scifish/>

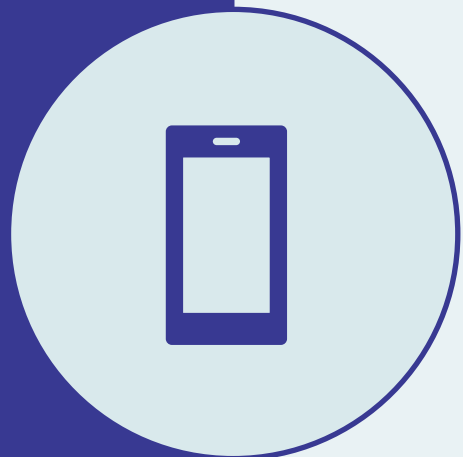




# SciFish Platform

Develop for ACCSP partners:

- ✓ citizen science mobile application and
- ✓ menu-driven project builder interface to
- ✓ easily create a customizable application by selecting specific data fields
- ✓ without need to develop stand-alone applications for each new project or data need





# SciFish Development Drivers



Reduce costs  
needed to develop  
individual  
applications



Reduce time to  
create  
applications  
from ground up



Increase  
consistency in  
data fields and  
structure



# SciFish Administration & Oversight



Administration  
through ACCSP

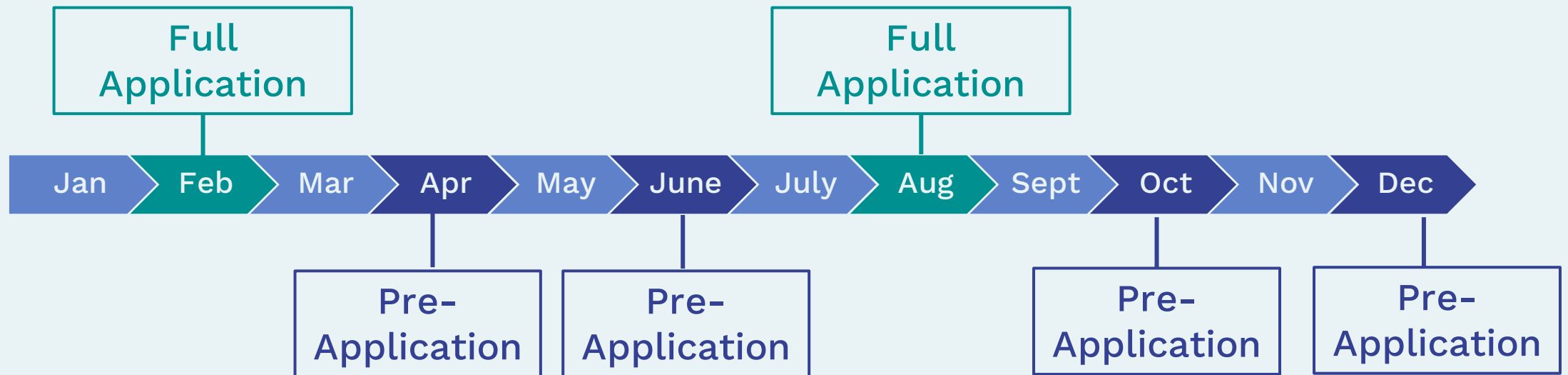


Primary oversight by:  
SciFish Advisory Panel  
(SAP)



# SciFish Project Development

## *Multi-step Application Process\**

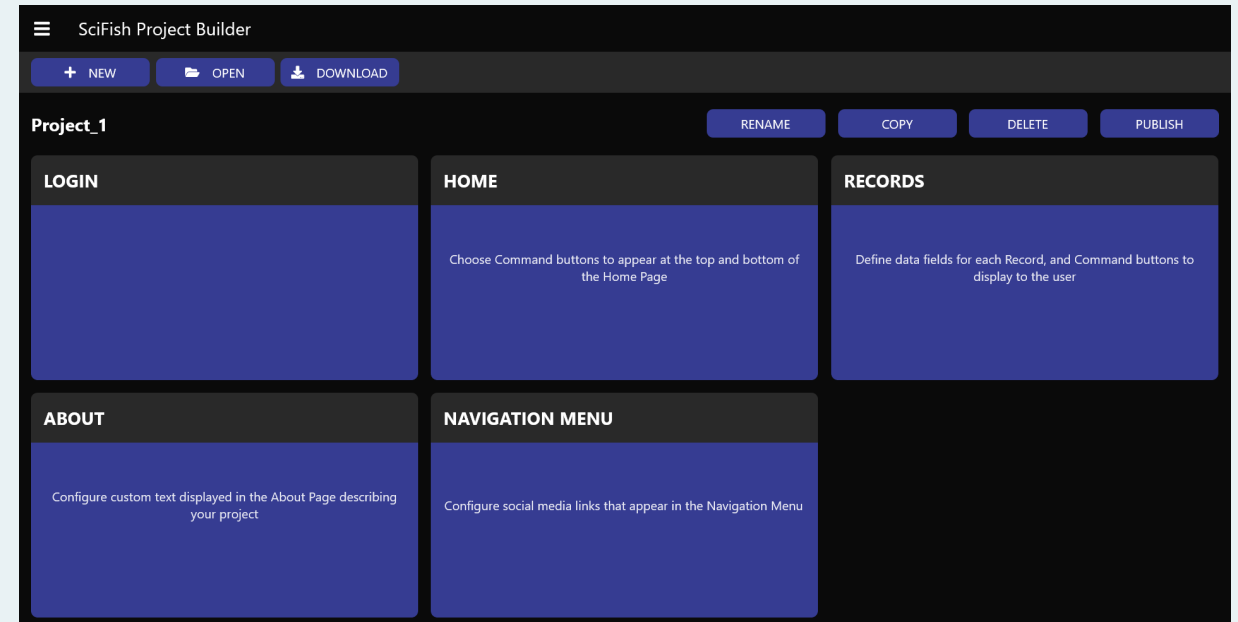


\*Projects must have ACCSP partner as PI or be sponsored by an ACCSP partner

# SciFish Platform Development



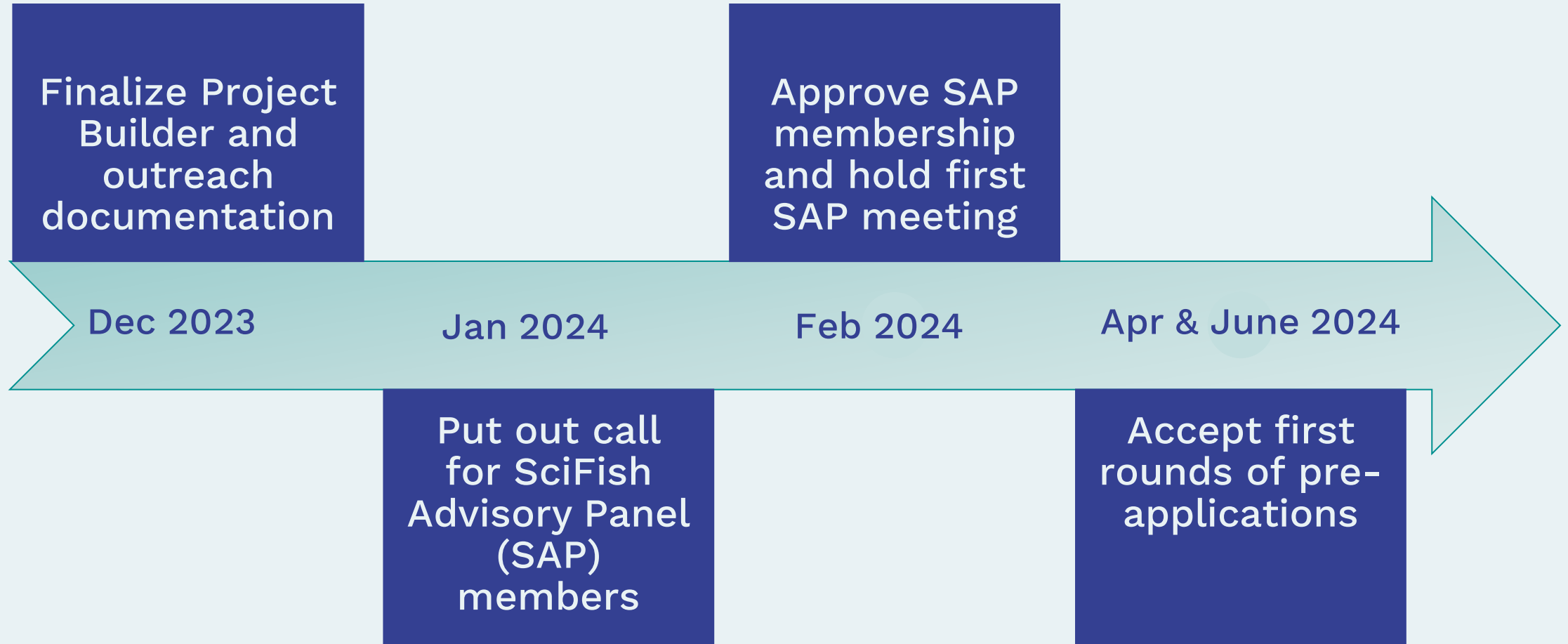
## SciFish Project Builder



[ACCSP SciFish Builder.mp4](#)



# SciFish: Proposed Rollout







# FISHstory







# Gathering New Photos

- Goal: Collect historic fishing photos from across the South Atlantic region from the 1940s – 1980s for the FISHstory project



In 2023, 6 scanning events were held via Council related meetings



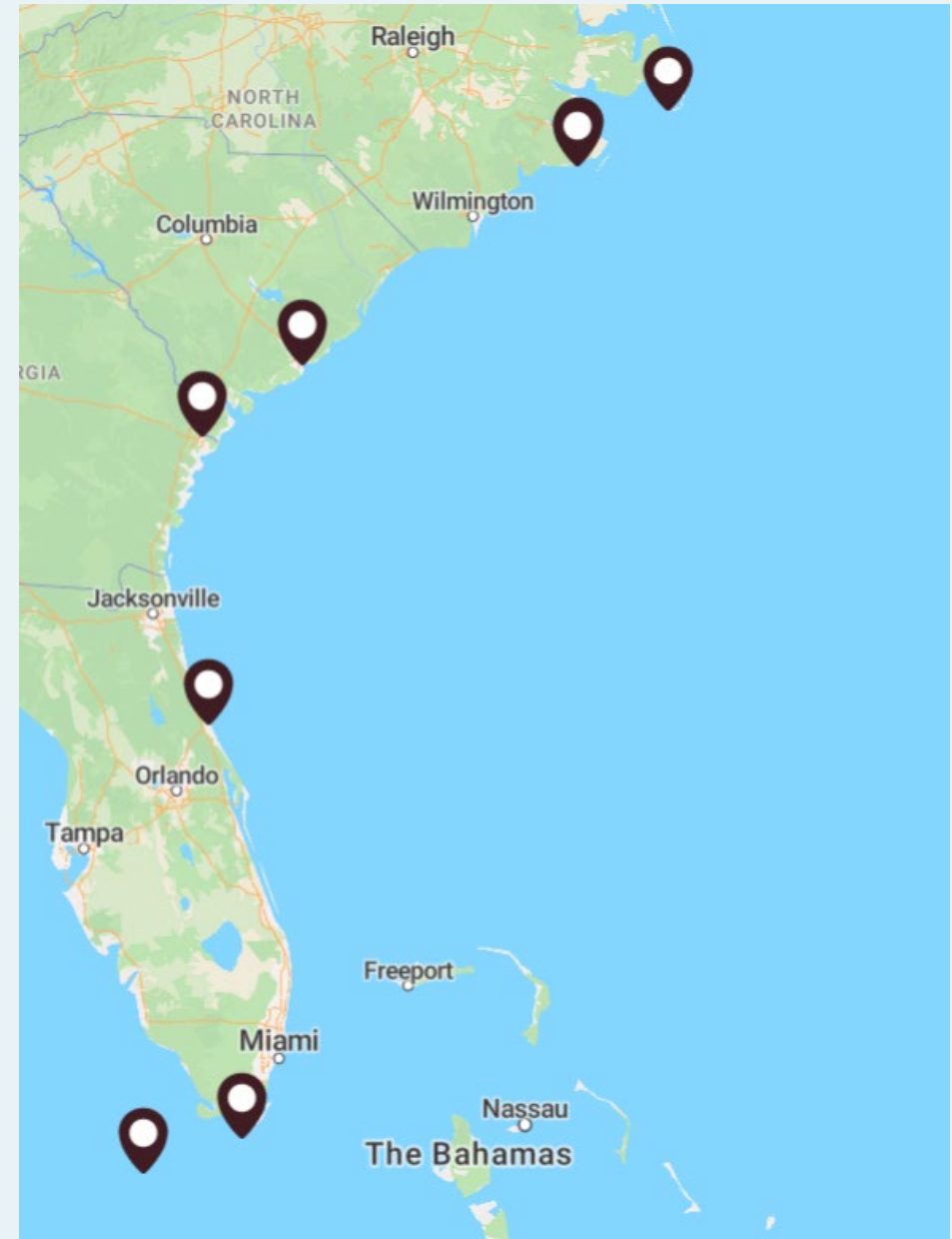
AP & Council members helped connect us to others in their communities



Members of the public reached out after seeing information via Council communication channels



# FISHstory Photo Locations







Thanks to Council & AP members, partners, libraries, restaurants, & members of the public,

> **600** new photos were digitized and archived in 2023!

But we still need more!

PC: Paul Nelson



PC: Bill Wickers & Richard Gomez



PC: The Sanitary Restaurant & Jeff Garner



PC: Bobby Freeman



Nancy and Lucy Taylor with their grandfather, Captain David Strickland



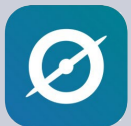
# FISHstory: Photos for Analyses

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Photo Description	Good	Better
Photo Type	Picture taken at the end of a trip displaying harvested catch with anglers	Fish hanging on leaderboard
Photo Date	Year	Month & Day
Photo Location	State	City & Dock
Photo Background	Photo provider name & contact	Vessel name & captain name



# For-hire Catch Composition in Zooniverse



Train volunteers to identify and count fish and people in photos



Refining project in Zooniverse based on pilot findings



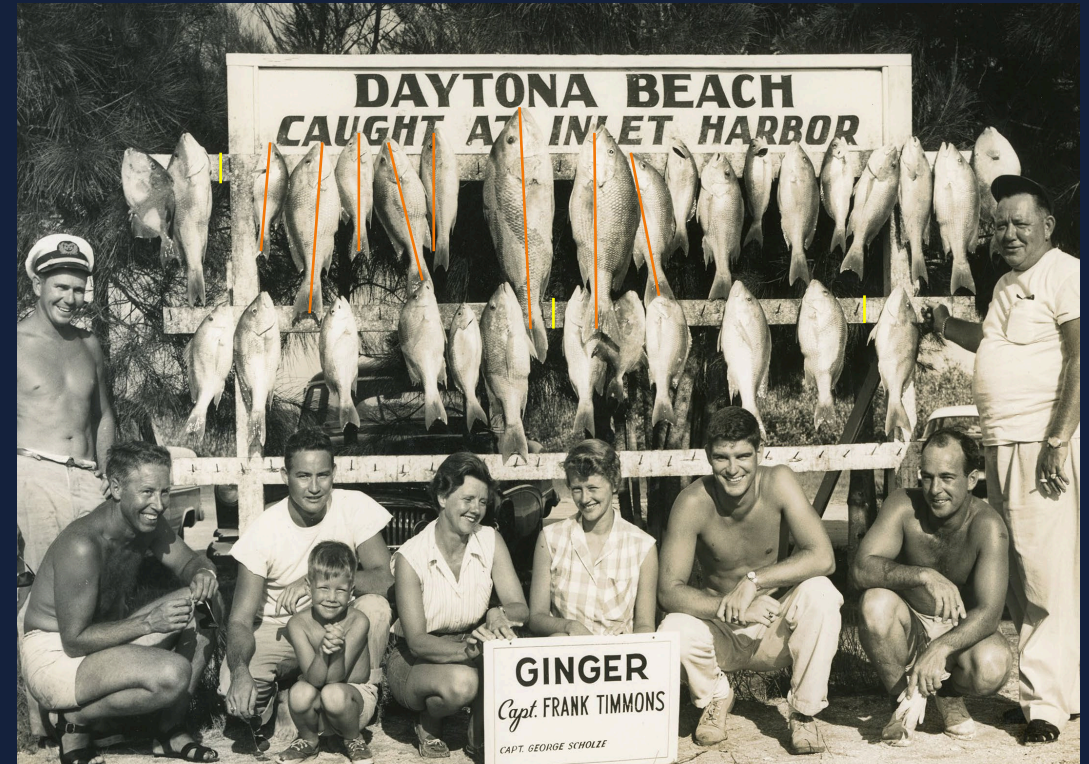
Know your South Atlantic fish? Join our Validation Team!



Target to re-launch in Zooniverse late Spring 2024



# Estimating Fish Lengths





Keep up with projects & the Program!  
[safmc.net/citizen-science-program/](https://safmc.net/citizen-science-program/)



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