



Citizen Science

Citizen Science Program Update

CitSci Operations AP
October 16, 2025

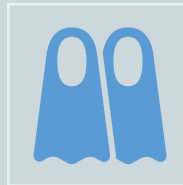
Program Activities



SAFMC Release



FISHstory



SMILE



SAFMC Release



Updates



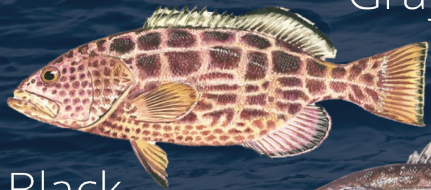
Red Snapper



Scamp



Graysby



Black



Yellowmouth



Gag



Rock Hind



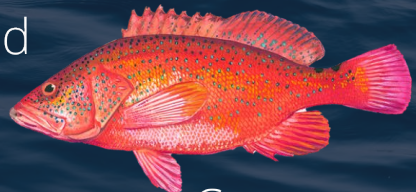
Yellowfin



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

New training and outreach content

Sea Grant South Atlantic Release Rodeo

SAFMC
Release at
SEDARs

Length data recommended for use by
SEDAR 90 Data Workshop Panel
Will be presented at the upcoming SEDAR
South Atlantic Gag assessment

New Training & Outreach Content



Content Creation Trips



Sea Grant / Z-man Media Trip



Completing an entry – from login to upload

New SAFMC Release Demo Video



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



PC: Rusty Hudson



PC: Chuck Griffin



FISHstory



Project Findings To Date



Over 2,300 photos have been digitized & archived from the South Atlantic from the 1940s-1980s



Over 4,000 volunteers analyzed 1,950 photos
Validation Team reviewed 230 photos
Data can show trend for key species



All King Mackerel & Red Snapper measured in the current photo archive

Red Snapper length compositions were produced & 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



Volunteer classification in Zooniverse completed for currently archived photos



LEVEL 1: Count Fish and People

Retirement limit: 20

Images retired: 580 / 580

ETC* 0 days

100% Complete

LEVEL 2: Classify King Mackerel, Grouper & Sailfish

Retirement limit: 20

Images retired: 1,054 / 1,054

ETC* 0 days

100% Complete

LEVEL 3: Classify Red Snapper, Amberjack & Sharks

Retirement limit: 20

Images retired: 1,054 / 1,054

ETC* 0 days

100% Complete

LEVEL 4: Classify Dolphinfish, Cobia, Gray Triggerfish & Little Tunny

Retirement limit: 20

Images retired: 1,054 / 1,054

ETC* 0 days

100% Complete



FISHstory Validation Team



5 training sessions
23 members



Team members actively
validating photos

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!

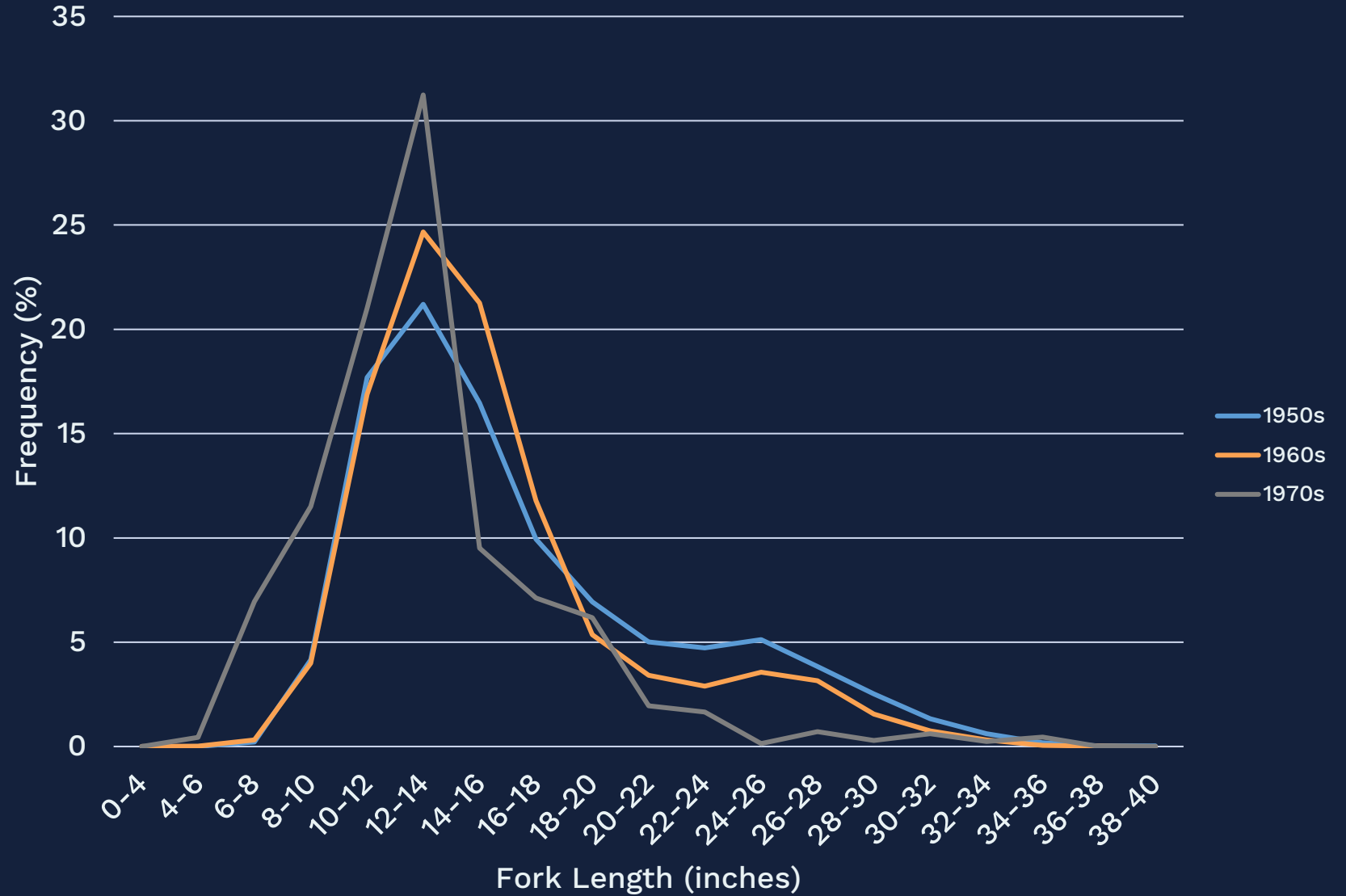
Special shoutout to
Reel Classifiers: Julie Vecchio, Kevin Spanik, Dave Moss, and Erin Burge
Species Sleuths: Jimmy Hull, Richie Gomez, Alex Rocco, and George Sedberry
who have been validating like crazy over the past week!

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

Weekly updates when
team is active



Red Snapper
FISHstory
length
compositions
by decade





SMILE Project

- Partner with divers to collect length info on data limited species
- Laser-mounted Olympus underwater cameras
- Data processing & analysis underway
- Survey conducted to better understand demographics, motivations, and barriers of recreational divers
- Presented methodology to SSC at April 2025 meeting
- SMILE presentation – SAFMC Oct Seminar Series





Keep up with projects & the Program!
safmc.net/citizen-science-program/



Julia Byrd
CitSci Program Manager
julia.byrd@safmc.net

Meg Withers
CitSci Project Coordinator
meg.withers@safmc.net