



SAFMC Citizen Science Program Citizen Science Research Priorities

Age Sampling[^]:

- a. Target volunteers: Recreational
- b. Data needed: otolith collection
- c. Target species: Cobia, Greater Amberjack, Scamp, Snowy Grouper, Gag, Knobbed Porgy, Porgy complex, Almaco Jack, Dolphin, Wahoo, Lane Snapper, Hogfish (GA-NC stock), Red Grouper, Vermilion Snapper, Blueline tilefish
- d. Anticipated outcome: characterize the age of catches
- e. Potential cost: \$\$

Maturity Data[^]:

- a. Target volunteers: Recreational and commercial; tournaments
- b. Data needed: gonad collection (either actual biological samples or pictures)
- c. Target species: Cobia, Red Porgy, Snowy Grouper, Spiny Lobster, Gag, Red Grouper, Black Grouper, Scamp, Black Seabass, Greater Amberjack, Wahoo, Mutton Snapper
- d. Anticipated outcome: improved reproductive information
- e. Potential cost: \$\$

Discard Information:

- a. Target volunteers: Recreational and commercial
- b. Data needed: length of fish; depth caught/released; number of fish; reason for discard; devices used
- c. Target species: all SAFMC managed species in particular, Scamp, Red Snapper, deepwater groupers, Red Porgy, Greater Amberjack, Cobia, King Mackerel (sub-legal releases), and Gray Triggerfish
- d. Anticipated outcome: improved discard removals estimates, ability to characterize size composition of discards
- e. Potential cost: \$-\$\$\$

Genetic Sampling[^]:

- a. Target volunteers: Recreational and commercial; bait and tackle shops; tournaments
- b. Data needed: fin clips
- c. Target species: Cobia, Hogfish (both stocks), Red Grouper, White Grunt, Spanish Mackerel, Dolphin
- d. Anticipated outcome: stock identification
- e. Potential cost: \$-\$\$\$

Fishing Infrastructure:

- a. Target volunteers: Recreational, commercial, and community members/citizens
- b. Data needed: GPS location of existing and previously existing/closed fishing-related infrastructure (commercial fishing facilities, marinas, bait/tackle shops, ice house, fuel docks, boat ramps, piers, roadside seafood stands, retail markets, etc.)

[^]Projects under these priorities would likely require a high level of involvement or collaboration between multiple organizations.

- c. Anticipated outcome: Baseline for fishing-related infrastructure to help document potential impacts from regulations
- d. Potential cost: \$

Historical Fishing Photos:

- a. Target volunteers: Recreational and for-hire
- b. Data needed: digitized images (will need to scan print photos into digital format)
- c. Target species: commonly caught charter/headboat species
- d. Anticipated outcome: length comps for certain species; improved historical information
- e. Potential cost: \$-\$\$

Fishery Oral Histories[^]:

- a. Target volunteers: For-hire and commercial captains
- b. Data needed: interviews with fishermen to learn about the history and current state of a fishery; possibly pair interviews with topic #6 (Historical Fishing Photos)
- c. Anticipated outcome: documentation of how fisheries operated over time (catchability changes over time with improvements in technology; markets; clients; species distribution; size of fish; weather; etc.) and other observational data
- d. Potential cost: \$

Oceanographic/Environmental/Weather Conditions:

- a. Target volunteers: Recreational and commercial
- b. Data needed: Bottom temperature; weather impacts to fishing; presence/absence of sargassum and size of area; movement of forage fish (bait) and shifts in patterns of a fishery (i.e., mackerel)
- c. Anticipated outcome: building database on climate and conditions; distribution of sargassum; how forage fish impacts patterns in a fishery
- d. Potential cost: \$-\$\$

Rare or Data Limited Species Observations:

- a. Target volunteers: Recreational and commercial
- b. Data needed: Point observations of data limited or unusual or rarely encountered species
- c. Anticipated outcome: baseline for species shift; increasing information available for data limited species
- d. Potential cost: \$-\$\$

Historic Personal Fishing Logbooks/Diaries:

- a. Target volunteers: For-hire and commercial
- b. Data needed: translate fishermen's historic logbooks into electronic data/database
- c. Anticipated outcome: develop relative indices of abundance
- d. Potential cost: \$-\$\$

Observations in Managed Areas[^]:

- a. Target volunteers: Recreational and commercial, divers
- b. Data needed: species, length, depth, videos/photos
- c. Target species: snapper and grouper

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- d. Anticipated outcome: species composition, changes in fish abundance over time
- e. Potential cost: \$\$

Movement and Migration:

- a. Target volunteers: Recreational and commercial, focus on supporting and working with existing tagging programs
- b. Data needed: species, location, length, tag details
- c. Target species: Dolphin and Wahoo
- d. Anticipated outcome: movement and migratory patterns
- e. Potential cost: \$-\$\$

Shark Predation:

- a. Target volunteers: Recreational and commercial
- b. Data needed: observations of shark depredation, location, species
- c. Anticipated outcome: document shark depredation observations
- d. Potential cost: \$-\$\$