



# Citizen Science

## Citizen Science Program Update

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CitSci Projects AP  
October 6, 2025

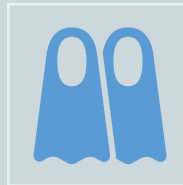
# Program Activities



SAFMC Release



FISHstory



SMILE



# SAFMC Release



# Updates



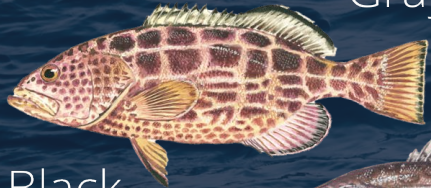
Red Snapper



Scamp



Graysby



Black



Yellowmouth



Gag



Rock Hind



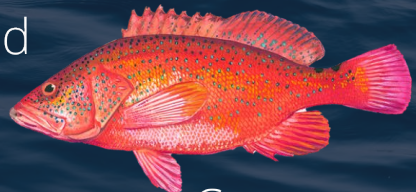
Yellowfin



Red Hind



Red



Coney

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

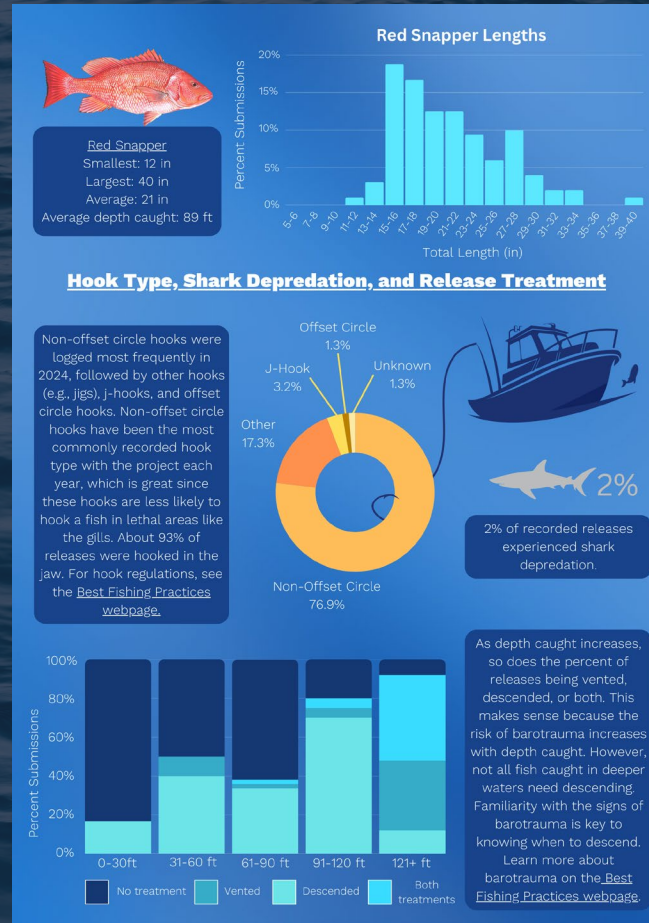
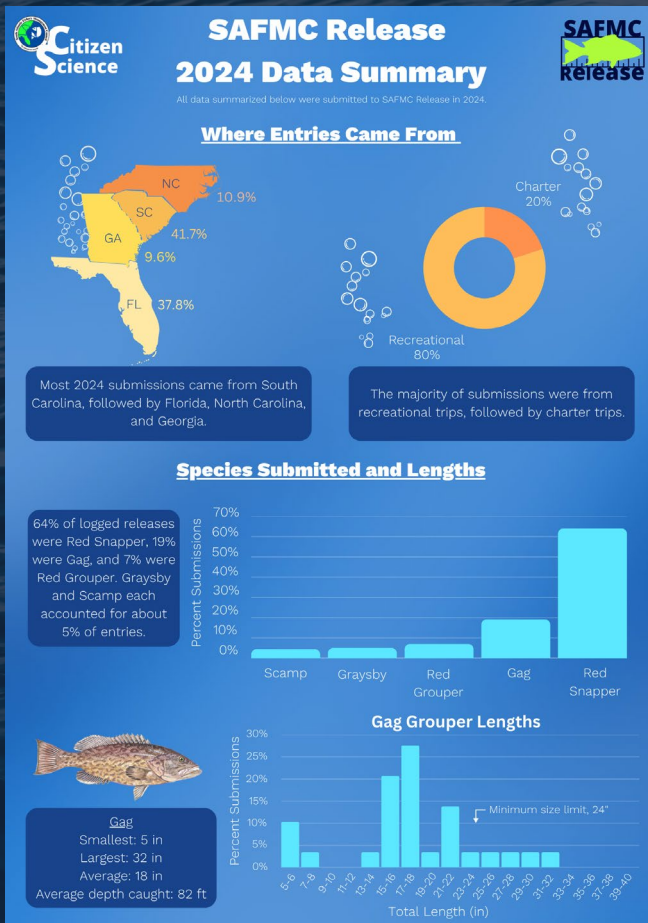
Continued outreach, including collaboration with Best Fishing Practices initiative

2024 Annual Data Summary & SEDAR 90 Data Workshop Update

Sea Grant South Atlantic Release Rodeo



# 2024 Data Summary

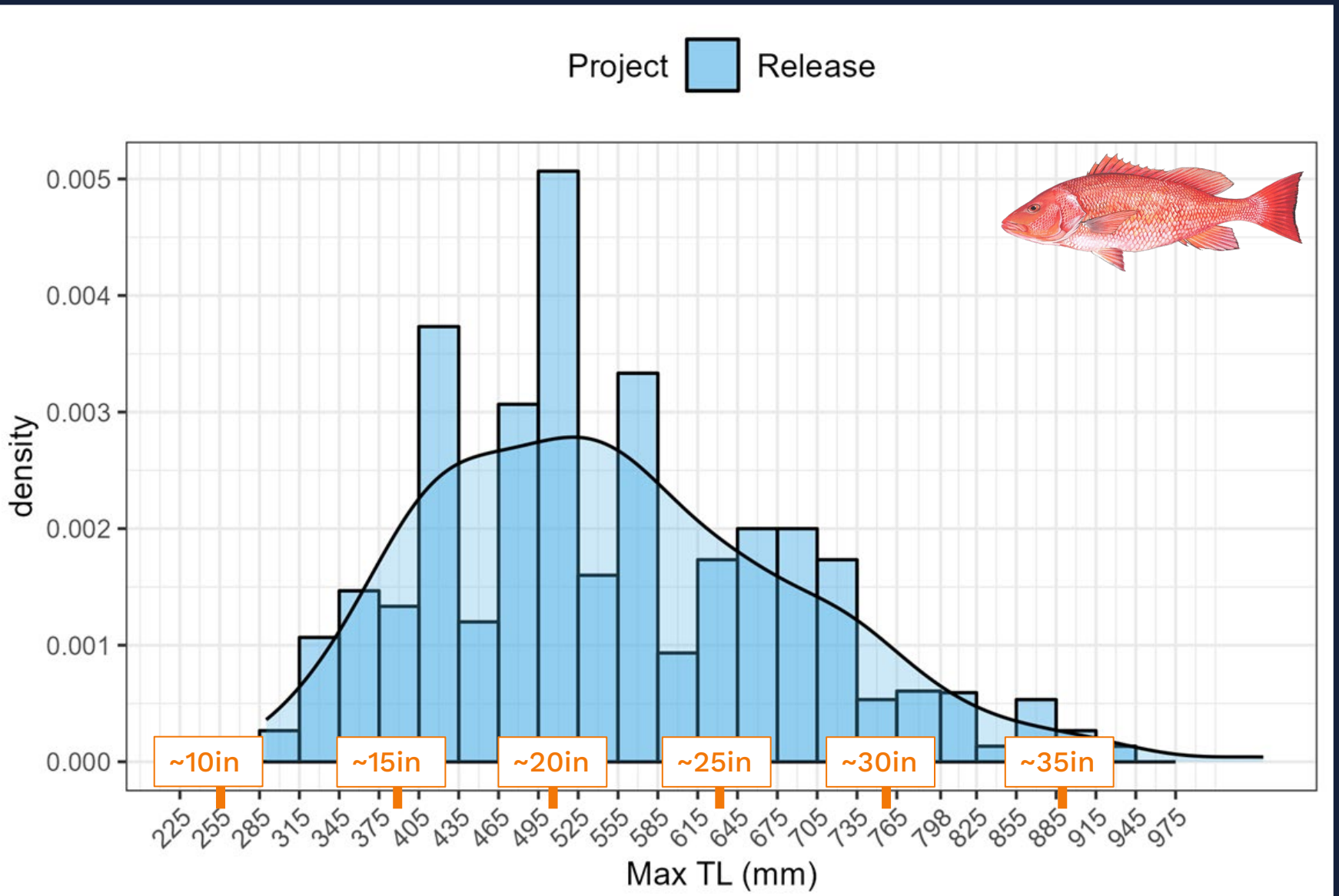


## Summary includes:

- Release submissions by state & fishing sector
- Species submitted
- Length compositions
- Release treatment by depth
- Shark depredation
- Hook type & location
- 2024 Participant Recognition Milestones

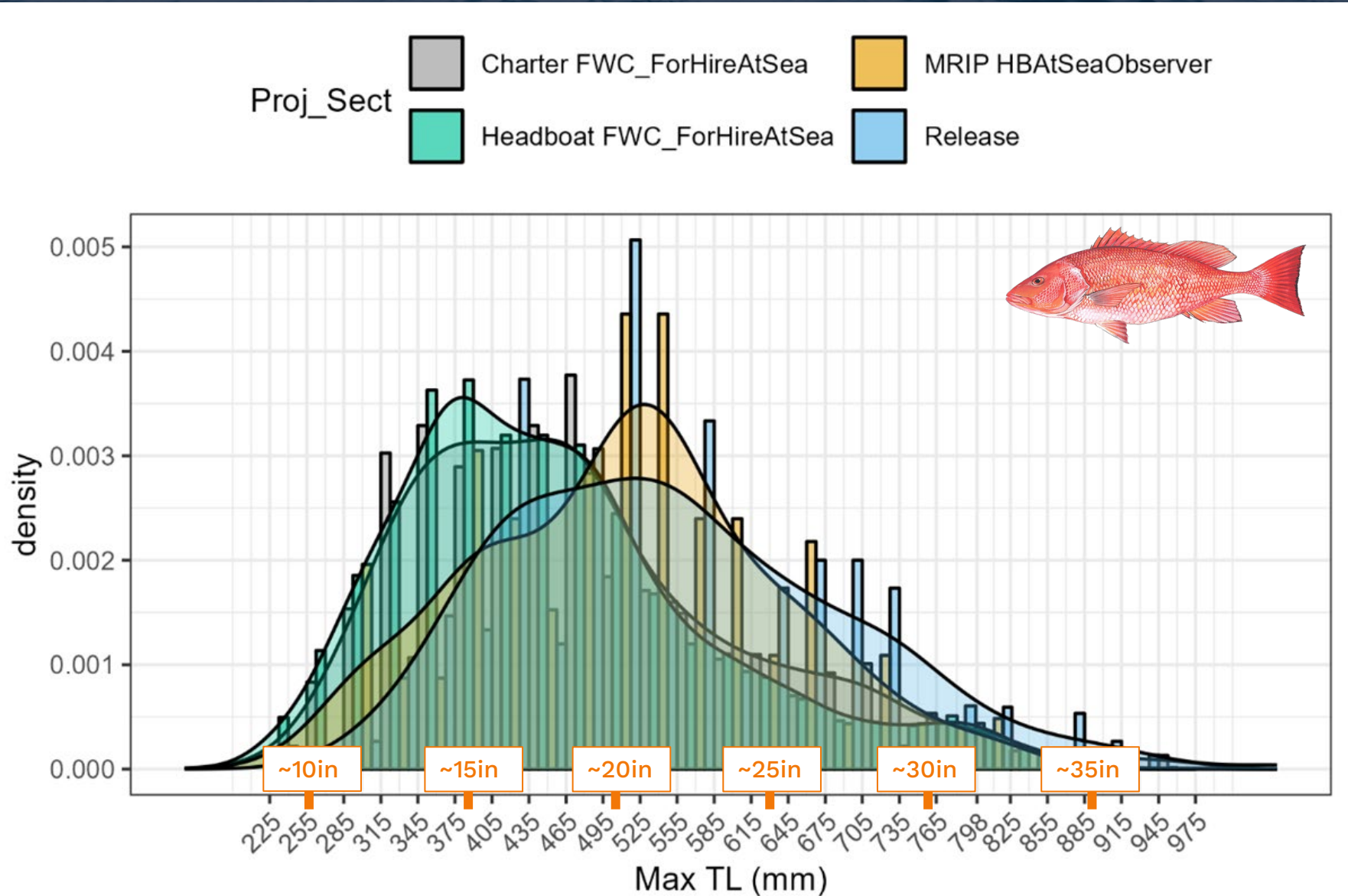


# SEDAR90-DW17: Red Snapper Release Length Composition, 2022-2024





# SEDAR90-DW17: Red Snapper Release Length Composition Comparisons, 2022-2024





# 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

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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 have been measured in the photo archive  
Red Snapper length compositions were produced  
King Mackerel length compositions are being updated



# 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



# Validation Team Currently Reviewing Photos



DAYTONA BEACH  
CAUGHT AT INLET HARBOR

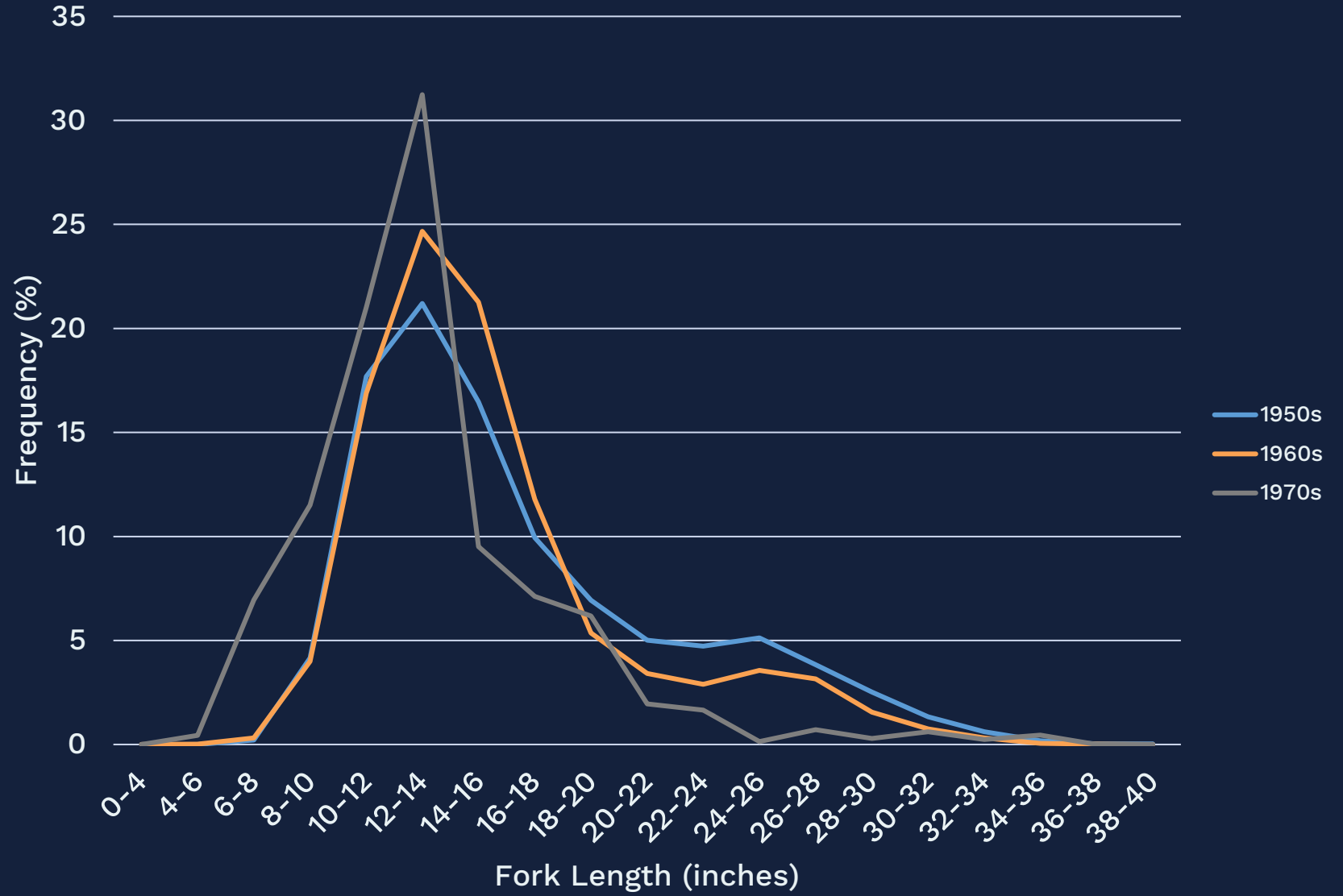


SNOW WHITE II  
CAPT. BOB STONE



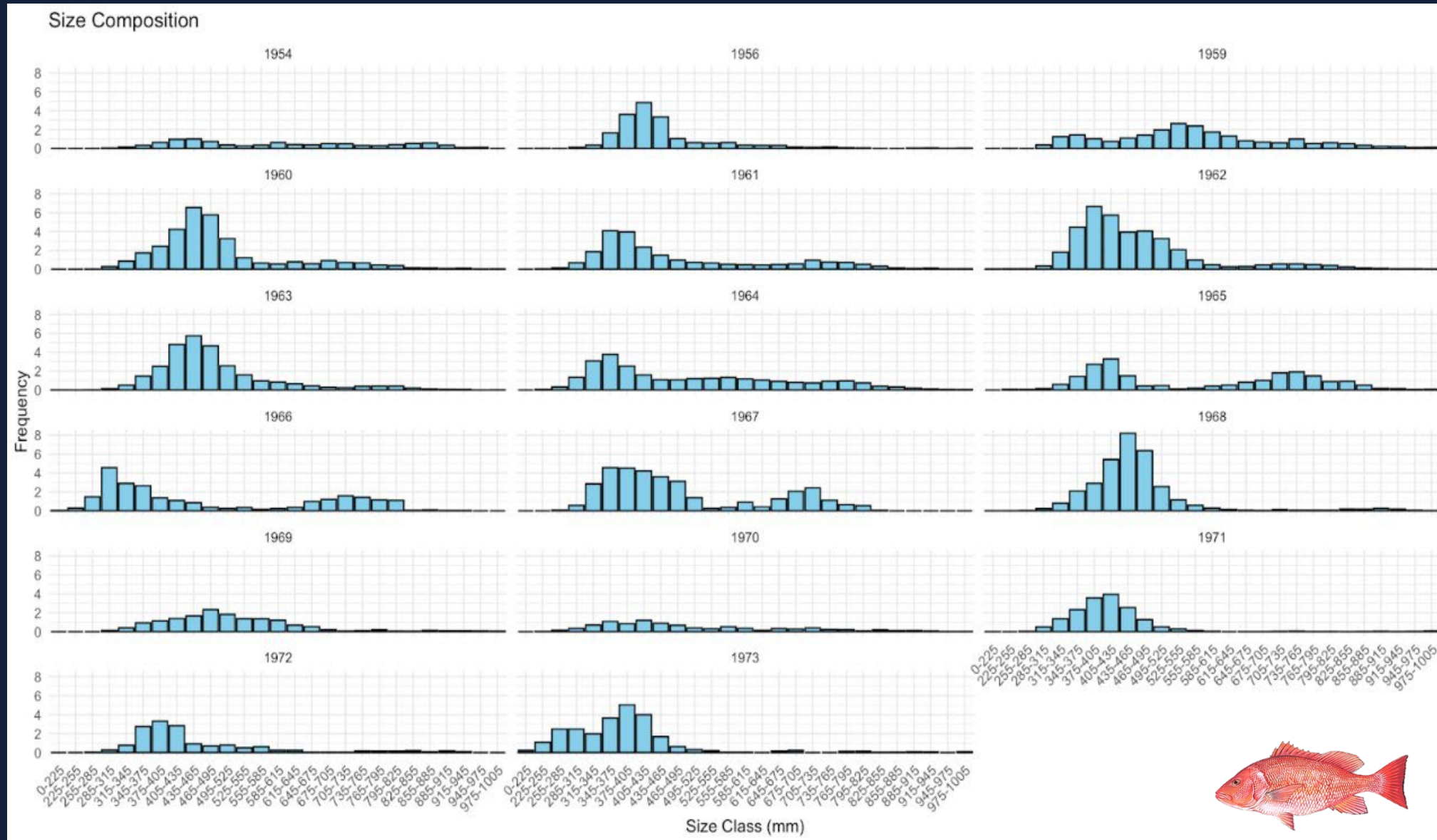


Red Snapper  
FISHstory  
length  
compositions  
by decade





# SEDAR90-DW16: Red Snapper Annual Length Compositions







# 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/](https://safmc.net/citizen-science-program/)



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