



# Citizen Science

## Citizen Science Program Update

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SAFMC Meeting  
December 2023

# Program Activities



Seminars, Conferences & Symposia



CitSci Project Idea Portal



CitSci Initial Evaluation



SMILE Project



SAFMC Release



FISHstory



# **Citizen Science Project Idea Portal**

- Goal: Develop online form to gather citizen science project ideas from stakeholders
- How will the information be used?
  - Ideas reviewed by Program in May and Oct
  - Compile & consider when citizen science research priorities updated
  - Help connect fishermen and scientists with similar research interests

# Initial Program Evaluation Plan

- Gather baseline data on knowledge, attitudes, collaborations, engagement, and trust levels of various stakeholders in three stages:



Interviews



Complete: 6 fishermen, 6 scientists, 6 managers



Gather information from broader group



Online survey – scientists & managers  
More interviews – fishermen



Implement & analyze results





# SMILE Pilot Project

- Partnering with recreational divers to collect length information on data limited species
- Laser mounted Olympus underwater camera
- Field tested in FL Keys – Aug/Sept 2023





# OREGON INLET FISHING CENTER



**Citizen  
Science**

# Next Steps

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- Move from pilot to full scale project



Funding to  
grow  
project



Expand  
geographic &  
temporal  
range of  
photos



Improve  
efficiency of  
processes



Estimate  
length  
compositions  
for more  
species



# FISHstory Scanning Events

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- Goal: Collect historic fishing photos from across the South Atlantic region from the 1940s – 1980s for the FISHstory project
- Host in collaboration with upcoming Council & Advisory Panel meetings
  - ✓ September Council meeting
  - ✓ Outreach & Communication AP meeting
  - ✓ Fall Snapper Grouper AP meeting
  - ✓ Dolphin Wahoo AP meeting
  - ✓ Mackerel Cobia AP meeting
  - December Council meeting





# 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

# Exploring other avenues to gather historic photos



HISTORICAL SOCIETIES  
AND ORGANIZATIONS



LIBRARIES



RESTAURANTS

# FISHstory: FY 23 Timeline

[illegible]





# SAFMC Release



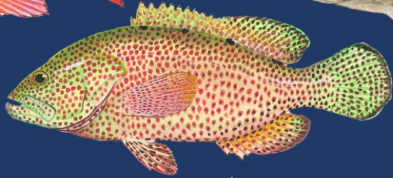
# Updates



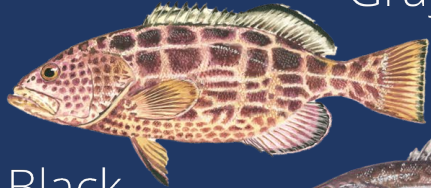
Red  
Snapper



Scamp



Graysby



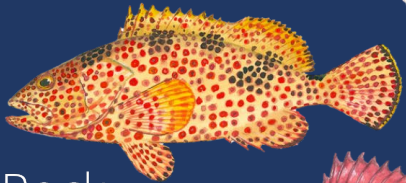
Black



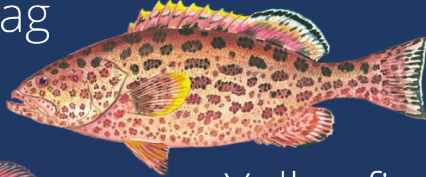
Yellow-  
mouth



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

Annual Data Summary

# Outreach



## Partnerships

- FWC email
- BFP (e.g., Pitman Creek mailings)
- Articles



## Social media

- Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn



## Tackle shop visits

- Each state at least 2x



## Seminars & Events

- Haddrell's Fishing Expo
- SCDNR Open House & NCDMF Jamboree
- JOSFC, Sea Coast Anglers
- George Povoromo Seminar Series



# Communication with Participants



Newsletters



Thank you emails



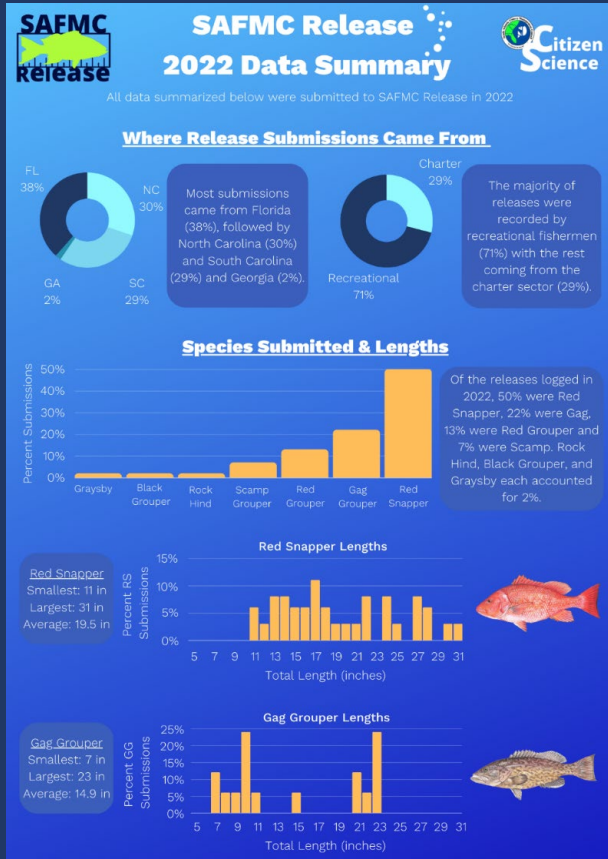
Participant  
Recognition Program



Data summary



# 2022 Data Summary



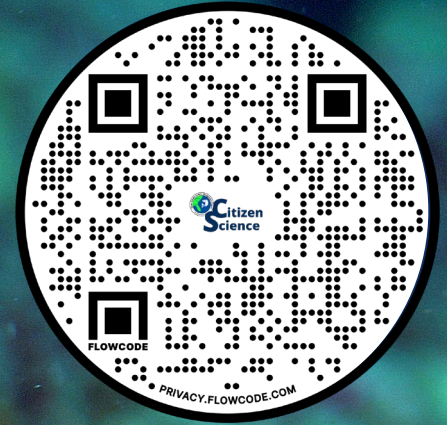
Summary includes:

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



# Keep Up with Projects & the Program!

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



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