



South Atlantic Fishery Management Council **Citizen Science Program Update**

SAFMC Meeting

March 2021



Activities 2021

Cit Sci SOPPS updated with new vision, mission, goals, and objectives

Program Evaluation

- *Initial work has begun with Rick Bonney on Phase 1 of the evaluation proposal*

CitSci Virtual Conference – May 2021

- *Poster submission on FISHstory*

Exploring AFS Special Issue submission with NOAA colleagues

- *Based on 2020 AFS citizen science symposium*
- *Contributions from several symposium authors*



Activities 2021



Citizen Science Program Outreach

- *#CitSciFri social media*
- *Bi-monthly updates to email distribution list*
- *Cit Sci Corner in SAFMC newsletter*
- *Planning social media campaign for April 2021 citizen science month*

NOAA releases Citizen Science Strategy

- <https://nrc.noaa.gov/NOAA-Science-Technology-Focus-Areas>



Projects & Collaborations Under Development



Rare Species Observations

Partners: UNC, NOAA Fisheries, SECOORA, University of Tasmania
Looking for funding opportunities



Diver Observations of Data Limited Species

Partners: REEF & SECOORA
Jan 2021: NFWF pre-proposal



Dolphin Wahoo Participatory Workshops

Partner: SEFSC
Discussing options for FL Keys



eMOLT

Industry, science, academic collaboration to collect environmental & oceanographic data
Interest in expanding to South Atlantic



Dolphin Movement & Migration

Partner: Dolphinfish Research Program
Exploring ways to collaborate to expand tagging efforts in the Atlantic



FISHstory

A pilot project to document historic for-hire catch and length estimates using historic photos





For-Hire Catch Composition

as of February 8, 2021

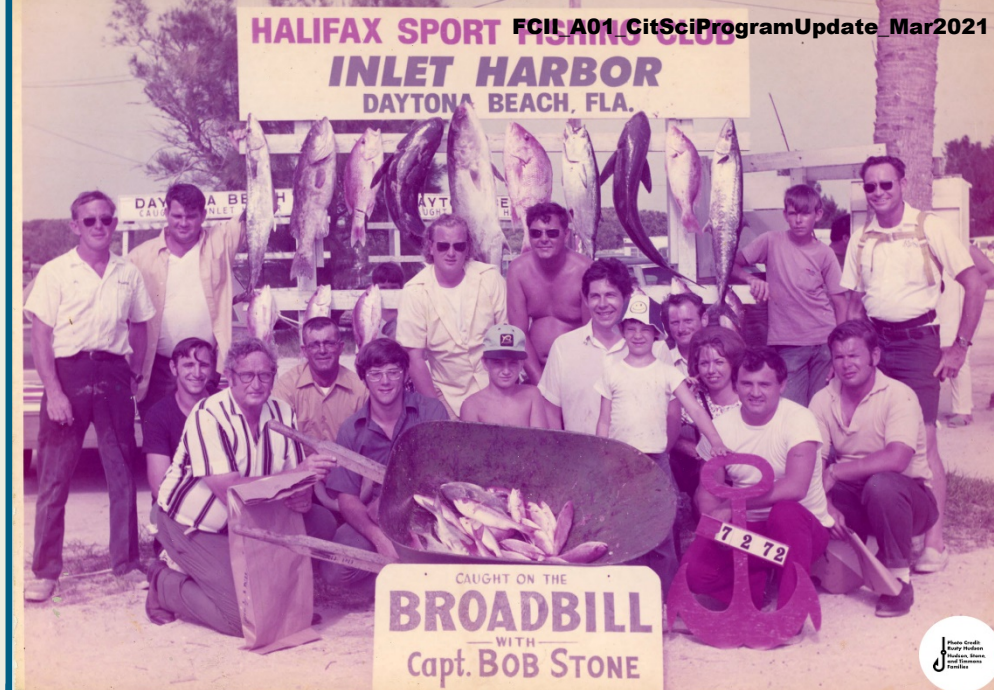
- **1,824** volunteers
- **30,925** classifications
- **1,374** individual photos uploaded
 - All **1,374** photos have been linked to the FISH & PEOPLE: Count workflow
 - **800** photos have been linked to the FISH: Classify workflow
- **2,042** photos have been retired
 - **1,374** from FISH & PEOPLE: Count workflow
 - **668** from FISH: Classify workflow





For-Hire Catch Composition

- **Validation Team**
 - Team meeting & training January 2021
 - Photo validation for 'live' data began January 2021
 - Shiny app developed summarizing validation data
- **'Live' Data Analysis**
 - Initial photos identified for Validation Team review
 - Shiny app developed summarizing 'live' data
 - Preliminary data analysis continues
 - Exploring possibility of data analysis partners





Length Analysis

- Production length measurements continue with 5 analysts
- King Mackerel measurements completed for 700 photos
- Exploring length analysis suggestions from SSC





Outreach & Promotion

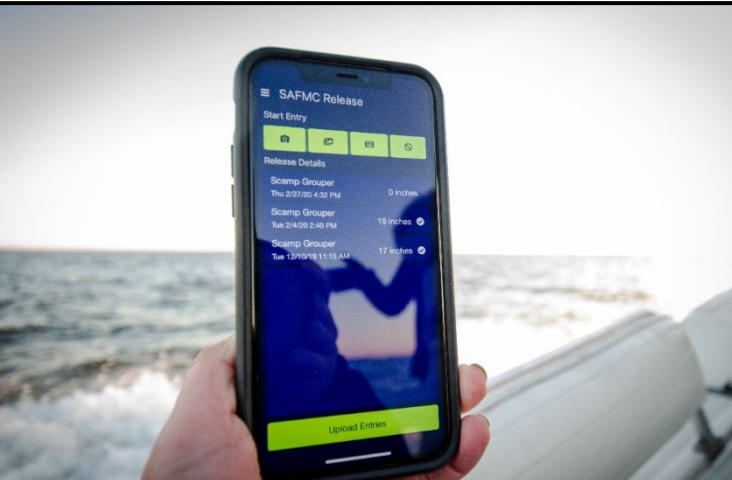
- FISHstory & SAFMC Outreach teams have continued contacting industry, communication & education contacts
- New FISHstory features:
 - [Seven Seas Media Article: Dec 2020 Issue](#)
- Developing questionnaire for volunteers to learn more about their motivations for participating

Next Steps

- Current grant funding will end mid-2021
- Looking for future funding opportunities



PC: Rusty Hudson

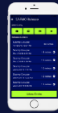


SAFMC

Catch 

Measure 

Record



Release

Release 



SAFMC Scamp Release

Continue work to recruit and retain commercial, for-hire, and recreational fishermen

Graduate student work continues

- Interviews with SAFMC Release participants complete
- Data analysis underway for SAFMC Release & MyFishCount data

FY20 ACCSP Project - underway

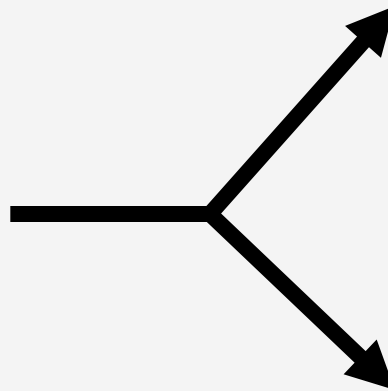
- Combine SAFMC Release & NCDMF's Catch U Later under new ACCSP citizen science app
- Expand SAFMC Release to all shallow water grouper
- Target launch: April 2021

New ACCSP Citizen Science App



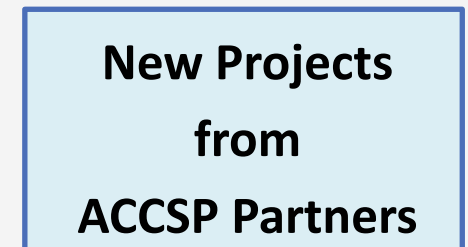
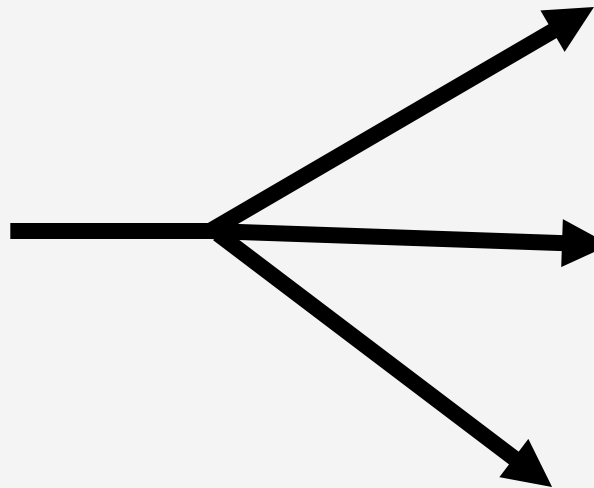
New ACCSP Citizen Science App

Target Launch: April 2021



New ACCSP Citizen Science App

Into the future...



Customizable Citizen Science App Scoping Meetings

To develop a mobile application that encourages & supports the capture and sharing of information about Atlantic coast fish



Online questionnaire

- To gather information from broad group of fishermen, scientists, and managers



Virtual town hall meetings

- March 9 at 5pm EST
- March 11 at 10am EST



Half day virtual workshops

- April 1 at 9am EST
- April 14 at 9am EST
- April 20 at 1pm EST

Promoting Gray's Reef Through Engaging GA Anglers

Developing online resource where fishermen can:

- Find out more about Gray's Reef
- Learn about best fishing practices
- Explore citizen science data collection opportunities

Target launch: April 2021

Partners

- The Nature Conservancy (lead), Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (funding), GA Sea Grant, GADNR, FishSmart, SAFMC

Lead Project Contact:

- **Bob Crimian, rcrimian@tnc.org**



PC: Gray's Reef



PC: SAFMC

Keep Up with Projects & the Program!

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