



# Citizen Science

## Citizen Science Program Update

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Mackerel Cobia AP  
November 2023

# Program Activities



CitSci Advisory Groups



CitSci Project Idea Portal



CitSci Evaluation & SMILE Project Updates



SAFMC Release Update & Annual Data Summary



FISHstory: Gathering New Photos

# Citizen Science Advisory Panels

- Participants members of the [CitSci Pool](#) and/or be a member of another Council AP



## Operations Committee

Programmatic guidance

3-5 year terms

Meet 2 times per year

Appointments will be made in  
Dec 2023



## Projects Advisory Committee

Research priorities, volunteer  
engagement, etc.

Members of other Council APs

Term dependent on AP tenure

Meet 1 time per year



## Ad-hoc Committees

Typically serve as review for  
program components

Currently no active ad-hoc  
committees

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## Current MC AP representation

Steve Donalson  
Thomas Newman



# **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:



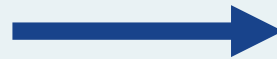
Interviews



Complete: 6 fishermen, 6 scientists, 6 managers



Gather information from broader group



Online survey – scientists & managers  
More interviews – fishermen



Implement & analyze results

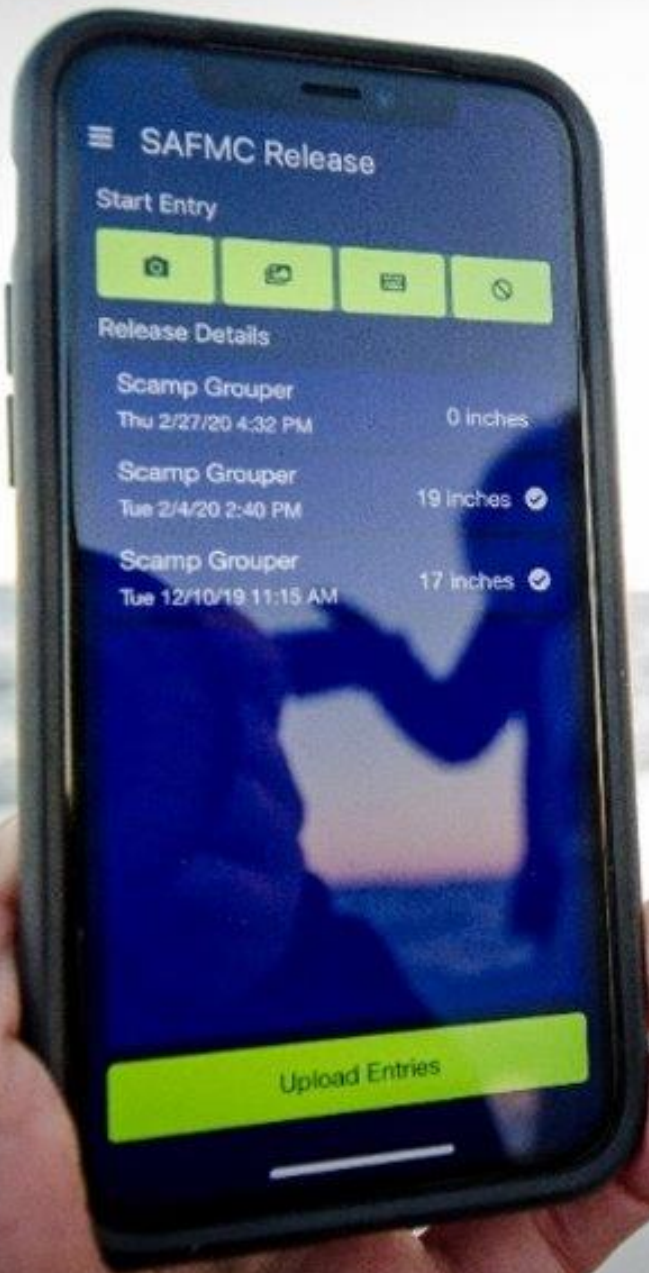




# SMILE Pilot Project

- 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





# SAFMC Release





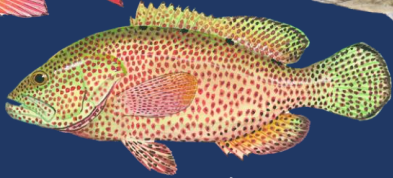
# Updates



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

Participant Recognition Program (PRP)

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
- ICAST
- JOSFC

# Communication with Participants



Newsletters



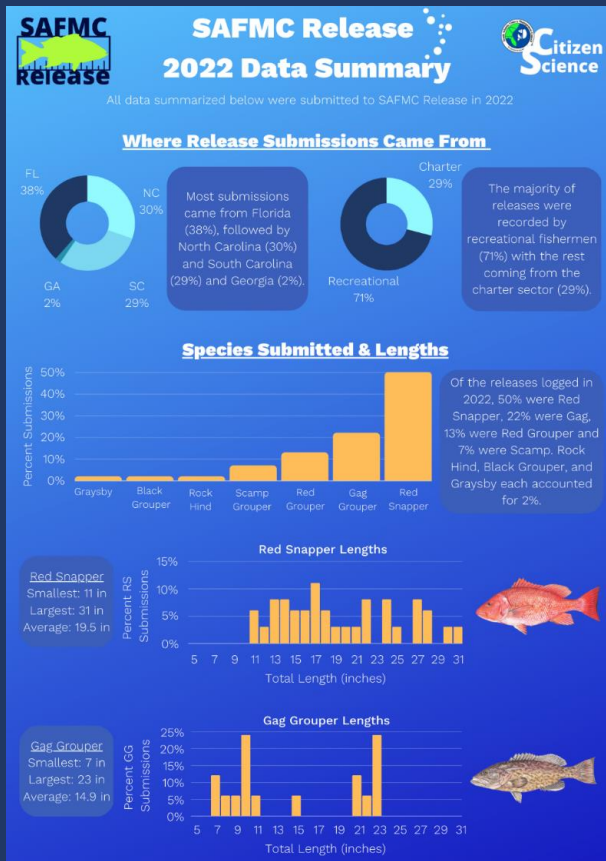
Thank you emails



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



# OREGON INLET FISHING CENTER



A SAFMC CitSci Project



# Citizen Science

# 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 meetings

# 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**



# Discussion Questions

- Have historic photos? Visit the FISHstory table!
- We are exploring holding scanning events outside of Council related meetings. Do you have suggestions on where (cities, venues) we could hold events?
- What other avenues should the Council explore to gather additional historic photos?
- Are there individuals or organizations in your area that may be good contacts to gather historic fishing photos?



# Keep Up with Projects & the Program!

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



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