



# Citizen Science

## **Citizen Science Program Update**

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Outreach & Communications AP  
October 2024

# Program Activities



NOAA CitSci Funding Opportunity



CitSci Project Idea Portal



CitSci Program Initial Evaluation



SMILE Project Update



SciFish Platform



FISHstory Re-Launch



# **Share a project idea via the Citizen Science Project Idea Portal!**



Ideas will be used to update the  
Citizen Science Research Priorities &  
to help connect fishermen and  
scientists with similar research  
interests

# Initial Program Evaluation

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- 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



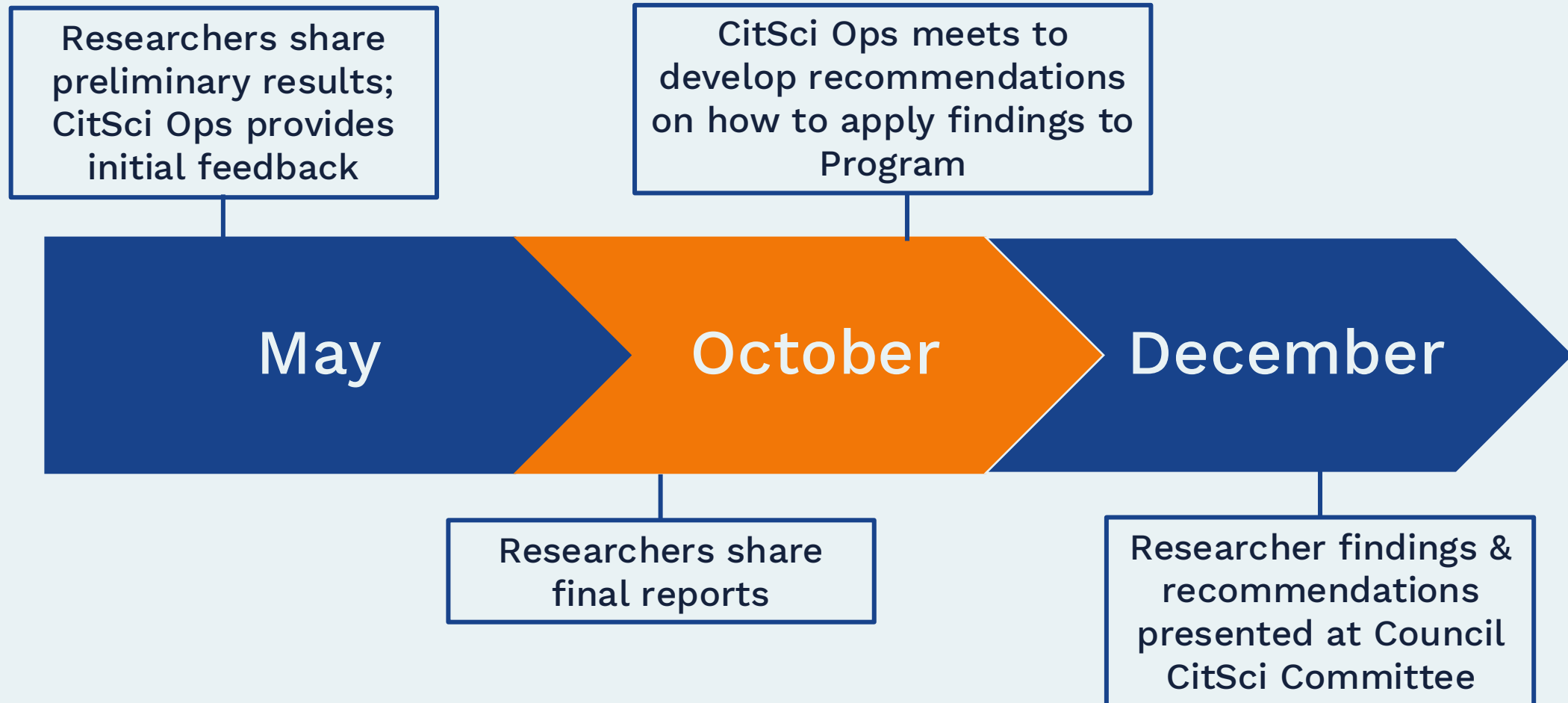
Online survey – scientists & managers  
More interviews – fishermen



Implement & analyze results



# Initial Program Evaluation: Next Steps - 2024







# SMILE Project

- Partner with divers to collect length info on data limited species
- Laser-mounted Olympus underwater cameras
- Field testing in FL Keys
- Data analysis underway for first field season
- Second field season underway





# **SciFish Platform**

[www.accsp.org/what-we-do/scifish/](http://www.accsp.org/what-we-do/scifish/)

# SciFish Introduction



Growing interest in using citizen science, which is a powerful tool to better understand marine fish populations



Vision: To create a citizen science mobile application that encourages and supports the capture and sharing of data on Atlantic coast fisheries.



Develop a citizen science mobile application and menu-driven project builder interface to eliminate need for stand-alone apps and standardize data collection





# SciFish Development Drivers



Reduce costs  
needed to develop  
individual  
applications



Reduce time to  
create applications  
from ground up

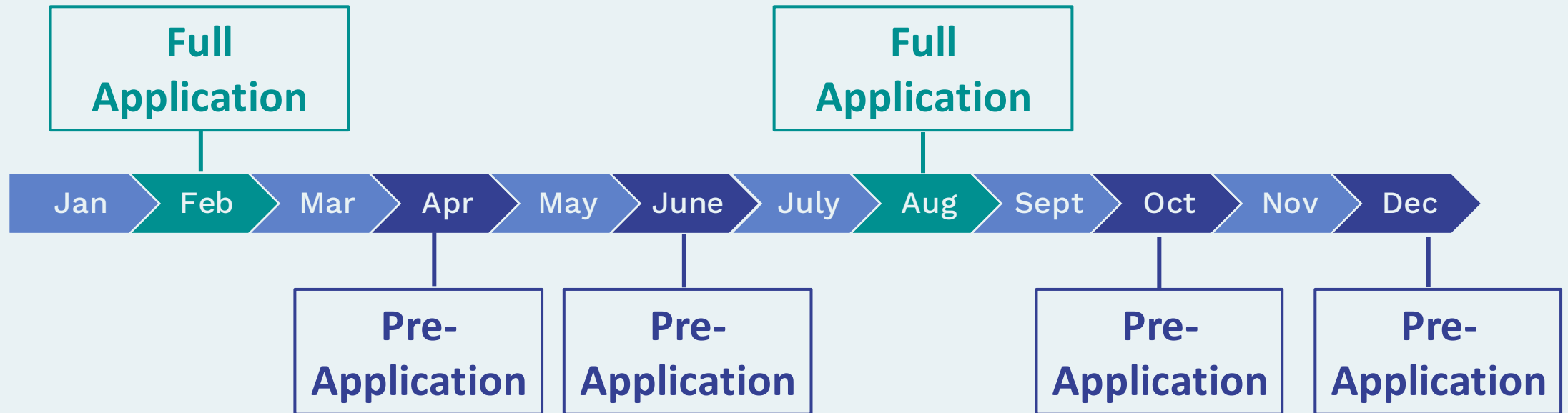


Increase  
consistency in data  
fields and structure



# SciFish Project Development

## *Multi-step Application Process*

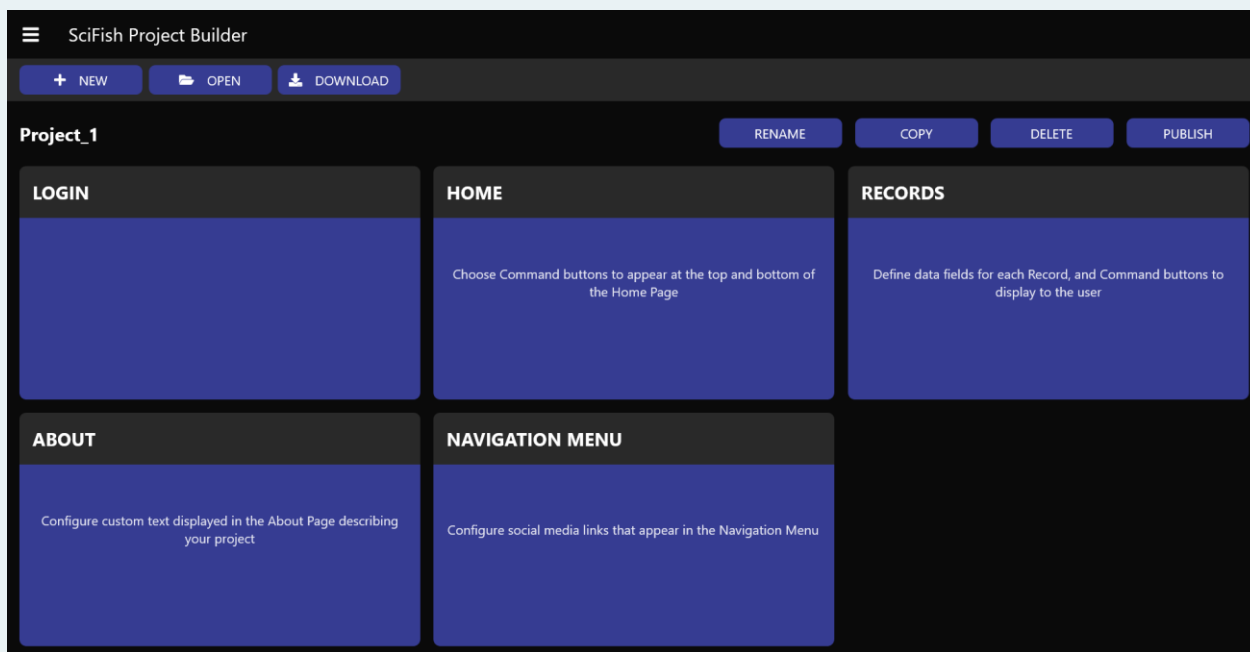




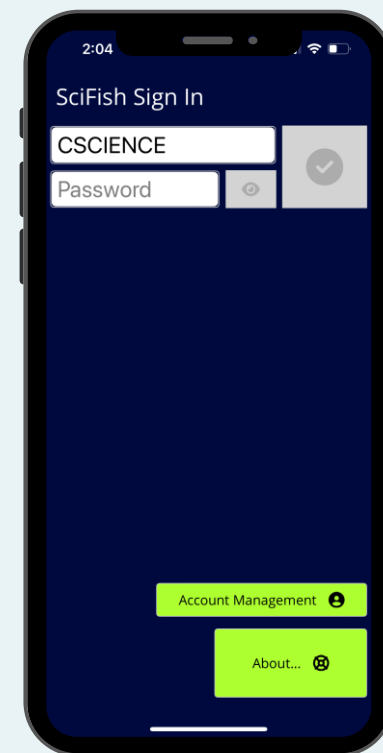
# SciFish Platform



## SciFish Project Builder



## SciFish Mobile App



[ACCSP SciFish Builder.mp4](#)



# SciFish Uses

## SciFish Projects



New Project

New Project

## SciFish API







# FISHstory





# Gathering New Photos

- Goal: Collect historic fishing photos from across the South Atlantic region from the 1940s – 1980s for the FISHstory project



8 scanning events  
were held via Council  
related meetings



AP & Council  
members helped  
connect us to others  
in their communities



Members of the public  
reached out after seeing  
information via Council  
communication channels





# FISHstory Photo Archive

>600 new photos were  
digitized and archived in 2023

We're still working to grow  
archive



# 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





# FISHstory project re-launched in Zooniverse July 2024!



FISHstory ✓

[ABOUT](#) [CLASSIFY](#) [TALK](#) [COLLECT](#) [RECENTS](#)

Level 3 is now unlocked for all volunteers - so you can keep classifying away and helping us identify and count fish within the photos. Not a fish ID expert? No worries - we have tips and tricks in our tutorials and field guide. Feel free to reach out to our research team via the Talk Boards with any fish ID questions.



DAYTONA BEACH, FLA.

FISHSTORY

## Filling Fisheries Data Gaps with Historical Dock Photos

[LEARN MORE](#) >

GET STARTED!

Welcome to the FISHstory Project! We have four workflows where you can help us collect information from historic dock photos. Start with LEVEL 1 and unlock additional levels as you classify more photos. If you're not a fish ID expert, no worries! We welcome all and encourage you to use our Field Guide to help identify fish and provide your best guess. Thank you for your participation!

*The collection of SAFMC FISHstory information is authorized under the OMB Control Number included in the [Citizen Science & Crowdsourcing Information Collection page](#).*

UNLOCKED

5% COMPLETE

LEVEL 3: Classify Red Snapper, Amberjack & Sharks >

2% COMPLETE

LEVEL 4: Classify Dolphinfin, Cobia, Gray Triggerfish & Little Tunny >

LOCKED

CAUGHT ON THE

7 2 72



# Good participation thus far.....

## but need help recruiting more volunteers

As of September 18, 2024

### LEVEL 1: Count Fish and People

Retirement limit: 20

Images retired: 580 / 580

ETC\* 0 days



### LEVEL 2: Classify King Mackerel, Grouper & Sailfish

Retirement limit: 20

Images retired: 474 / 474

ETC\* 0 days



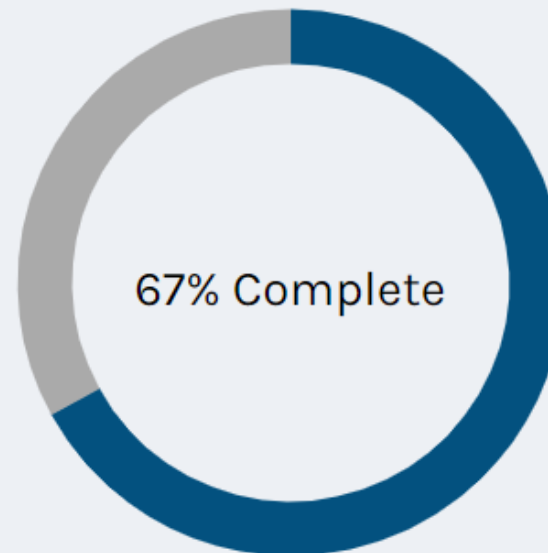
### LEVEL 3: Classify Red Snapper, Amberjack & Sharks

Retirement limit: 20

Images retired: 24 / 474

Classifications: 6,353 / 9,480

ETC\* 14 days



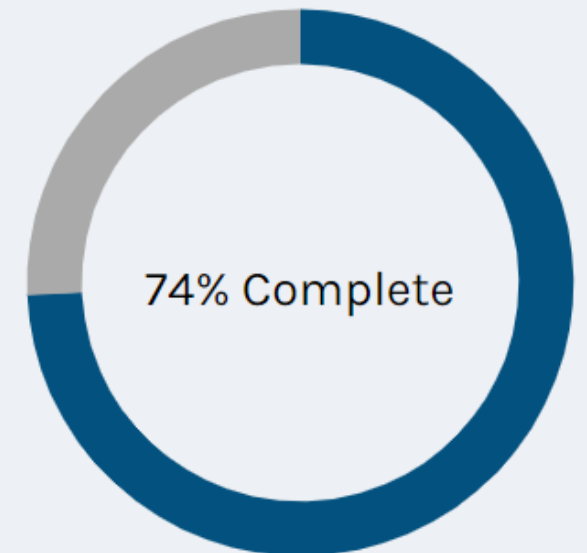
### LEVEL 4: Classify Dolphinfinh, Cobia, Gray Triggerfish & Little Tunny

Retirement limit: 20

Images retired: 14 / 474

Classifications: 7,046 / 9,480

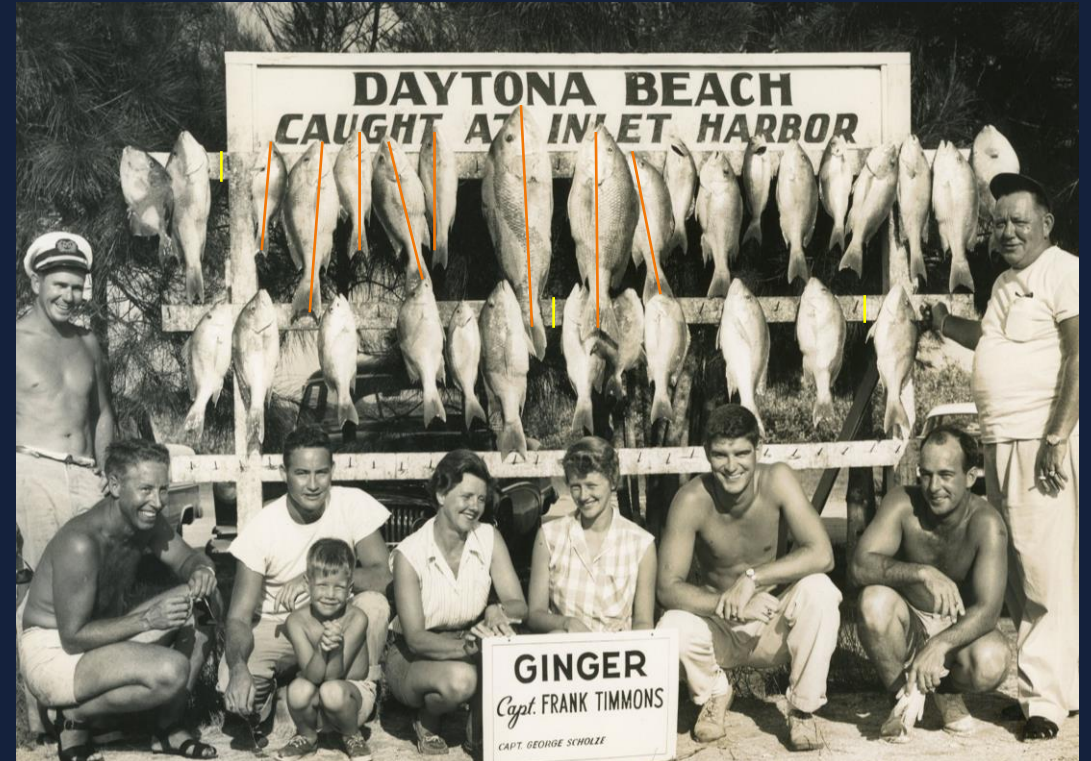
ETC\* 17 days







# Estimating Fish Lengths



# Discussion Questions

## FISHstory

- What strategies can we use to promote the FISHstory project in Zooniverse? Are you or any of your organizations willing to help promote the FISHstory project in Zooniverse?
- We are still looking for more historic photos – *especially from the Carolinas and 1980s (all states)*. Are you aware of other individuals or organizations in your area that may be good contacts to gather additional historic fishing photos?

## CitSci Project Idea Portal

- What strategies can we use to promote the CitSci Project Idea Portal?



**Keep up with projects & the Program!**  
[safmc.net/citizen-science-program/](http://safmc.net/citizen-science-program/)



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