



# Citizen Science

## **Citizen Science Program Update**

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Outreach & Communications AP  
October 2023

# Program Activities



[NOAA Citizen Science Action Plan](#)



Seminars, Conferences & Symposiums



CitSci Advisory Groups – Recruiting This Fall!



CitSci Project Idea Portal



CitSci Evaluation & SMILE Project Updates



FISHstory: Gathering New Photos



SAFMC Release Update & Participant Recognition Program

# 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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engagement, etc.

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## Current OC AP representation

Scott Baker

Others interested?





# **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



Implement & analyze results

# 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



# Interviews with Fishermen

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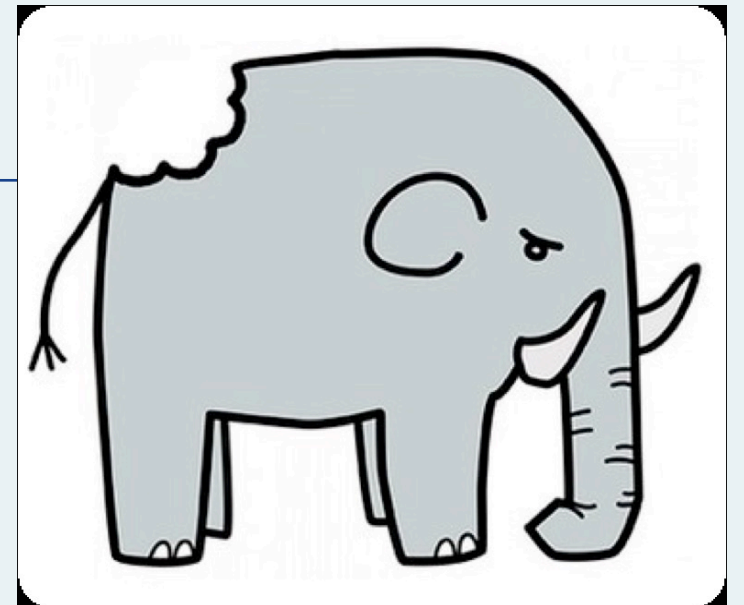
Want to gather diverse perspectives & use sampling method that could be repeated in the future

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Include fishermen in 4 South Atlantic states and across 3 sectors

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Limited resources



# Interviews with Fishermen

## Commercial & For-Hire



NOAA Permit Database



Snapper Grouper & Mackerels



Focus on 4 Geographic Areas

## Private Recreational



Fishing club or organization membership



Focus on 4 Geographic Areas



# 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





Citizen  
Science

# FISHstory



A SAFMC CitSci Project





# 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
  - Outreach & Communication AP meeting
  - Mackerel Cobia AP meeting
  - Dolphin Wahoo AP meeting
  - Fall Snapper Grouper AP meeting
  - September & December Council meetings



# FISHstory Scanning Events



Bring hard copy photos or digital photos to the event



Scan hard copy photos



Save digital photos



Collect photo details



Share digital copies of photos with provider



# 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



Good

Picture taken at end of trip displaying harvest with anglers

Year

State

Photo provider name & contact

Better

Fish hanging on leaderboard

Month

City & dock

Vessel name & captain name





Good

Picture taken at end of trip displaying harvest with anglers

Year

State

Photo provider name & contact

Better

Fish hanging on leaderboard

Month

City & dock

Vessel name & captain name





PC: Judy Helmey

## Good

Picture taken at end of trip displaying harvest with anglers

Year

State

Photo provider name & contact

## Better

Fish hanging on leaderboard

Month

City & dock

Vessel name & captain name



PC: Judy Helmey



Good

Picture taken at end of trip displaying harvest with anglers

Year

State

Photo provider name & contact

Better

Fish hanging on leaderboard

Month

City & dock

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# Exploring other avenues to gather historic photos



HISTORICAL SOCIETIES  
AND ORGANIZATIONS



LIBRARIES



RESTAURANTS

# Discussion Questions

- What strategies can we use to promote public scanning events? Are you or any of your organizations willing to help promote these events?
- 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?



# SAFMC Release



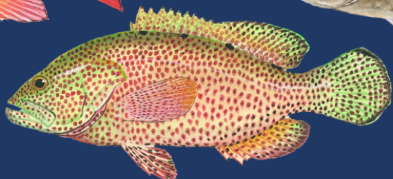
# Updates



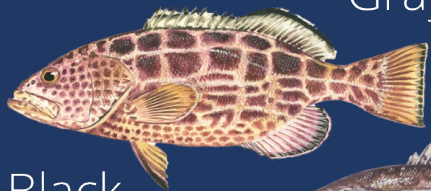
Red  
Snapper



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

2022 Annual Data Summary

Participant Recognition Program (PRP)

# 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



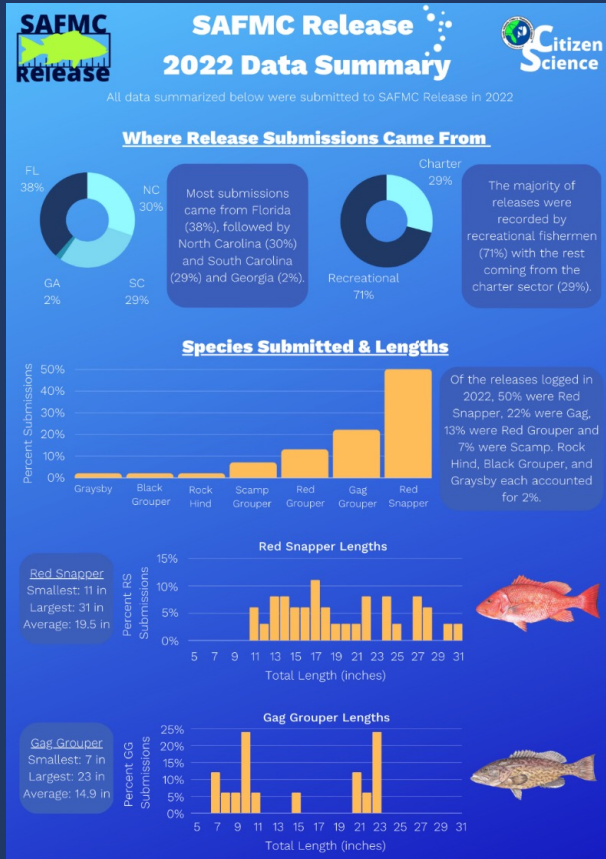
Thank you emails



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

# Participant Recognition Program

Conceptualized a program to recognize participants' achievements within the SAFMC Release project.



Winter 2022

Notified participants and provided option to opt out.



Feb 2023

Launched PRP.



March 2023

Preparing for 2024.



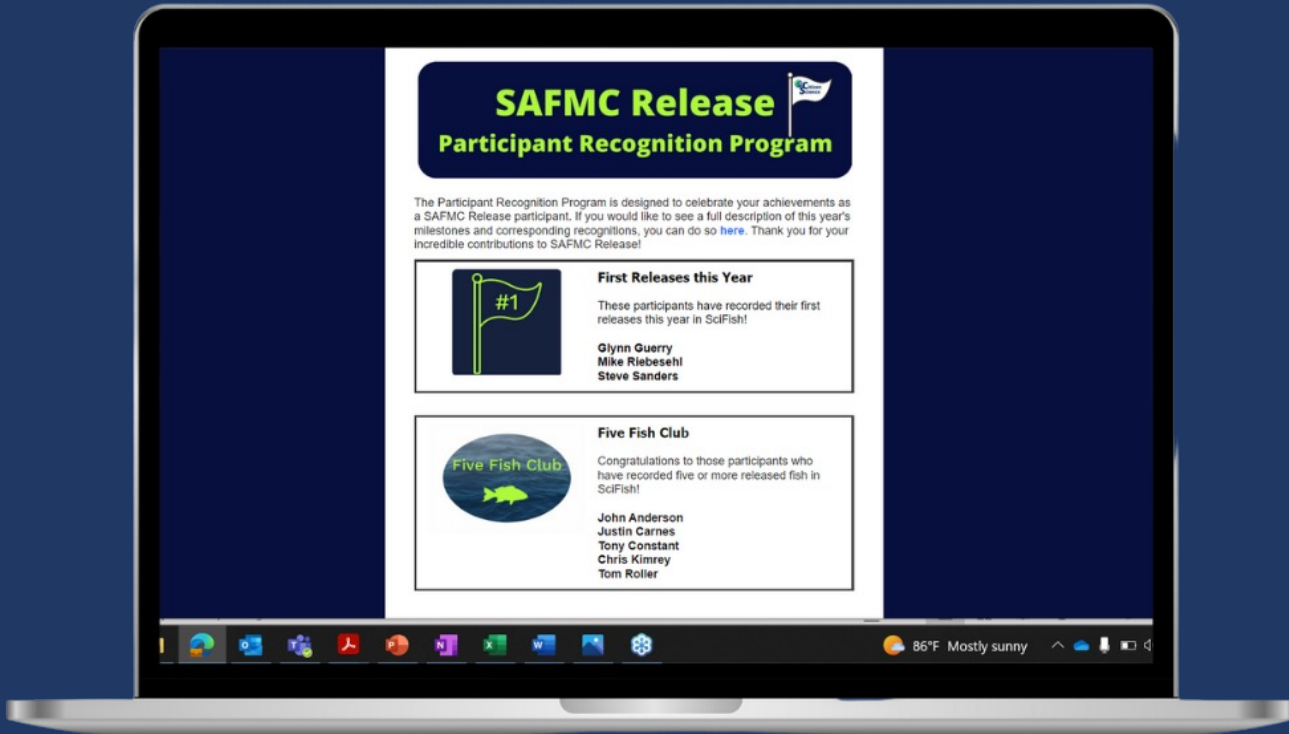
Today

# Participant Recognition Program

<u>Recognition</u>	<u>Milestones</u>					
	First Submission	Five Submissions	Smallest/Largest	Most Species	Best Photo	Most Submissions
Release Newsletter	✓	✓			✓	✓
Annual Data Summary			✓	✓		
Social Media					✓	✓
SA Bite						✓

# Example Communication

## Recognition



## Promotion



# Discussion Questions

Are there PRP milestones you would add or remove for 2024?

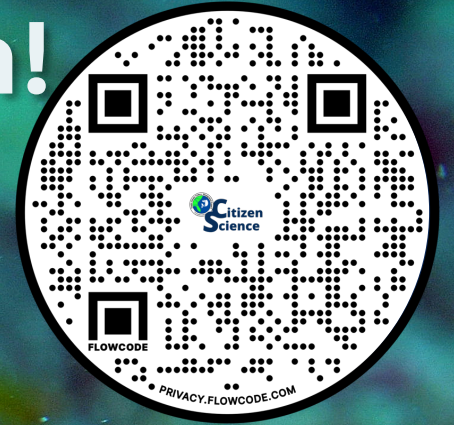
Do you recommend any changes to the ways in which we recognize participants for reaching milestones, within Council limitations?

Would you recommend promoting PRP in new ways to draw additional participants?



# Keep Up with Projects & the Program!

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



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