

SAFMC Release Data Collection Tips



This document has guidance on...

- Project species
- Taking photos of your fish
- Measuring your fish
- Using the SciFish app
- How to record use of artificial lures
- Logging a 'no release' trip
- Other project resources

Project Species

- SAFMC Release gathers data on released shallow water grouper and Red Snapper.
- If you are unsure of an ID, include a photo of the fish with your SAFMC Release entry or send a photo to safmcrelease@outlook.com so we can confirm the species.
- Resources like the [Fish Rules](#) app or our [shallow water grouper ID guide](#) can help make those tricky IDs a snap.



Red Snapper



Scamp



Graysby



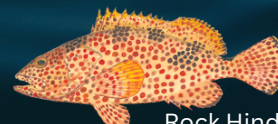
Black



Yellowmouth



Gag



Rock Hind



Yellowfin



Red Hind



Red



Coney

SAFMC Release project species.

Taking Photos of Your Fish

- Including photos with your SAFMC Release submission strengthens the data you submit by allowing for species and if appropriate, length validation.
- Optimal photos show the entire fish, from snout to tail, on a measuring board or next to an item of known length (e.g., soda can), and are taken from a bird's-eye-view. This allows them to be used for length validation.
- Try to have your phone or camera on hand to minimize handling time. If it will take some time to get a photo of the fish, prioritize releasing the fish quickly.



This is the ideal set up for an SAFMC Release entry photo, making it possible to conduct length validation.

Measuring Your Fish

- Lengths of released fish are one of the most useful pieces of information collected through the SAFMC Release Project. Please try to include length information with all your entries.
- **Please record total length NOT fork length. Length should be rounded to the nearest inch.**

Using the SciFish Mobile App

- For guidance on completing an entry in the SciFish app, watch [this video](#). Additional video resources can be found on our [Citizen Science playlist](#) on the SAFMC YouTube channel.
- Remember to log into the app before heading out to be able to use it on the water. You can upload your data upon returning to shore.



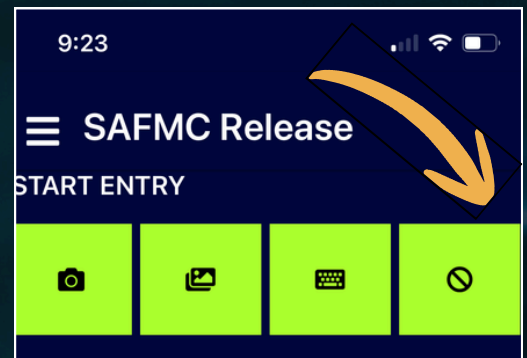
For a SciFish entry walkthrough, watch this video (click on the image or [here](#)).

Recording Hook Type When Using Artificial Lures

- Artificial lures have a different design and are used for a more active style of fishing, setting them apart from traditional terminal tackle (e.g., chicken rigs or Carolina rigs).
- Select **“other” as the hook type if you are fishing with artificial lures** (e.g., butterfly jigs), even if you also add natural bait.
- Select the specific hook type as you normally would when using traditional bottom fishing tactics with baited hooks (e.g., recording non-offset circle hook when using this hook baited with live or cut bait).
- Please see the [best fishing practices webpage](#) for hook regulations.

Logging a ‘No-Release’ Trip

- If you don’t release a shallow water grouper or Red Snapper on a fishing trip, but catch and keep some, you can provide insight on those fish via a ‘No Release’ report.
- Start your report by selecting the circle with a slash through it on the SciFish home page.
- In your ‘No Release’ report, describe the species, size, depth of capture, number of kept fish, and general fishing location information, and any other details you wish to provide.



To start a ‘no-release’ entry, select the circle with a slash through it on the SciFish home page.

Other Project Resources

- If you don’t have a smartphone or prefer not to use the mobile app to complete your SAFMC Release submission, you can use [printable forms](#). Contact us for more information.
- Click the link to see answers to our [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

**For additional guidance or assistance,
reach out to the CitSci team!**

Julia Byrd

Citizen Science Program Manager
julia.byrd@safmc.net

Meg Withers

Citizen Science Project Coordinator
meg.withers@safmc.net