Citizen Science

Citizen Science
Program Update

SAFMC SEP

April 2025

Have a citizen science project idea?

Share it via the online Project Idea Portal!

Ideas will be used to update the SAFMC's Citizen Science Research Priorities

Citizen Science Project Idea Portal

SMILE Project

- Partner with divers to collect length info on data limited species

- Laser-mounted Olympus underwater cameras

- Second field season in FL Keys wrapping up

- Data processing & analysis underway

- Conducting survey to better understand demographics, motivations, and barriers of recreational divers

PC:Tom Sparke

REEF
Reef Environmental Education Foundation

Citizen Science

SECOORA
Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association

CAUGHT AT TIMMONS CL3-5825 FISHING CAMP DAYTONA BEACH, FLA.

PC: Rusty Hudson

PC: Chuck Griffin

FISHstory

FISHstory

A SAFMC CitSci Project

Citizen Science

FISHstory
Photo Archive

>2,300 photos contributed to FISHstory by **14 photo providers**
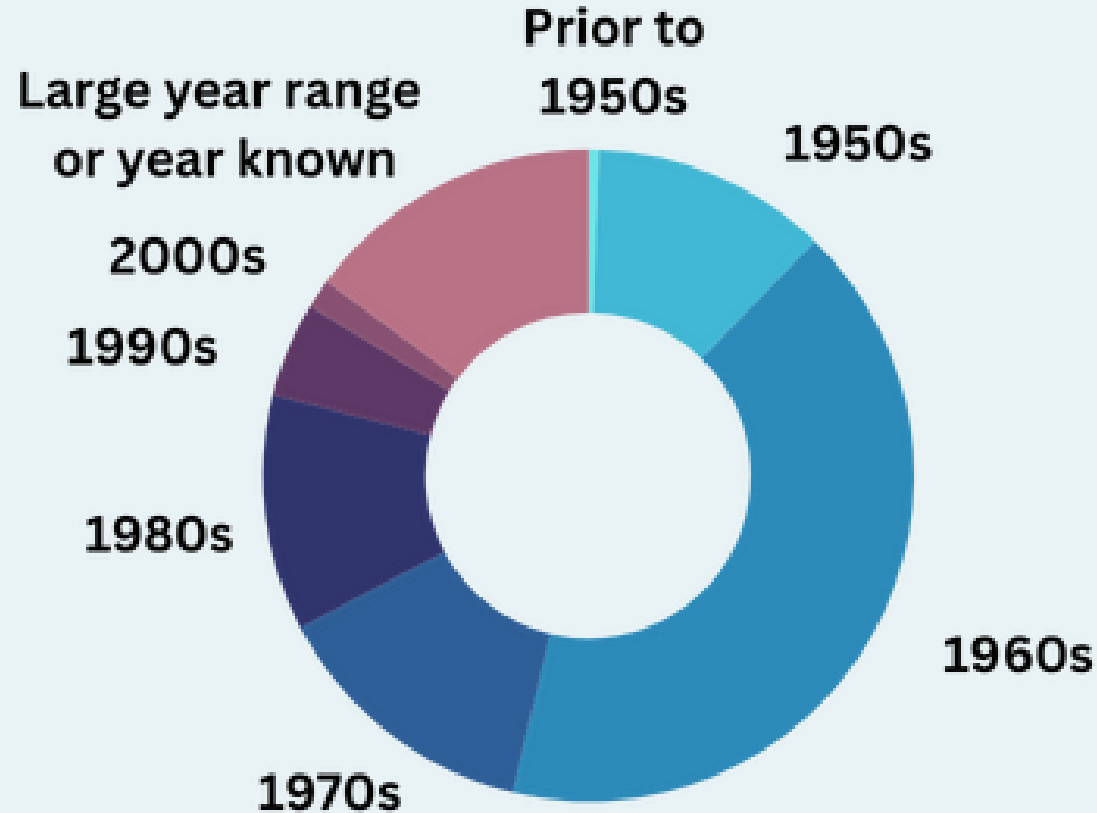
Locations with FISHstory photos
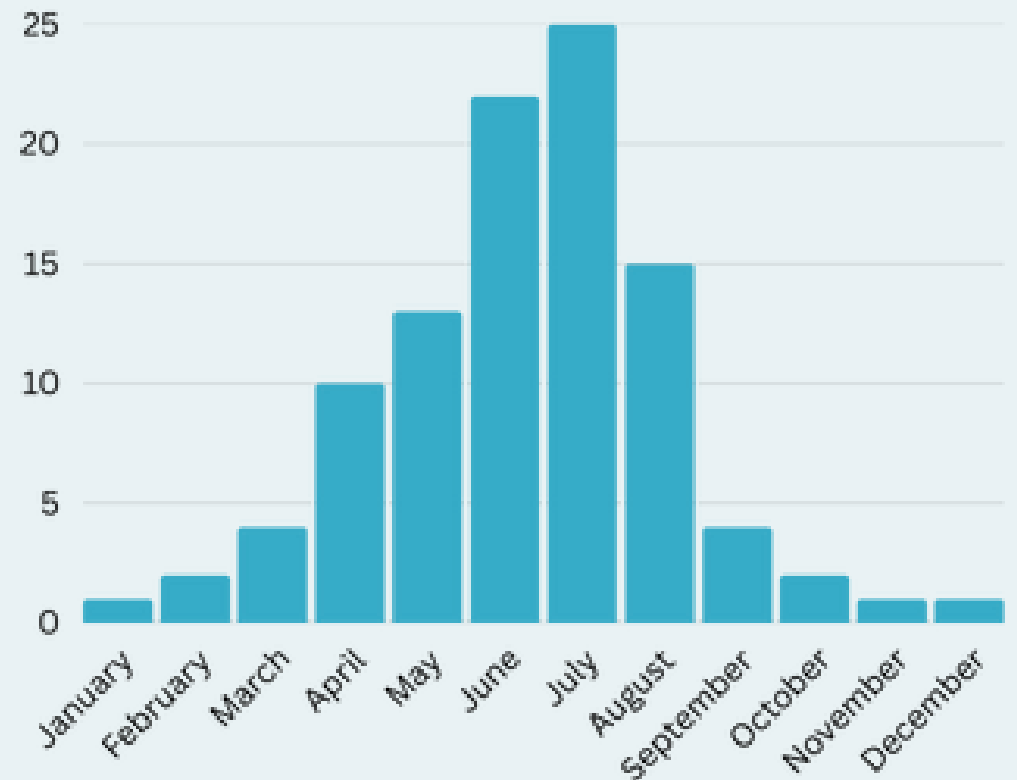
FISHstory: Photos for Analyses

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.

7 2 72

CAUGHT ON THE

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 Dolphinfish, Cobia, Gray Triggerfish & Little Tunny ›

LOCKED

Classification almost complete for currently archived photos in Zooniverse

As of March 25, 2025

LEVEL 1: Count Fish and People
Retirement limit: 20
Images retired: 580 / 580
ETC* 0 days

100% Complete

LEVEL 2: Classify King Mackerel, Grouper & Sailfish
Retirement limit: 20
Images retired: 1,054 / 1,054
ETC* 0 days

100% Complete

LEVEL 3: Classify Red Snapper, Amberjack & Sharks
Retirement limit: 20
Images retired: 1,054 / 1,054
ETC* 0 days
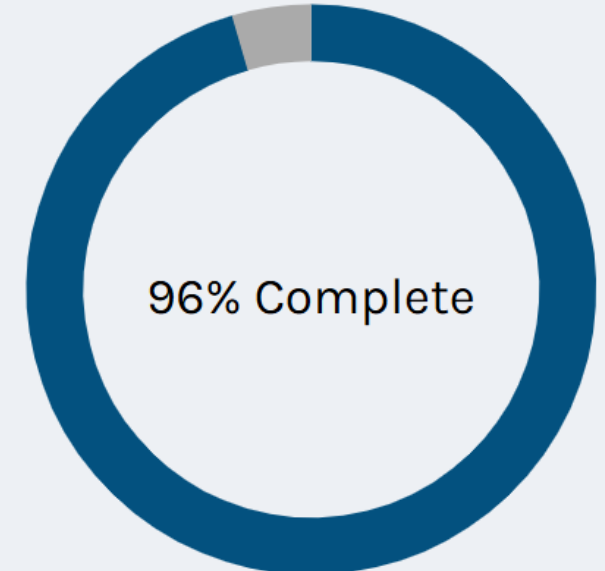
100% Complete

LEVEL 4: Classify Dolphinfish, Cobia, Gray Triggerfish & Little Tunny
Retirement limit: 20
Images retired: 805 / 1,054
Classifications: 20,144 / 21,080
ETC* 10 days

96% Complete

FISHstory
A SAFMC CitSci Project

Estimating Fish Lengths

FISHstory
A SAFMC CitSci Project

DAYTONA BEACH
CAUGHT AT INLET HARBOR

GINGER
Capt. FRANK TIMMONS
CAPT. GEORGE SCHOLZE

SAFMC Release

Updates

Participants recording released shallow water grouper and Red Snapper in SciFish app
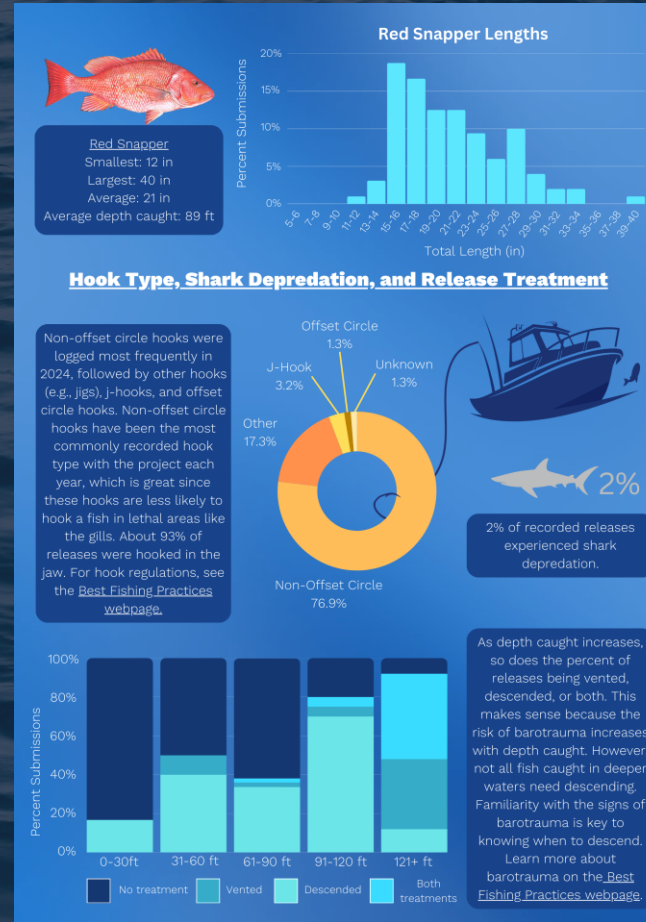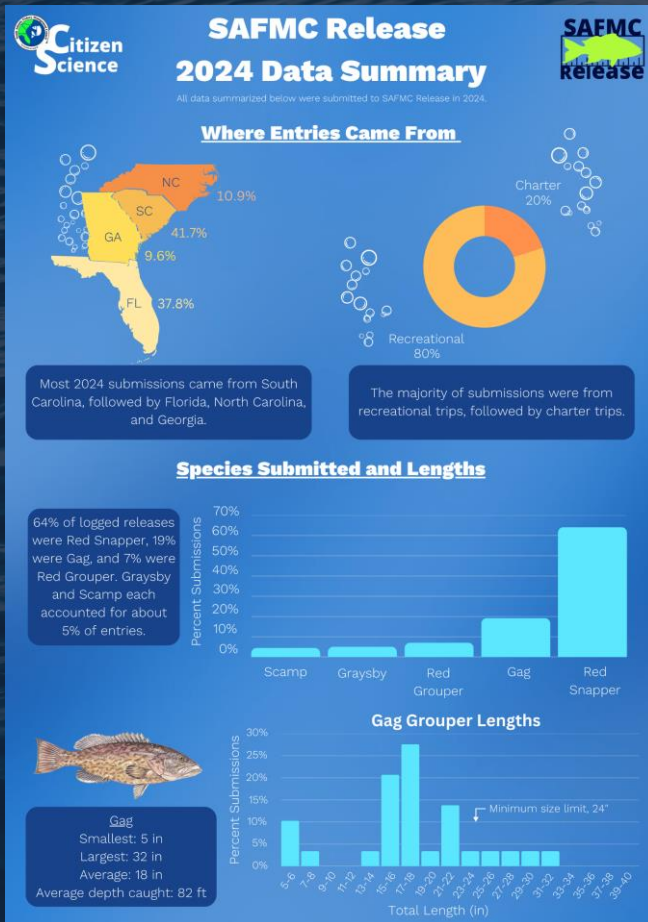
Continued outreach, including collaboration with Best Fishing Practices initiative

2024 Annual Data Summary

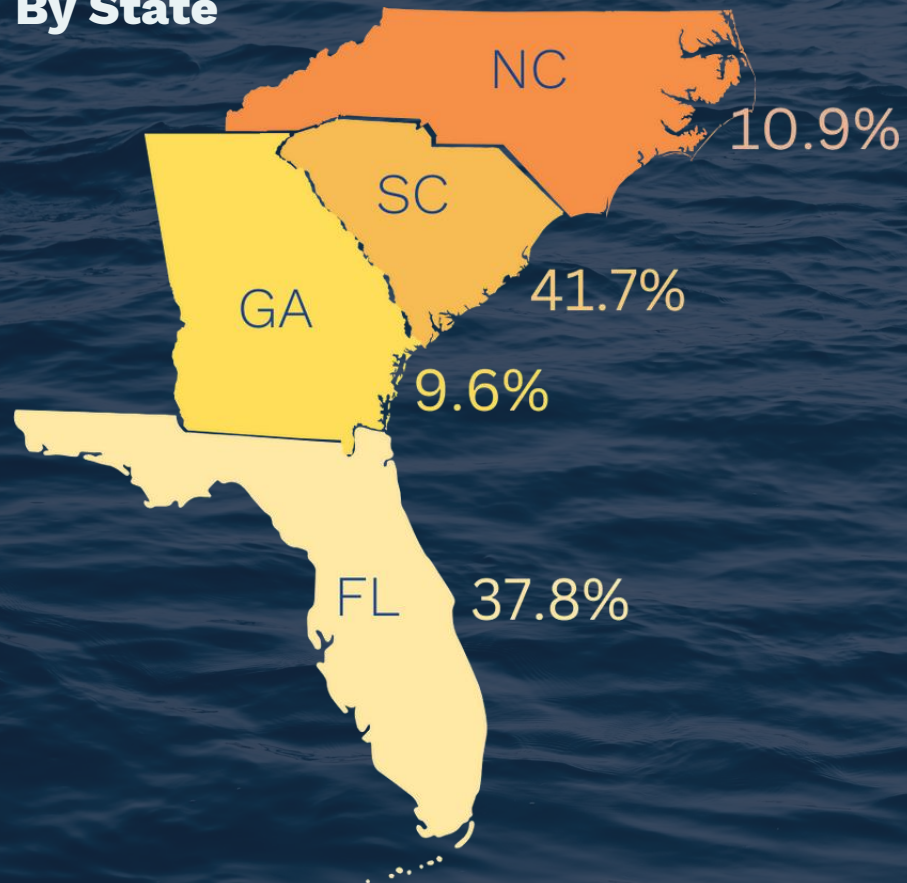**2025 Sea Grant Partnership**

Red Snapper

Scamp

Graysby

Black

Yellow-mouth

Gag

Rock Hind

Yellowfin

Red Hind

Red

Coney

2024 Data Summary

SAFMC Release
2024 Data Summary
All data summarized below were submitted to SAFMC Release in 2024.

Where Entries Came From

NC 10.9%
SC 41.7%
GA 9.6%
FL 37.8%

Charter 20%
Recreational 80%

Most 2024 submissions came from South Carolina, followed by Florida, North Carolina, and Georgia.

The majority of submissions were from recreational trips, followed by charter trips.

Species Submitted and Lengths

64% of logged releases were Red Snapper, 19% were Gag, and 7% were Red Grouper. Graysby and Scamp each accounted for about 5% of entries.

Species: Scamp, Graysby, Red Grouper, Gag, Red Snapper

Gag Grouper Lengths

Gag
Smallest: 5 in
Largest: 32 in
Average: 18 in
Average depth caught: 82 ft

Minimum size limit, 24"

Total Length (in)

Red Snapper Lengths

Red Snapper
Smallest: 12 in
Largest: 40 in
Average: 21 in
Average depth caught: 89 ft

Total Length (in)

Hook Type, Shark Depredation, and Release Treatment

Non-offset circle hooks were logged most frequently in 2024, followed by other hooks (e.g., jigs), j-hooks, and offset circle hooks. Non-offset circle hooks have been the most commonly recorded hook type with the project each year, which is great since these hooks are less likely to hook a fish in lethal areas like the gills. About 93% of releases were hooked in the jaw. For hook regulations, see the Best Fishing Practices webpage.

Offset Circle 1.3%
J-Hook 3.2%
Unknown 1.3%
Other 17.3%
Non-Offset Circle 76.9%

2% of recorded releases experienced shark depredation.

As depth caught increases, so does the percent of releases being vented, descended, or both. This makes sense because the risk of barotrauma increases with depth caught. However, not all fish caught in deeper waters need descending. Familiarity with the signs of barotrauma is key to knowing when to descend. Learn more about barotrauma on the Best Fishing Practices webpage.

Depth: 0-30ft, 31-60 ft, 61-90 ft, 91-120 ft, 121+ ft
Legend: No treatment, Vented, Descended, Both treatments

Summary includes:

- **Release submissions by state & fishing sector**
- **Species submitted**
- **Length compositions**
- **Release treatment by depth**
- **Shark depredation**
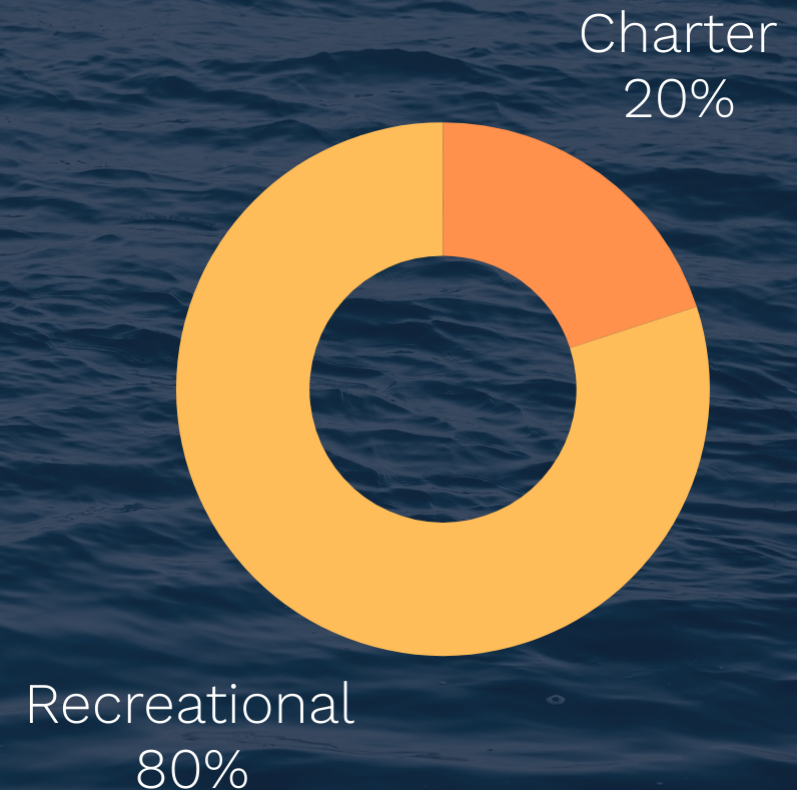- **Hook type & location**
- **2024 Participant Recognition Milestones**

https://safmc.net/documents/release-2024-data-summary-final/

2024 Data Summary: Where Release Submissions Came From

By State

NC — 10.9%

SC — 41.7%

GA — 9.6%

FL — 37.8%

By Sector

Charter 20%

Recreational 80%

2024 Data Summary: Releases Logged by Species

Red Snapper – 64%

Scamp – 5%

Graysby – 5%

Red Grouper– 7%

Gag– 19%

Tracking Relationship Building

A goal of SAFMC Release is to build relationships with fishermen and support engagement in Council process

Beginning to see great relationships forming & Council process engagement

Suggestion brought to us about tracking contact with participants to look for patterns in engagement

1. What modes of contact do you think would be most beneficial to track?

2. What details (without logging any personal information) would be useful to us illustrating the path to relationship-building?

Keep up with projects & the Program!
safmc.net/citizen-science-program/
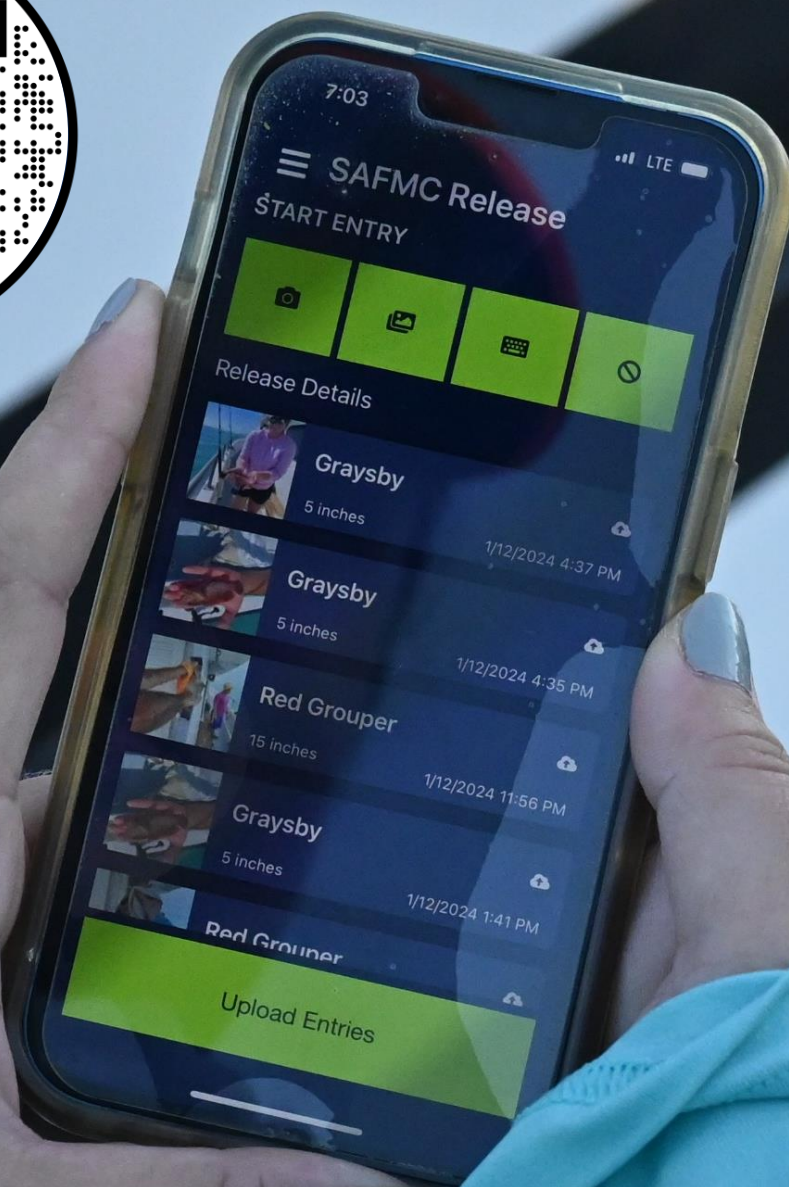
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