



# Citizen Science

## Citizen Science Program Update

---

SAFMC SEP  
April 2024

# Program Activities



CitSci Project Idea Portal



SMILE Project Update



SAFMC Release 2023 Annual Data  
Summary & Participant Survey



FISHstory: Gathering New Photos



# **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





# 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







# SAFMC Release



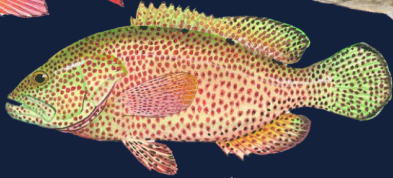
# Updates



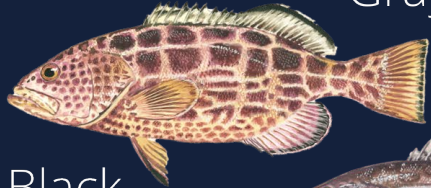
Red  
Snapper



Scamp



Graysby



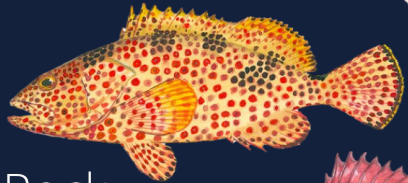
Black



Yellow-  
mouth



Gag



Rock  
Hind



Yellowfin



Red Hind



Red



Coney

Participants recording released shallow water grouper and Red Snapper in SciFish app

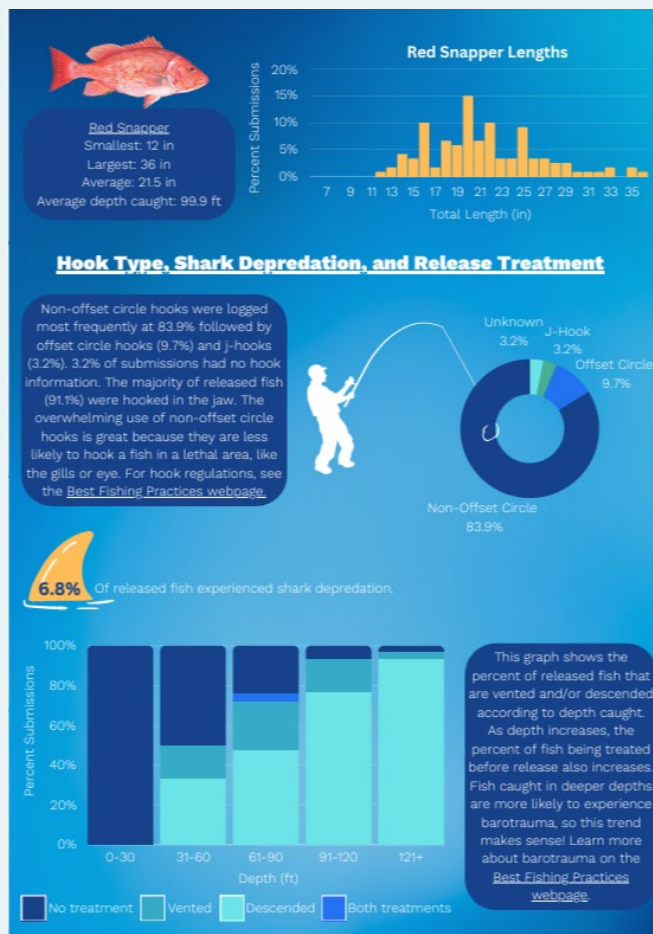
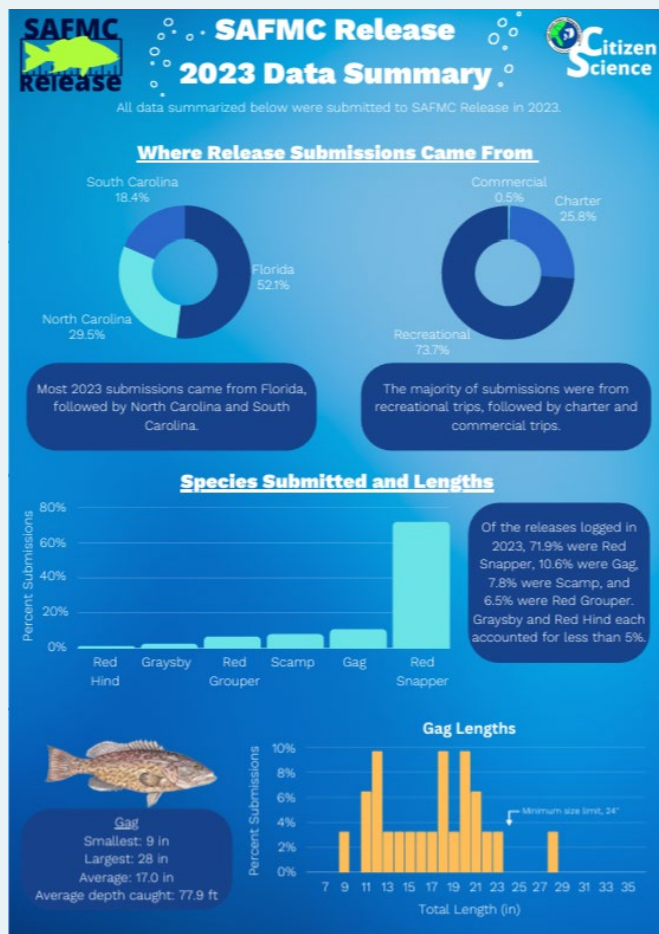
Continued outreach, including collaboration with Best Fishing Practices initiative

2023 Annual Data Summary & Participant Recognition Program

Participant Survey Topics



# 2023 Data Summary



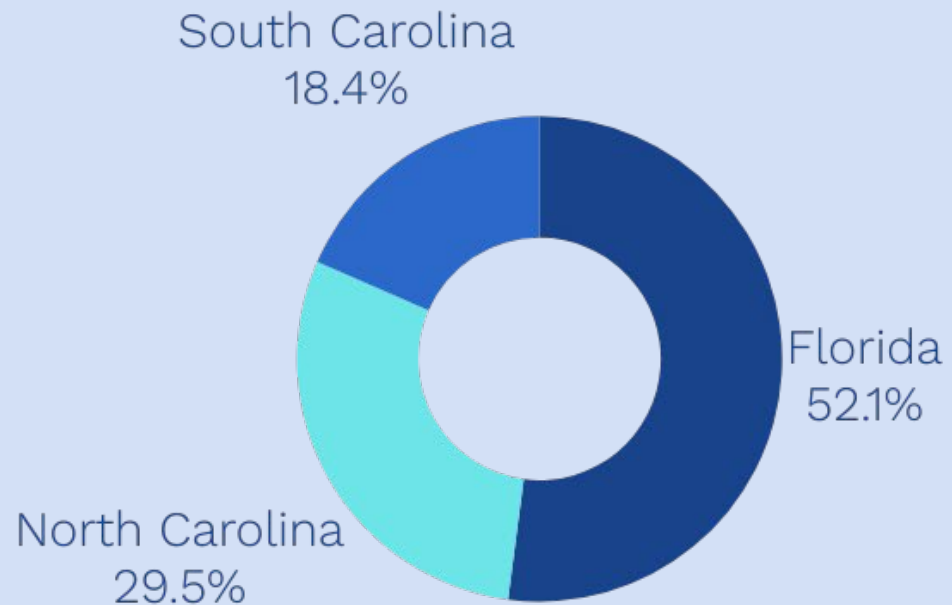
Summary includes:

- Release submissions by state & fishing sector
- Species submitted
- Length compositions
- Release treatment by depth
- Shark depredation
- Hook type & location
- 2023 Participant Recognition Milestones

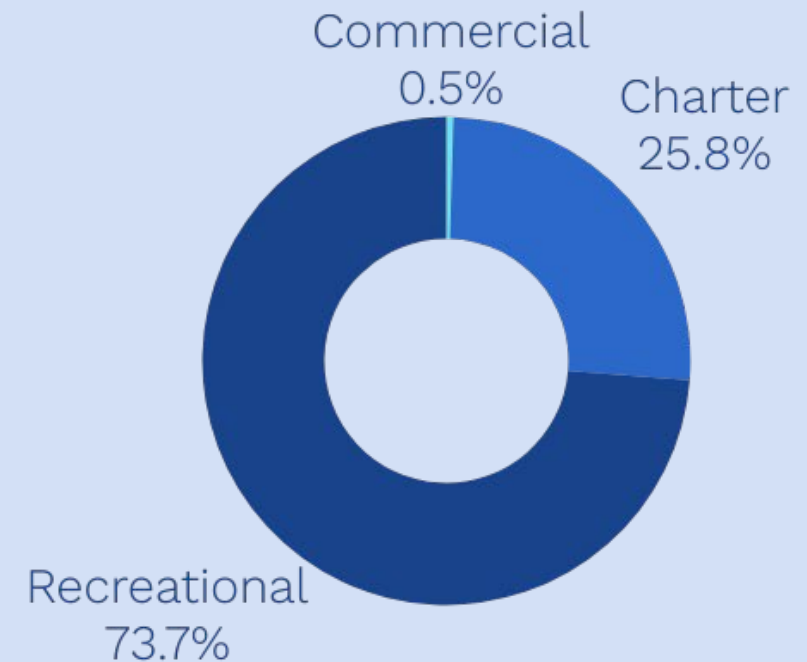


# 2023 Data Summary: Where Release Submissions Came From

By State



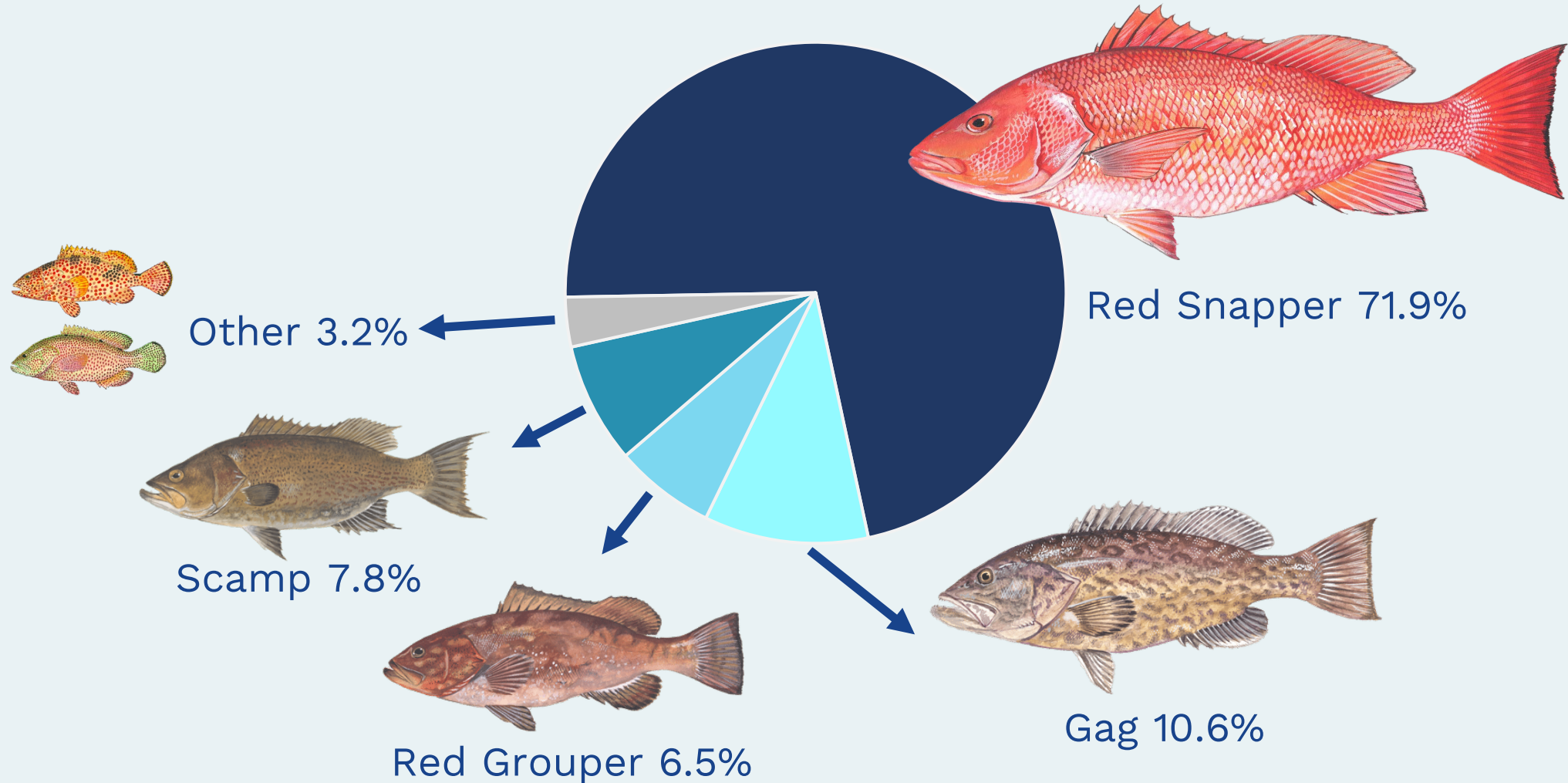
By Sector





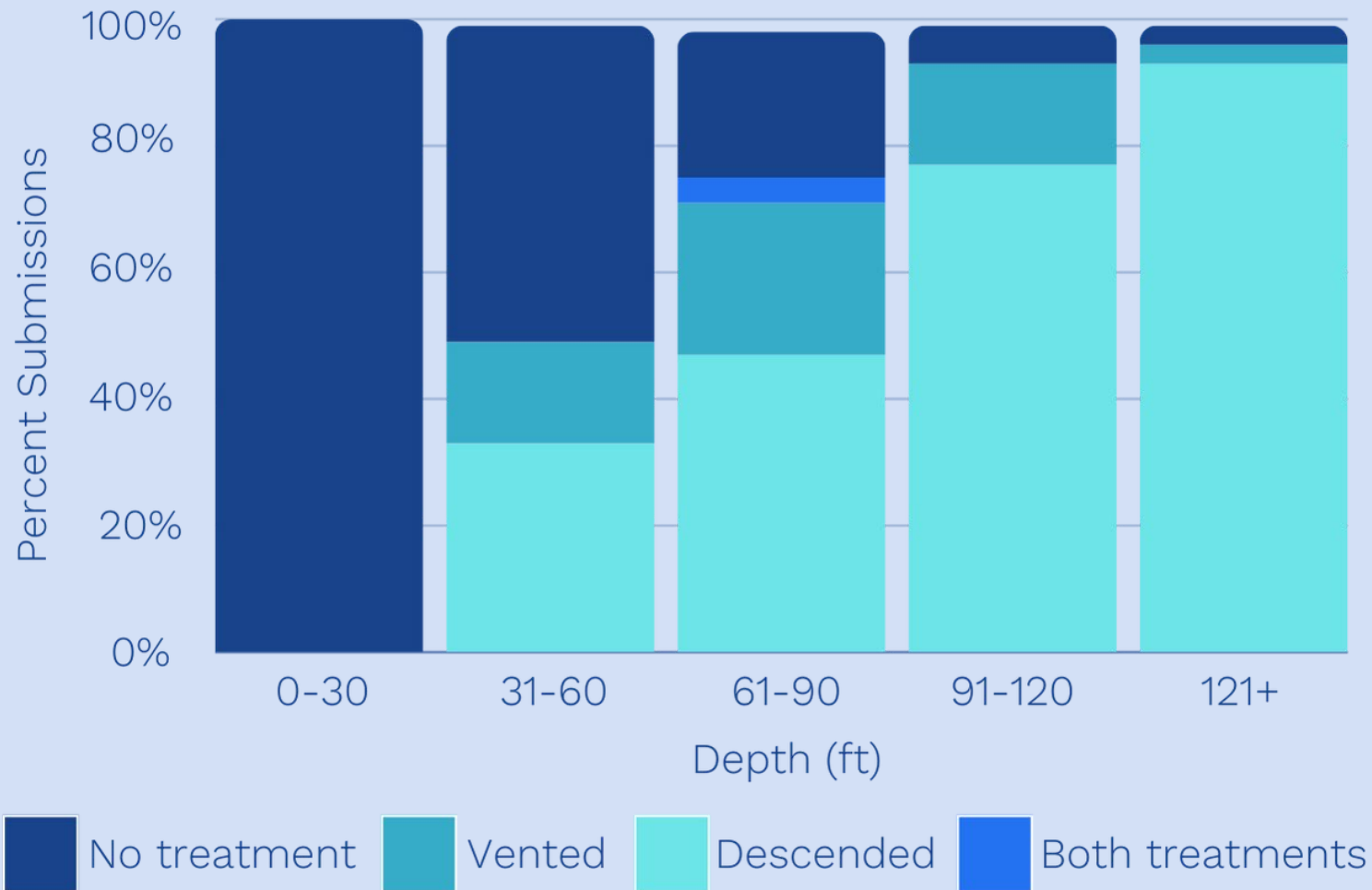


# 2023 Data Summary: Releases Logged by Species





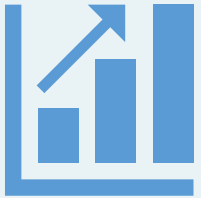
# 2023 Data Summary: Release Treatment by Depth



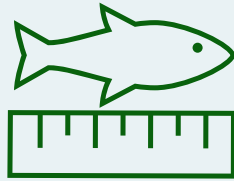


# Participant Recognition Program (PRP)

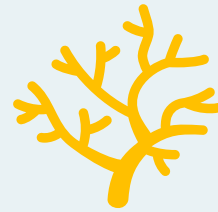
- Program to celebrate the achievements of our participants
- Launched in Spring 2023 & 2023 PRP milestones were a success!
- 2024 Milestones include recognitions for:



Quantity of  
submissions



Smallest and  
largest of each  
species



Around the  
Reef: submitting  
all species in  
project



Sea Grant photo  
categories





# Online Participant Survey

## Potential survey topics

Avidity

Years fishing &  
experience

Demographics

Motivations &  
barriers to  
participation

Participants'  
sources of  
information

Efficacy of  
project's  
communication

Perception of  
the project & its  
role in fisheries  
science/mgmt



# Discussion Questions

- Are the proposed topics appropriate for the participant survey?
- Is the number of topics appropriate? Are there topics you would recommend eliminating or adding?
- Is there any additional feedback or guidance regarding the survey?



# FISHstory







# Gathering New Photos

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



In 2023, 6 scanning events were held via Council related meetings



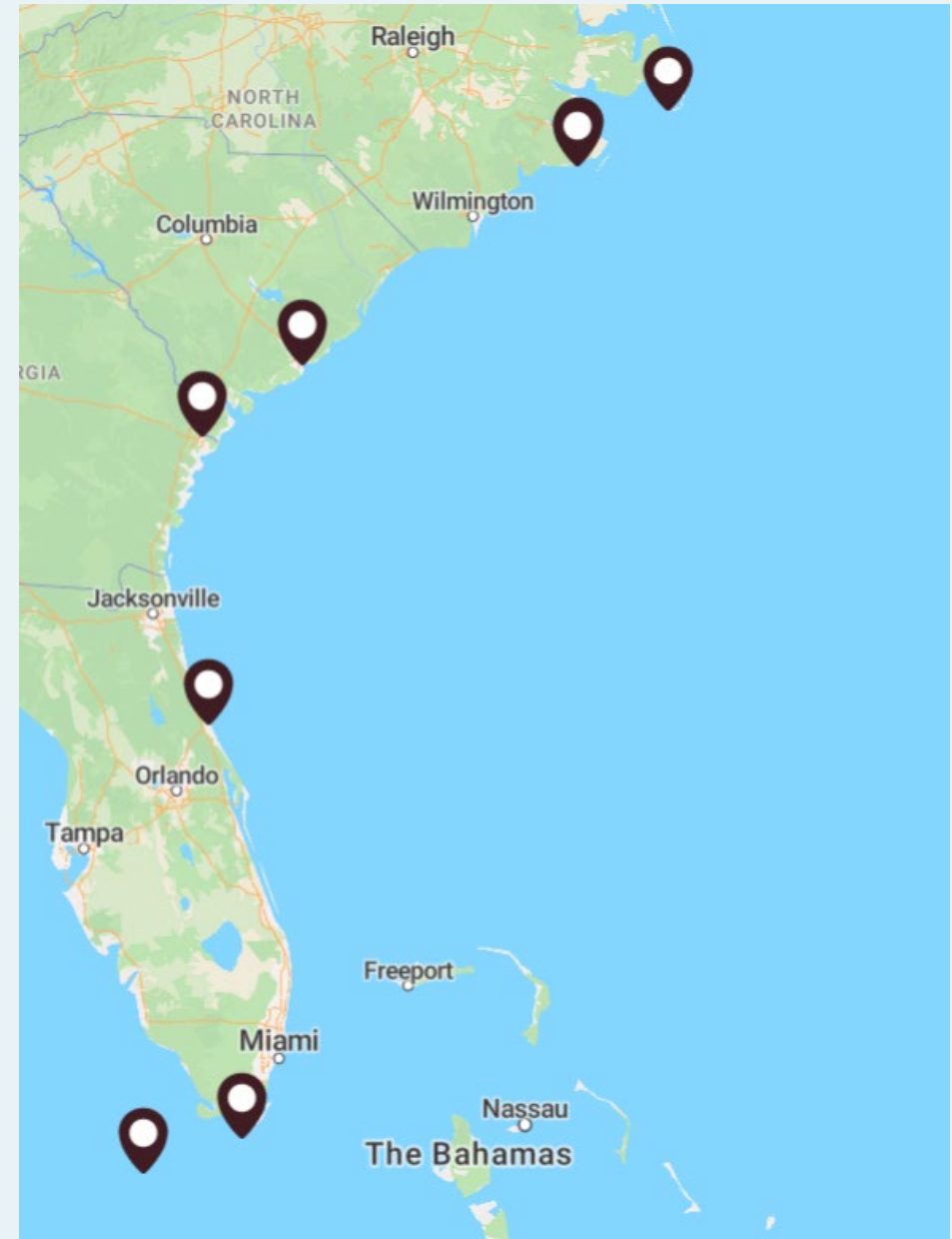
AP & Council members helped connect us to others in their communities



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



# FISHstory Photo Locations







Thanks to Council & AP members, partners, libraries, restaurants, & members of the public,

> **600** new photos were digitized and archived in 2023!

But we still need more!

PC: Paul Nelson



PC: Bill Wickers & Richard Gomez



PC: The Sanitary Restaurant & Jeff Garner



PC: Bobby Freeman



Nancy and Lucy Taylor with their grandfather, Captain David Strickland



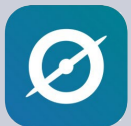
# FISHstory: Photos for Analyses

---

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



# For-hire Catch Composition in Zooniverse



Train volunteers to identify and count fish and people in photos



Refining project in Zooniverse based on pilot findings



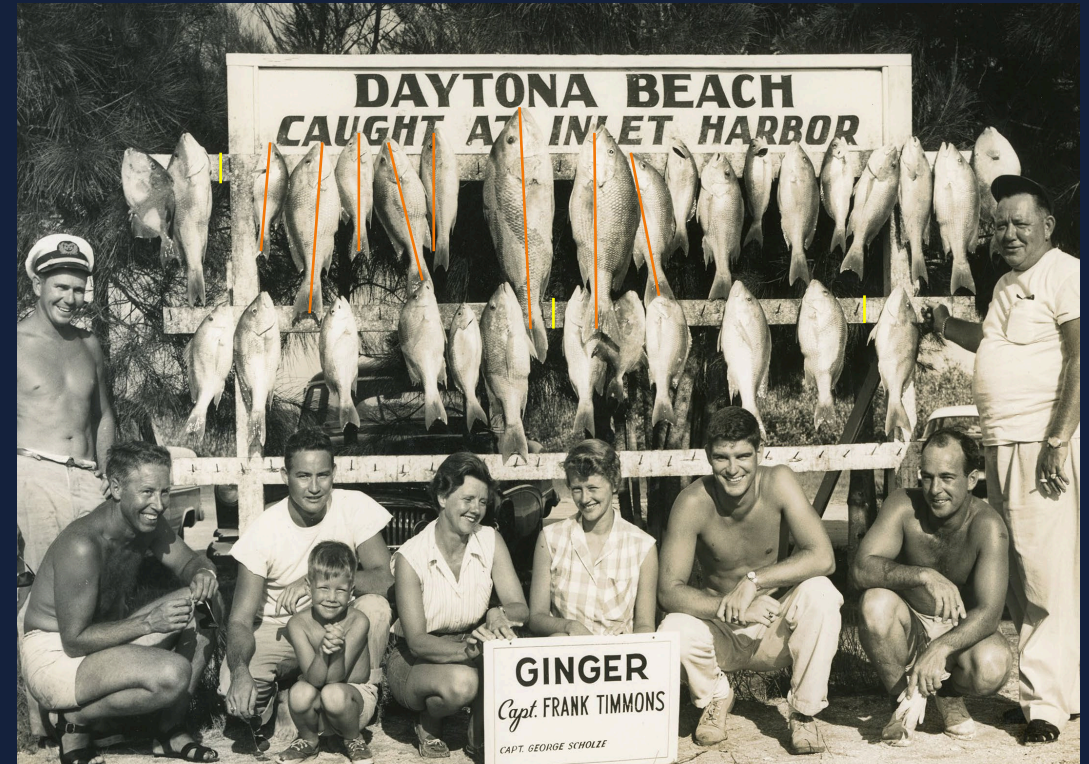
Know your South Atlantic fish? Join our Validation Team!



Target to re-launch in Zooniverse late Spring 2024



# Estimating Fish Lengths







# Discussion Questions

- What avenues should the Council explore to gather additional historic photos?
- Are there any individuals or organizations in your area that may be good contacts to gather historic fishing photos?
- When FISHTory re-lanches in Zooniverse – we'll be looking for volunteers to help analyze photos. Do you have suggestions on where we could share information to recruit new volunteers?

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



Julia Byrd  
CitSci Program Manager  
[julia.byrd@safmc.net](mailto:julia.byrd@safmc.net)

Meg Withers  
CitSci Project Coordinator  
[meg.withers@safmc.net](mailto:meg.withers@safmc.net)