Citizen Science Program Update

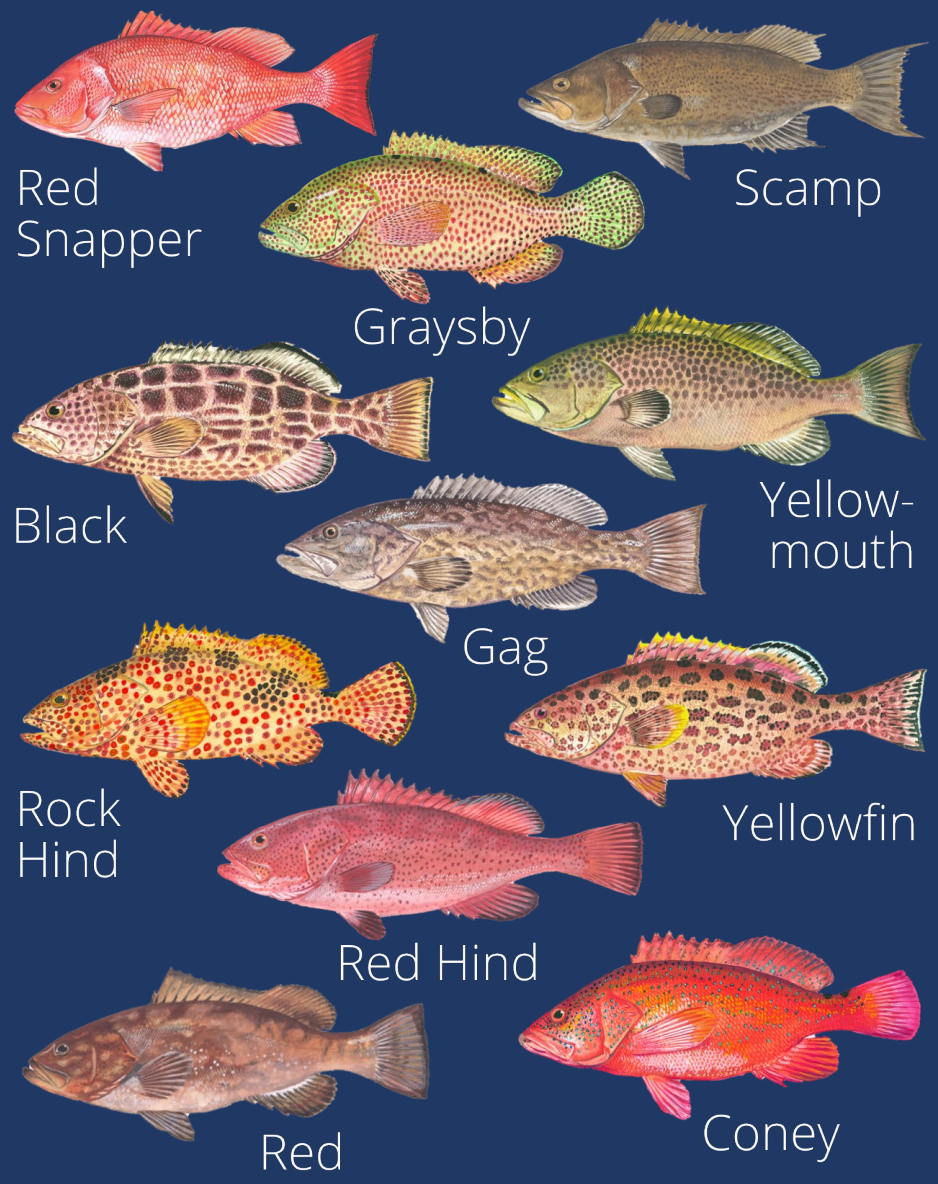
Snapper Grouper AP
October 2024

Program Activities

- SAFMC Release
- SciFish
- FISHstory Re-Launch
- Citizen Science Project Idea Portal
- CitSci Projects Advisory Group

SAFMC Release

Updates



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

Continued outreach, communication with participants, and participant recognition

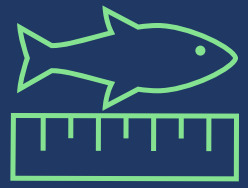
Participant engagement and retention

Communication with Participants

- Newsletters
- Thank you emails
- Data summary

Participant Recognition Program

Quantity of submissions



Smallest and largest of each species

Around the Reef: submitting all species in project

Sea Grant

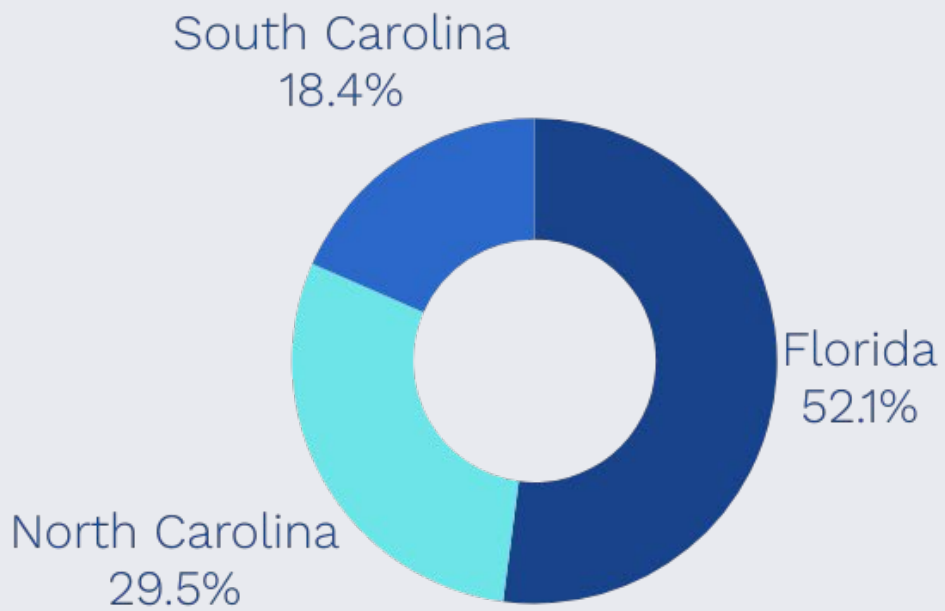
Sea Grant photo categories

https://safmc.net/documents/2024-prp-milestones-pdf/

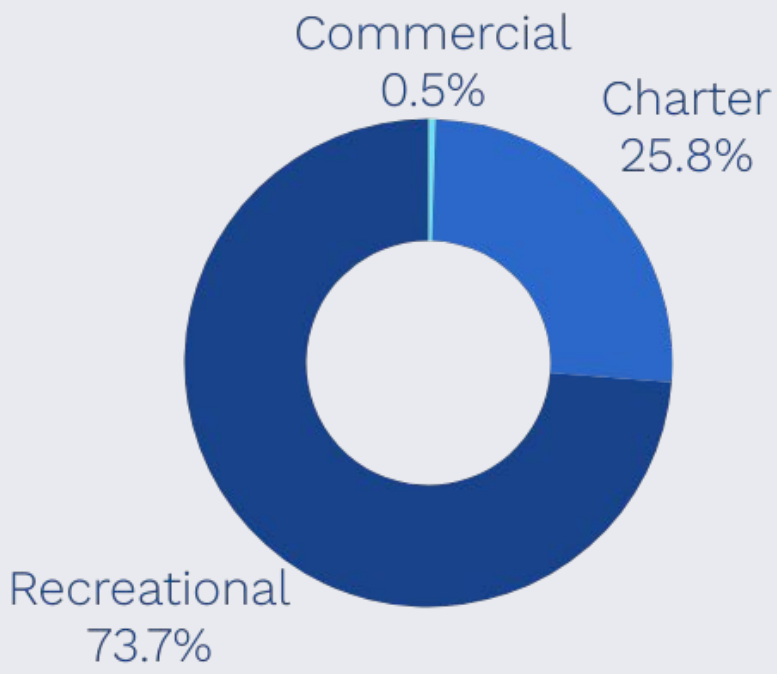
Where Submissions Came From

2023 Data Summary

By State



By Sector



https://safmc.net/documents/2023-safmc-release-data-summary-final/

Participant Retention

- Reduction in submissions began June 2024

- Cited reasons
  - Time/other obligations
  - Weather

Discussion Questions

1. What are possible methods we could use to “reactivate” some of our participants?

2. What motivating aspects of SAFMC Release do you think we should highlight in our communication?

SciFish Platform

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

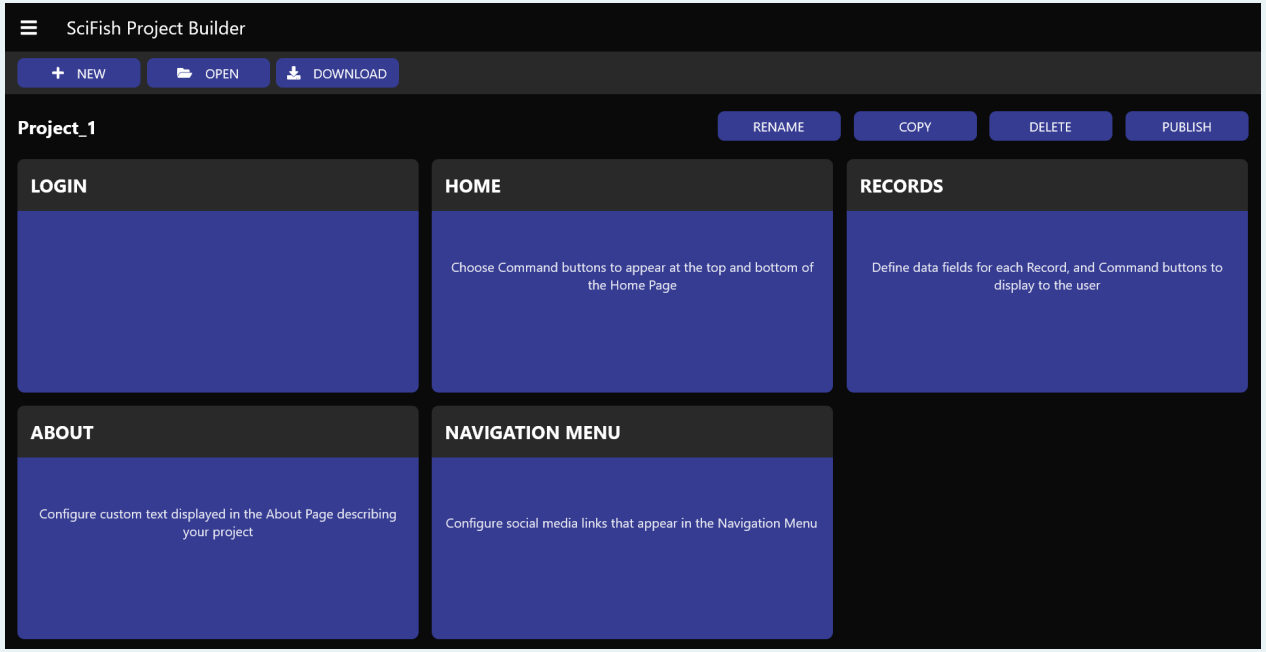
Reduce costs needed to develop individual applications

Reduce time to create applications from ground up

Increase consistency in data fields and structure

SciFish Platform

SciFish Project Builder



[ACCSP SciFish Builder.mp4]

SciFish Mobile App

SciFish Uses

SciFish Projects

New Project

New Project

SciFish API

PC: Cathy Owen & Charles C. Owen Jr.

PC: Billy Smitherman

FISHstory

A SAFMC CitSci Project

FISHstory

Citizen Science

FISHstory Photo Archive

>600 new photos were digitized and archived in 2023

We’re still working to grow archive

PC: Bobby Freeman, Jeff Garner & The Sanitary, Skip Nielsen

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.

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

Good participation thus far.....

but still working to recruit volunteers

As of September 26, 2024

LEVEL 1: Count Fish and People

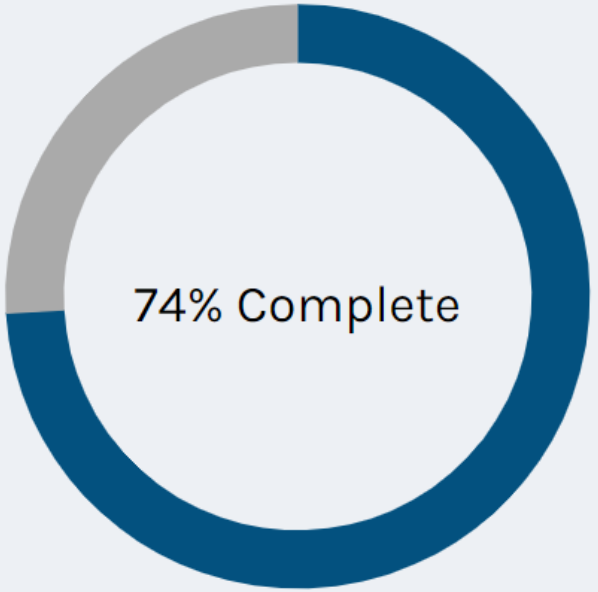
Retirement limit: 20
Images retired: 580 / 580
ETC* 0 days

LEVEL 2: Classify King Mackerel, Grouper & Sailfish

Retirement limit: 20
Images retired: 474 / 474
ETC* 0 days

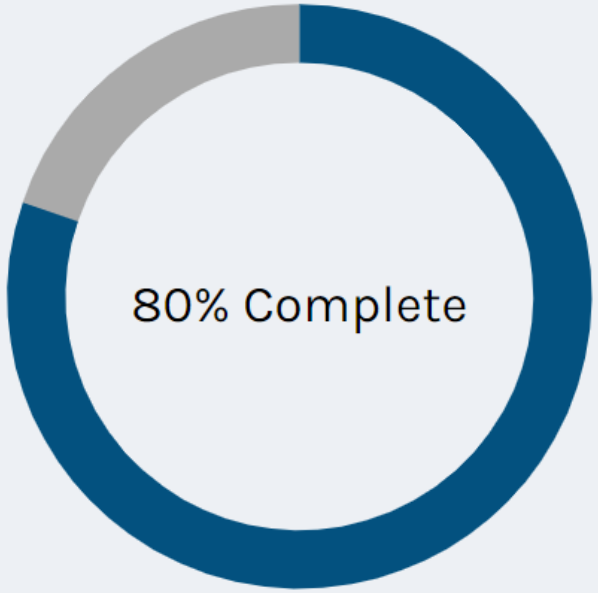
LEVEL 3: Classify Red Snapper, Amberjack & Sharks

Retirement limit: 20
Images retired: 51 / 474
Classifications: 7,025 / 9,480
ETC* 10 days



LEVEL 4: Classify Dolphinfish, Cobia, Gray Triggerfish & Little Tunny

Retirement limit: 20
Images retired: 36 / 474
Classifications: 7,609 / 9,480
ETC* 15 days



Fish ID #1

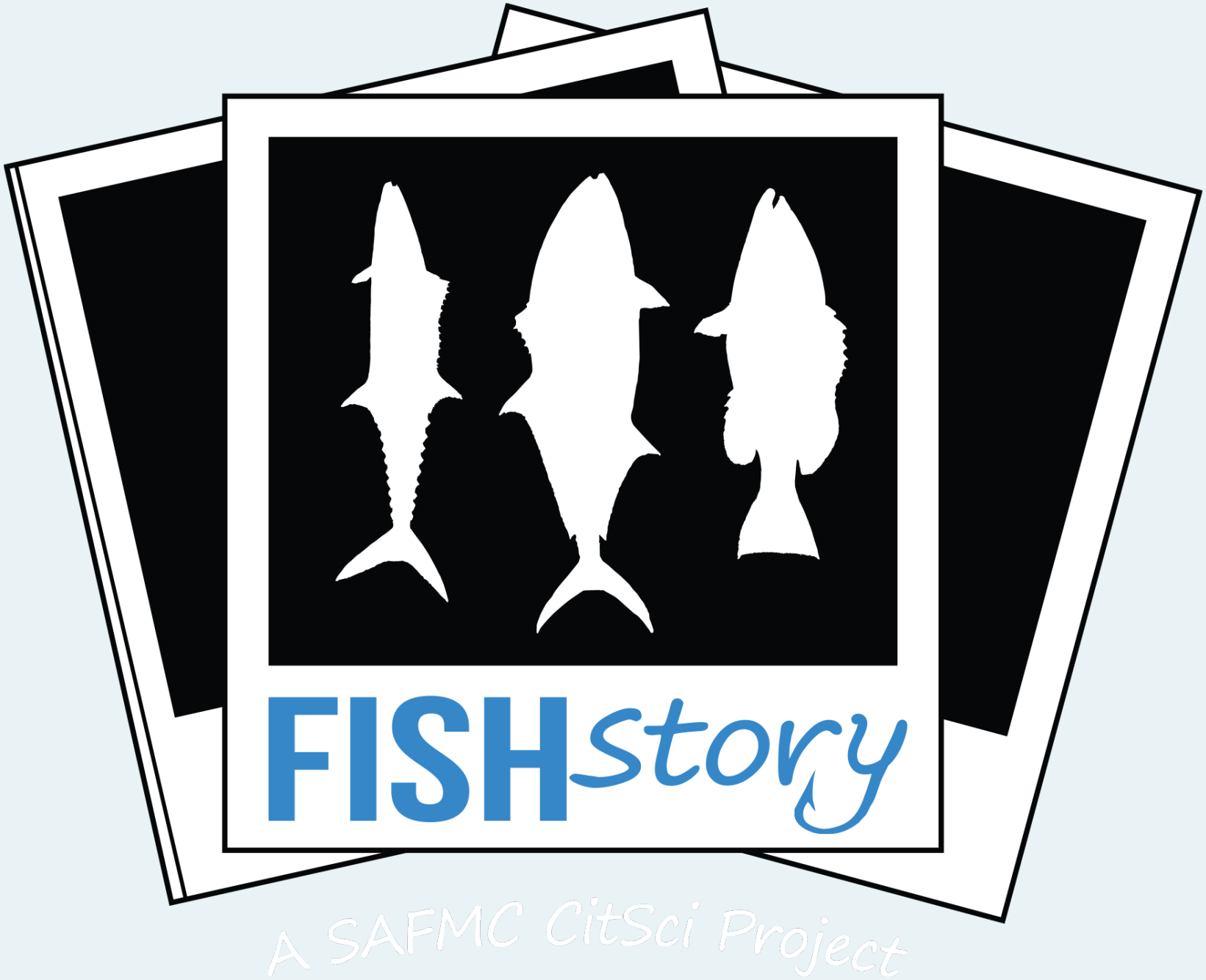
PC: Rusty Hudson

Fish ID #2

PC: Skip Nielsen

Next step in photo analysis

Validation Team review of photos with volunteer disagreement



FISHstory Discussion Questions

- 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?
- We need to recruit more individuals with fish ID expertise for our FISHstory Validation Team. Do you have suggestions of individuals or organizations we could contact to join the Validation Team? Would you consider joining the Validation Team?

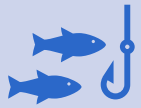
Share a project idea via the Citizen Science Project Idea Portal!

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

CitSci Project Idea Portal Questions

- General contact information
- Association with fishery
- Project idea & how it could improve conservation / management
- Interest in connecting to researchers or industry
- Target volunteers
- Length of project
- Support for project idea

CitSci Project Idea Portal Discussion Questions



What are the best places to advertise this tool to fishermen?

What would be effective placement so that fishermen would see information when and where they have time to use the tool?

What messaging could encourage fishermen to submit their ideas in the portal?

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

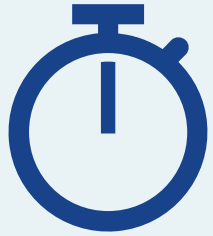
Projects Advisory Committee

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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Projects Advisory Committee

Research priorities, volunteer engagement, etc.

Members of other Council APs

Term dependent on AP tenure

Meet 1 time per year

Current SG AP representation

Andy Piland*

Richard Gomez

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

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