

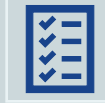


Citizen Science

Citizen Science Program Update

Snapper Grouper AP
April 2024

Program Activities



Updated CitSci Research Priorities



CitSci Project Idea Portal – Launching
Spring 2024



SMILE Project Updates



FISHstory: Gathering New Photos &
Validation Team



SAFMC Release 2023 Annual Data
Summary & 2024 PRP

CitSci Research Priorities



Guide the projects the Program develops and supports



Narrow focus from many data needs to tangible ideas important to South Atlantic fishermen, scientists, managers



Share with other groups interested in developing or collaborating on citsci projects

SAFMC Citizen Science Research Priorities

2023-2025



Citizen Science

Topic	Data Needed	Potential Outcome
Age Sampling	Otolith & fin clip (future) collection	Characterize the age of catches
Discard Information	Length, depth, quantity, discard reason, devices used, terminal gear, disposition	Characterize the size of discards, Improved discard removal estimates
Genetic Sampling	Fin clips	Stock identification, Species ID, Ageing (still developing)
Fishing Infrastructure	GPS location and details of fishing-related infrastructure	Baseline for fishing-related infrastructure, help better define communities for social analysis
Historical Fishing Photos	Digitized images	Species and length compositions, improved historical information
Fishery Oral Histories & Historic Logbooks	Fishermen interviews, digitized logbooks	Improved understanding of changes in fishery over time
Oceanographic & Environmental Conditions	Various environmental data including bottom temperature and weather	Database of climate and changing conditions, fishery patterns
Shifting, Rare or Data Limited Species Observations	Point observations of data limited or rarely encountered species; length info for data limited species	Baseline for species shift, increased information for data limited species
Observations in Managed Areas	Species, length, depth, videos, photos, effort, edge effects	Species composition, occurrence of spawning, info on compliance
Movement & Migration	Species, location, length, tag details, supporting existing tagging programs	Movement and migratory patterns
Shark & Mammal Depredation	Observations of depredation, location, species, photo, DNA swab	Document depredation observations
Habitat Characterization	Photos, videos - focused on EFH	Ground truth bathymetry data
Spiny Lobster Data	Catch, effort, length, sex, presence of eggs, presence/absence	Characterize fishery in FL and GA north (more data limited)



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

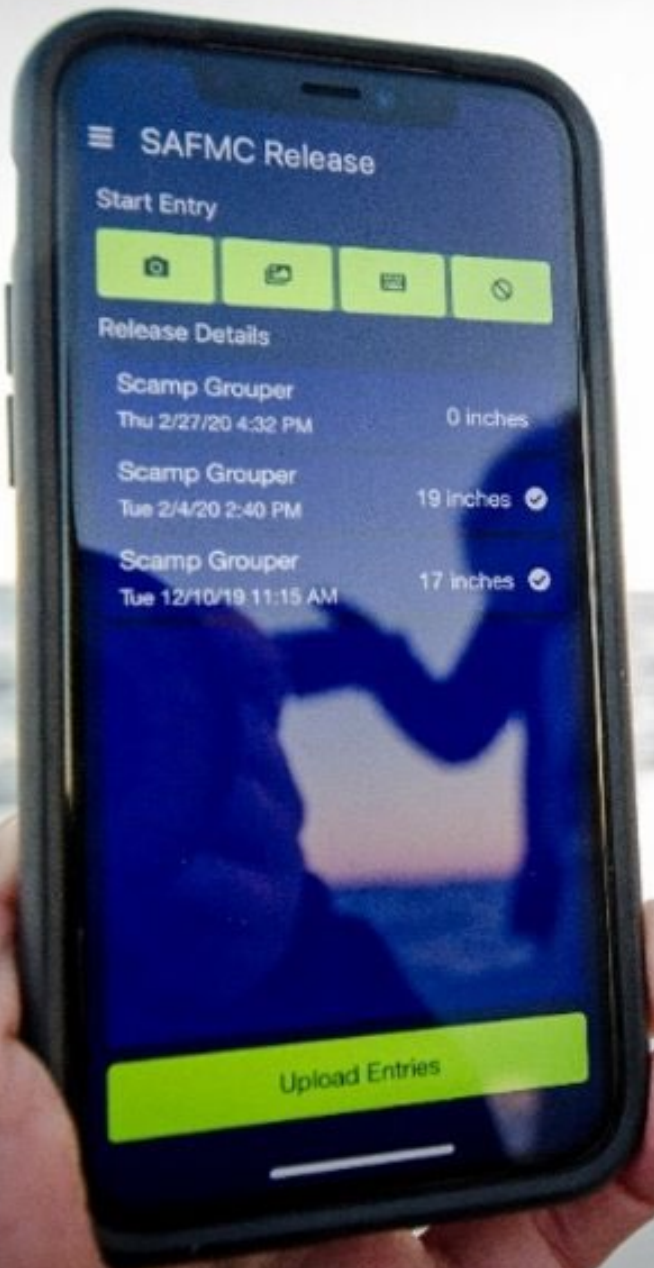
Launching Spring 2024



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

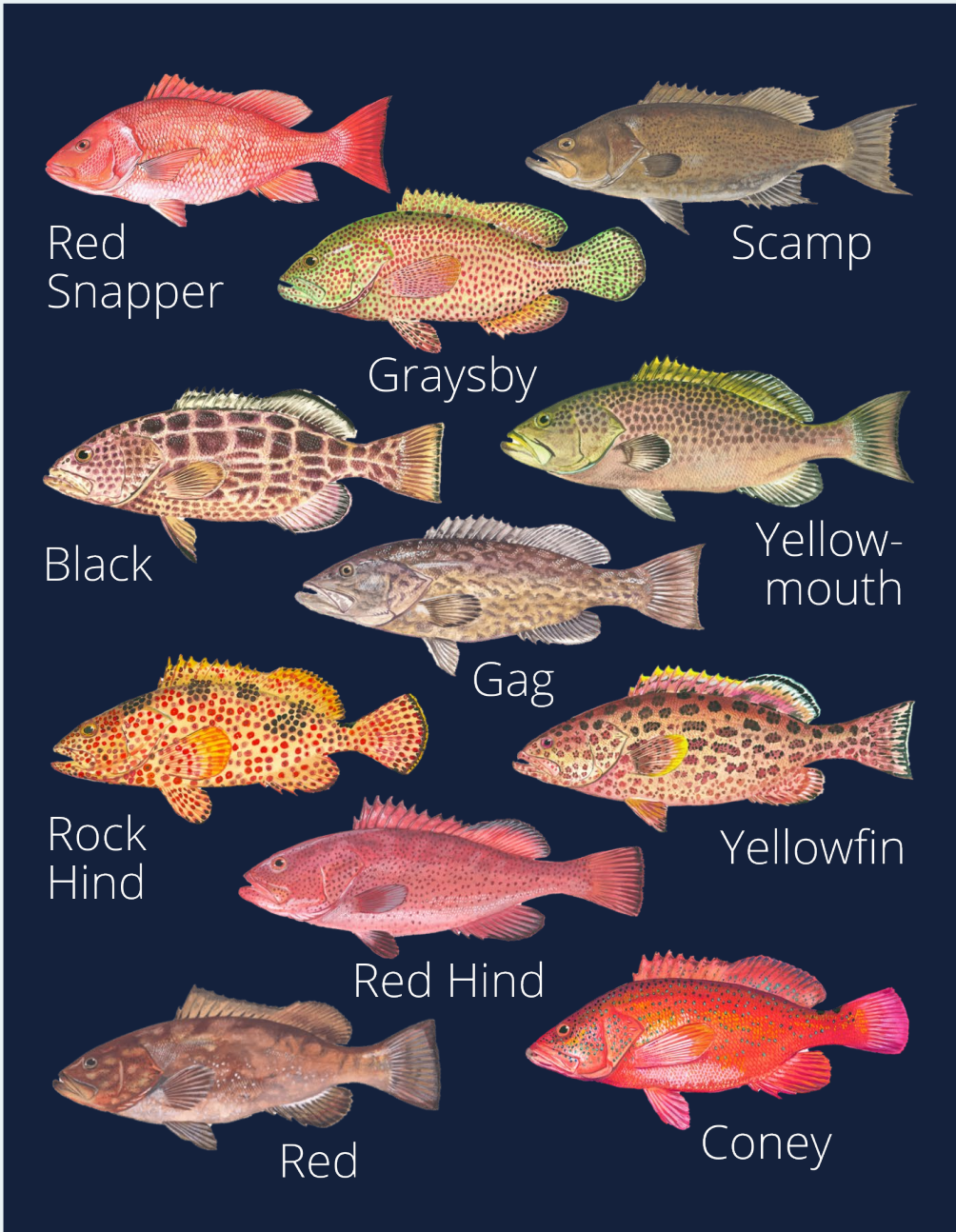




SAFMC Release



Updates



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

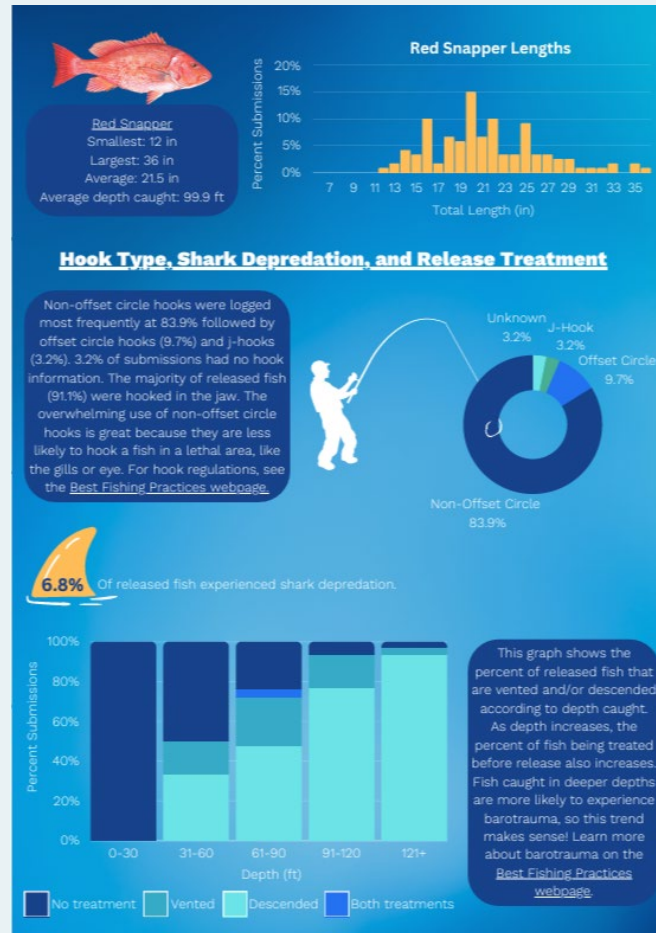
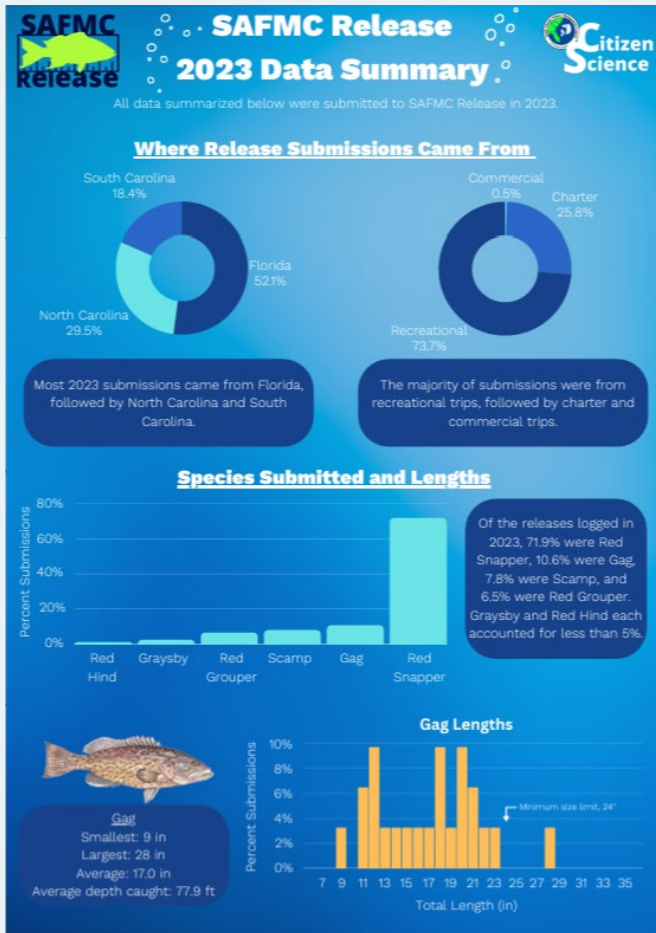
Continued outreach, including collaboration with Best Fishing Practices initiative

2023 Annual Data Summary

2024 Participant Recognition Milestones



2023 Data Summary



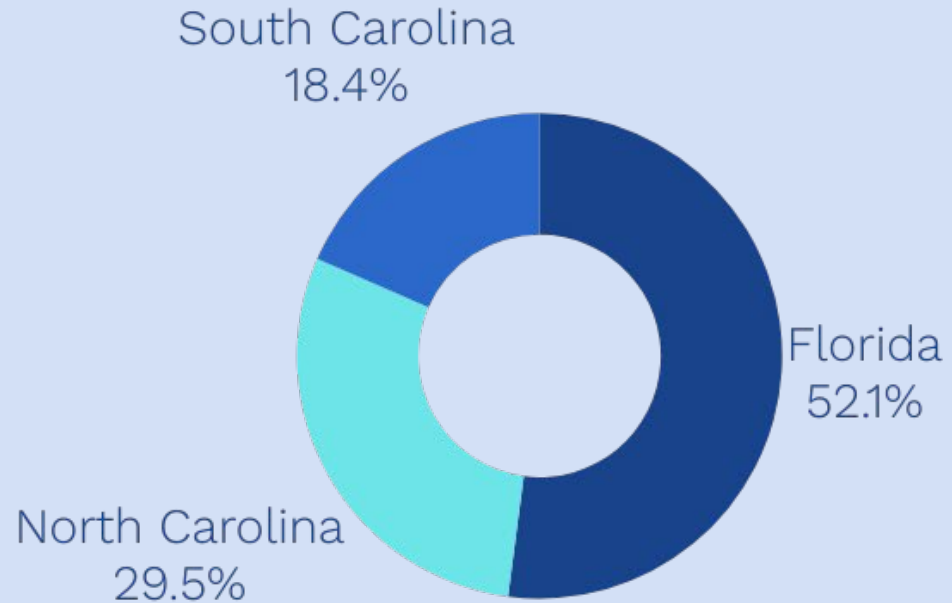
Summary includes:

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

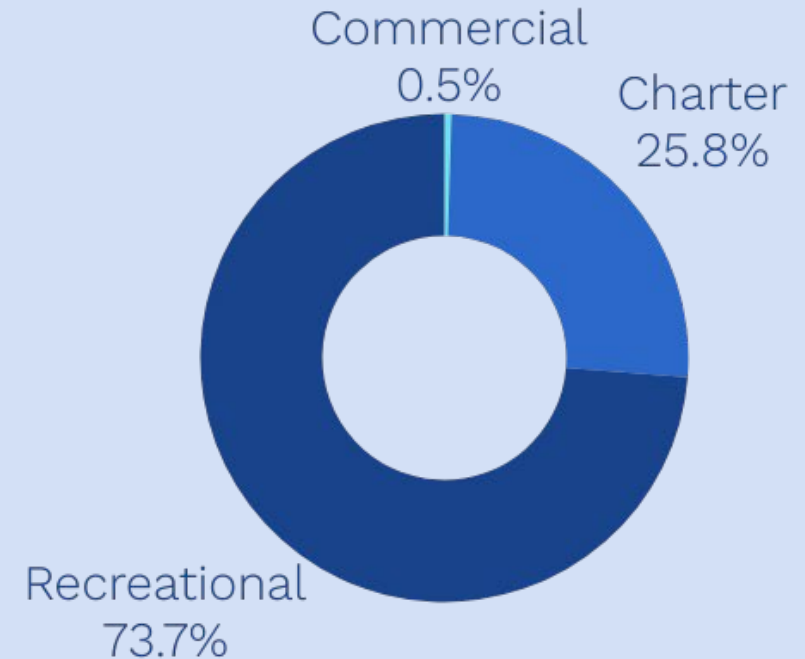


2023 Data Summary: Where Release Submissions Came From

By State

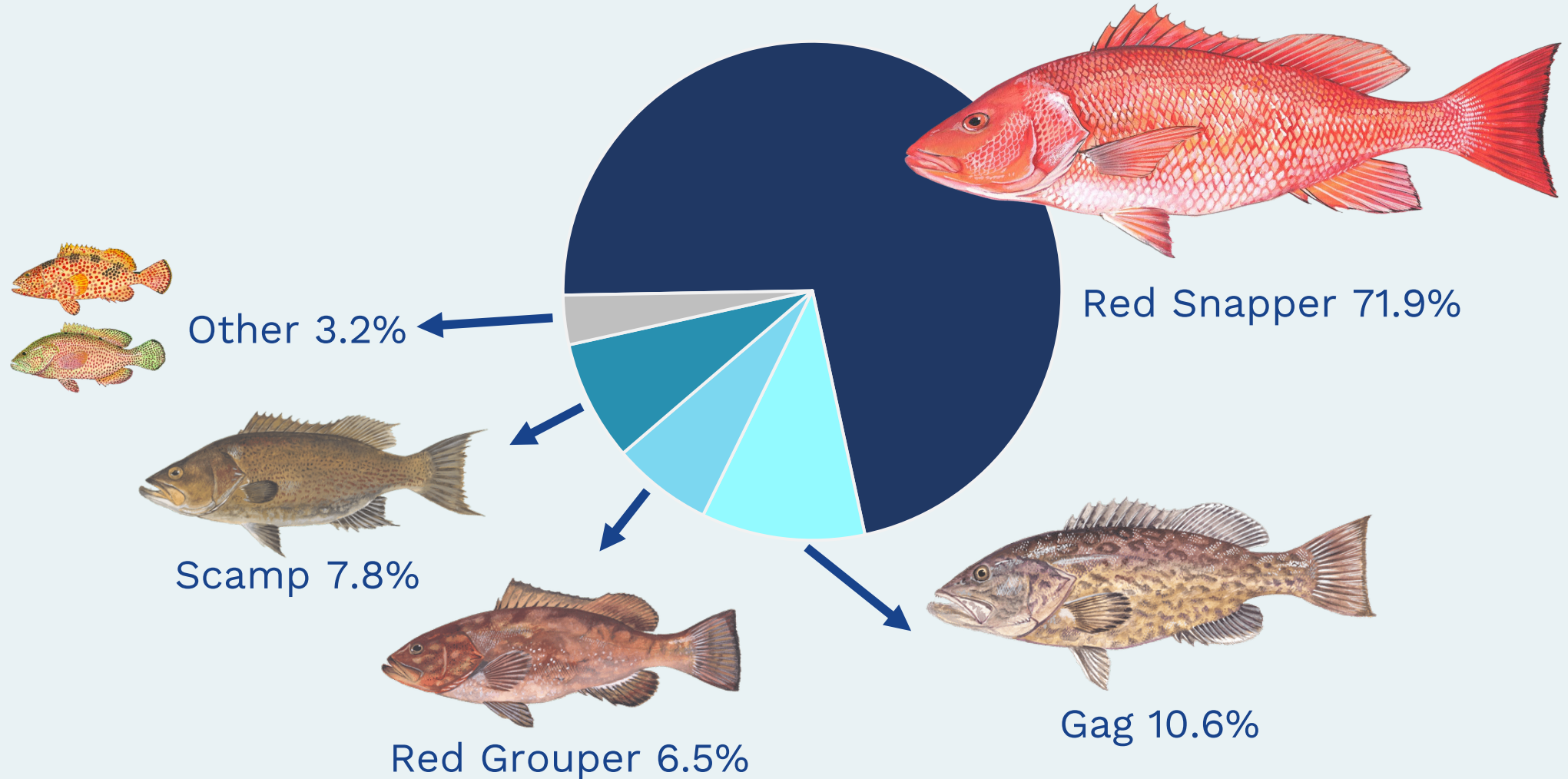


By Sector



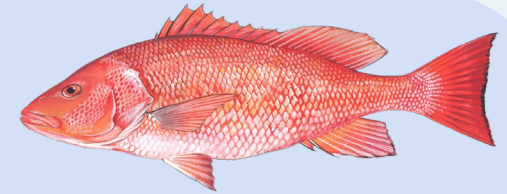
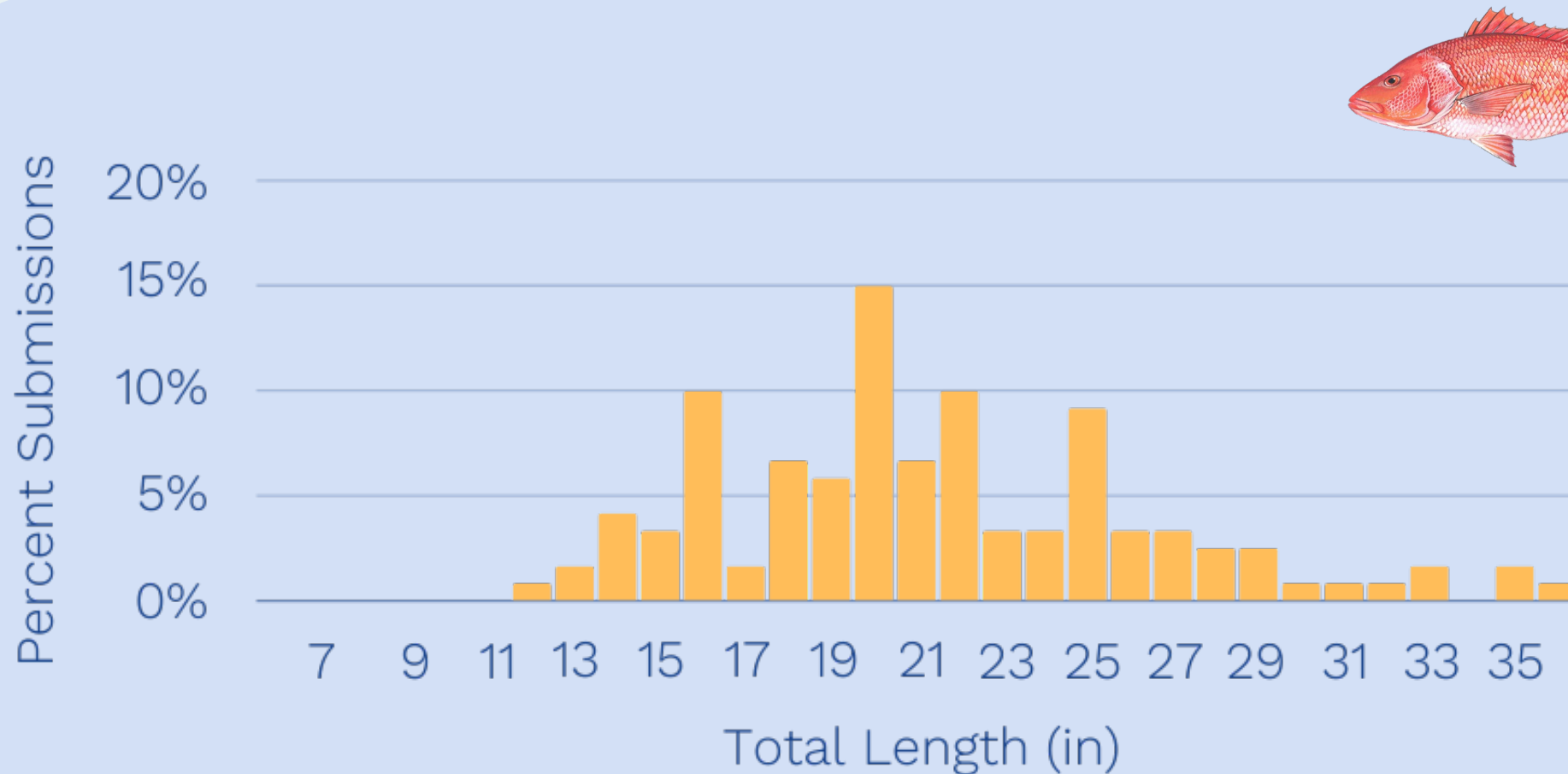


2023 Data Summary: Releases Logged by Species



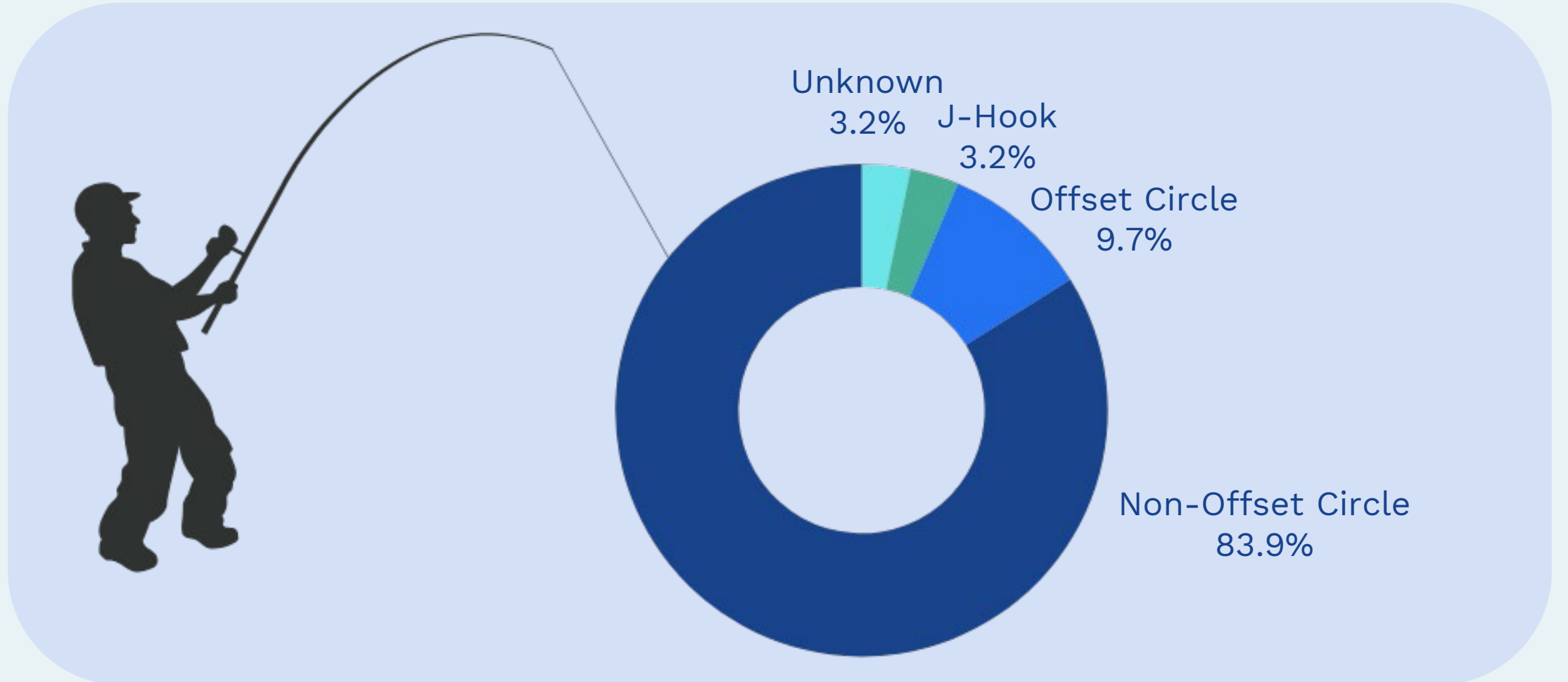


2023 Data Summary: Red Snapper Release Lengths



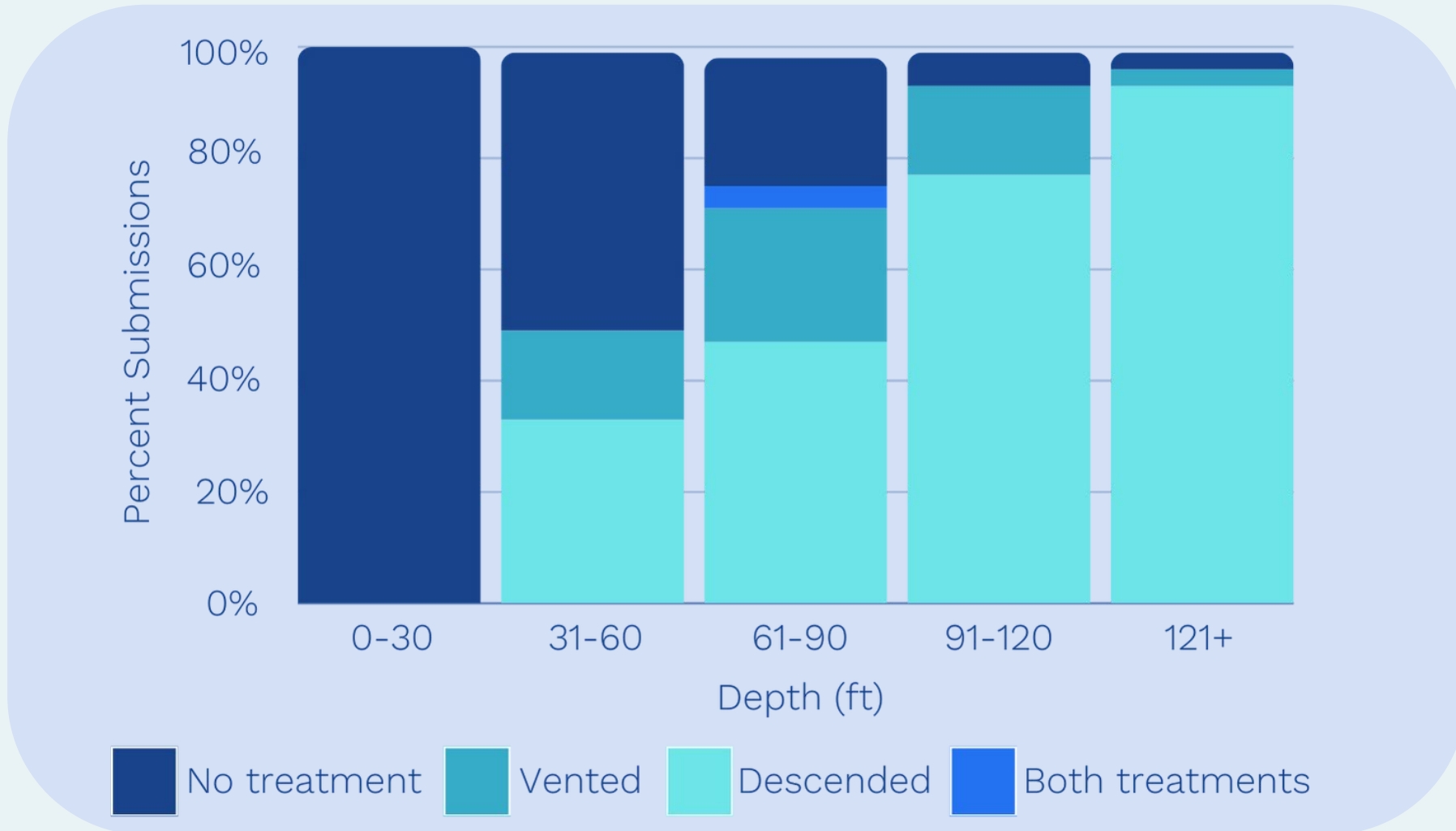


2023 Data Summary: Hook Types Logged for Releases





2022 Data Summary: Release Treatment by Depth





Participant Recognition Program (PRP): 2023 Milestone Highlights

Smallest: 10 in
Chris Kimrey

Largest: 19 in
Chris Kimrey, Justin
Carnes



Smallest: 9 in
Chris Kimrey

Largest: 28 in
Justin Carnes



Smallest: 12 in
Darrin Willingham

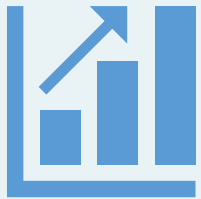
Largest: 36 in
Tony Constant



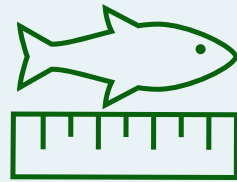


PRP 2024 Milestones

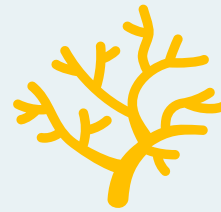
- 2023 PRP milestones were a success!
- 2024 Milestones include recognitions for:



Quantity of submissions



Smallest and largest of each species



Around the Reef: submitting all species in project



Sea Grant photo categories



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



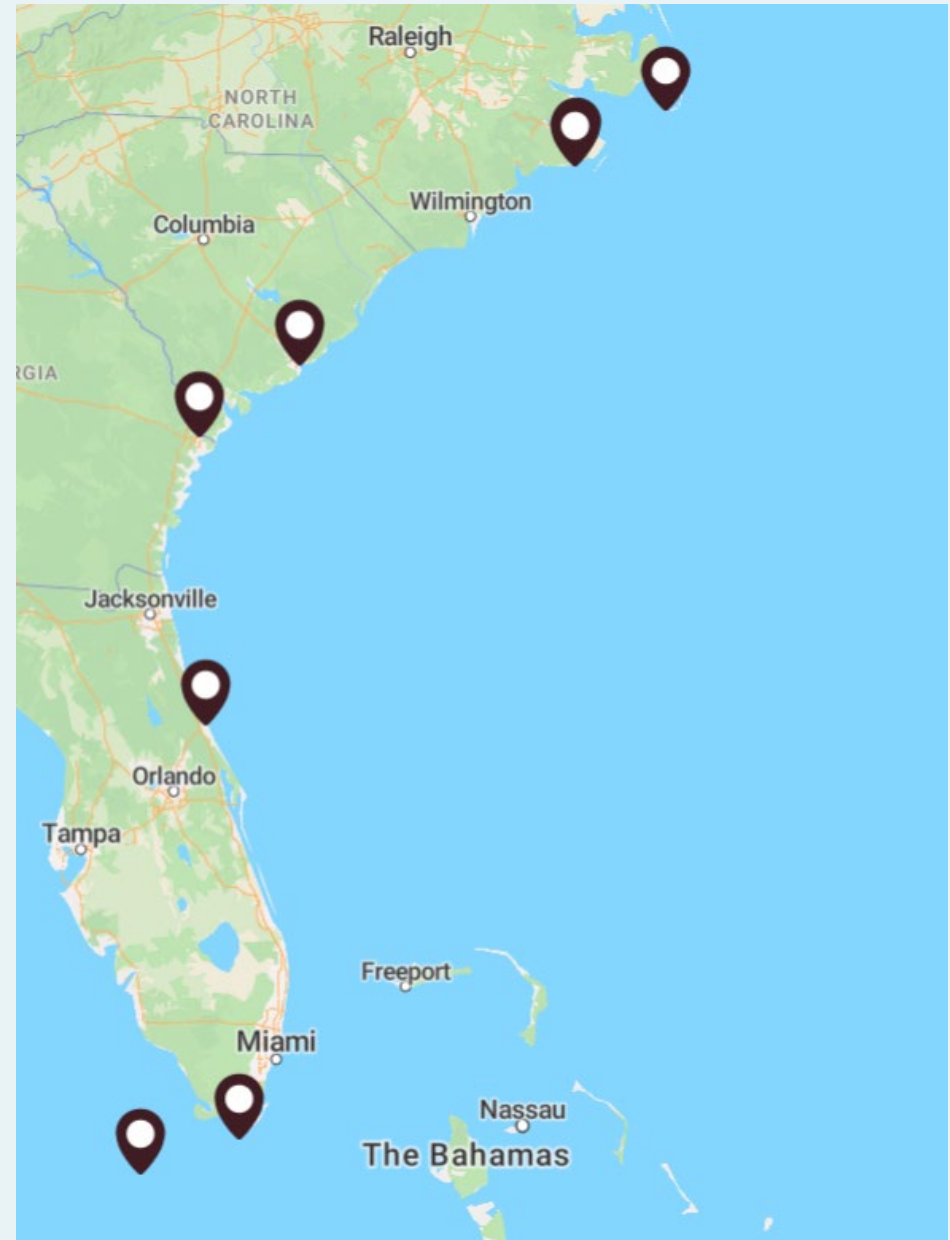
AP & Council members helped connect us to others in their communities



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



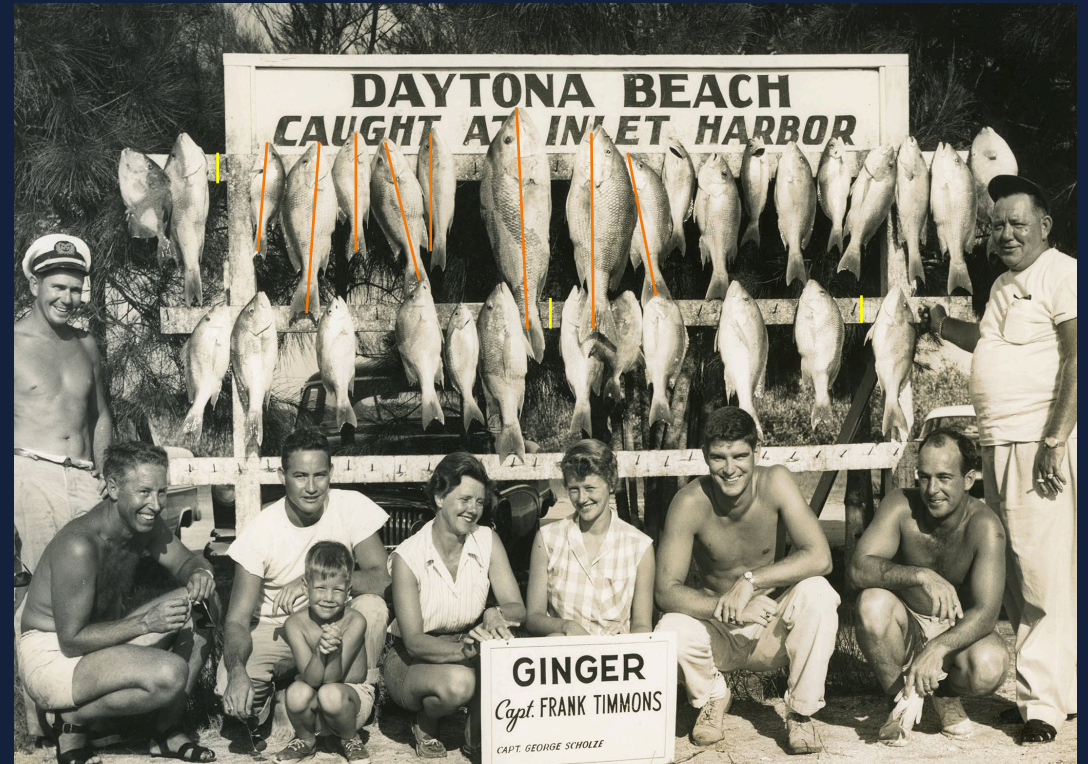
Know your South Atlantic fish? Join our Validation Team!



Target to re-launch in Zooniverse late Spring 2024



Estimating Fish Lengths



Discussion Questions

- Are there any other 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?
- We need fish identification experts to join the FIShtory Validation Team. Would you consider joining this team?

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



Julia Byrd
CitSci Program Manager
julia.byrd@safmc.net

Meg Withers
CitSci Project Coordinator
meg.withers@safmc.net