

**Citizen  
Science**

# Citizen Science Program Update

SAFMC SEP – April 2022

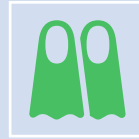
# Program Activities



Citizen Science Research Priorities:  
Updated Dec 2021



Citizen Science Program Outreach



SMILE grant proposal: submitted Jan 2022



Fisheries Magazine Special Issue on  
Citizen Science



Reel 



Release

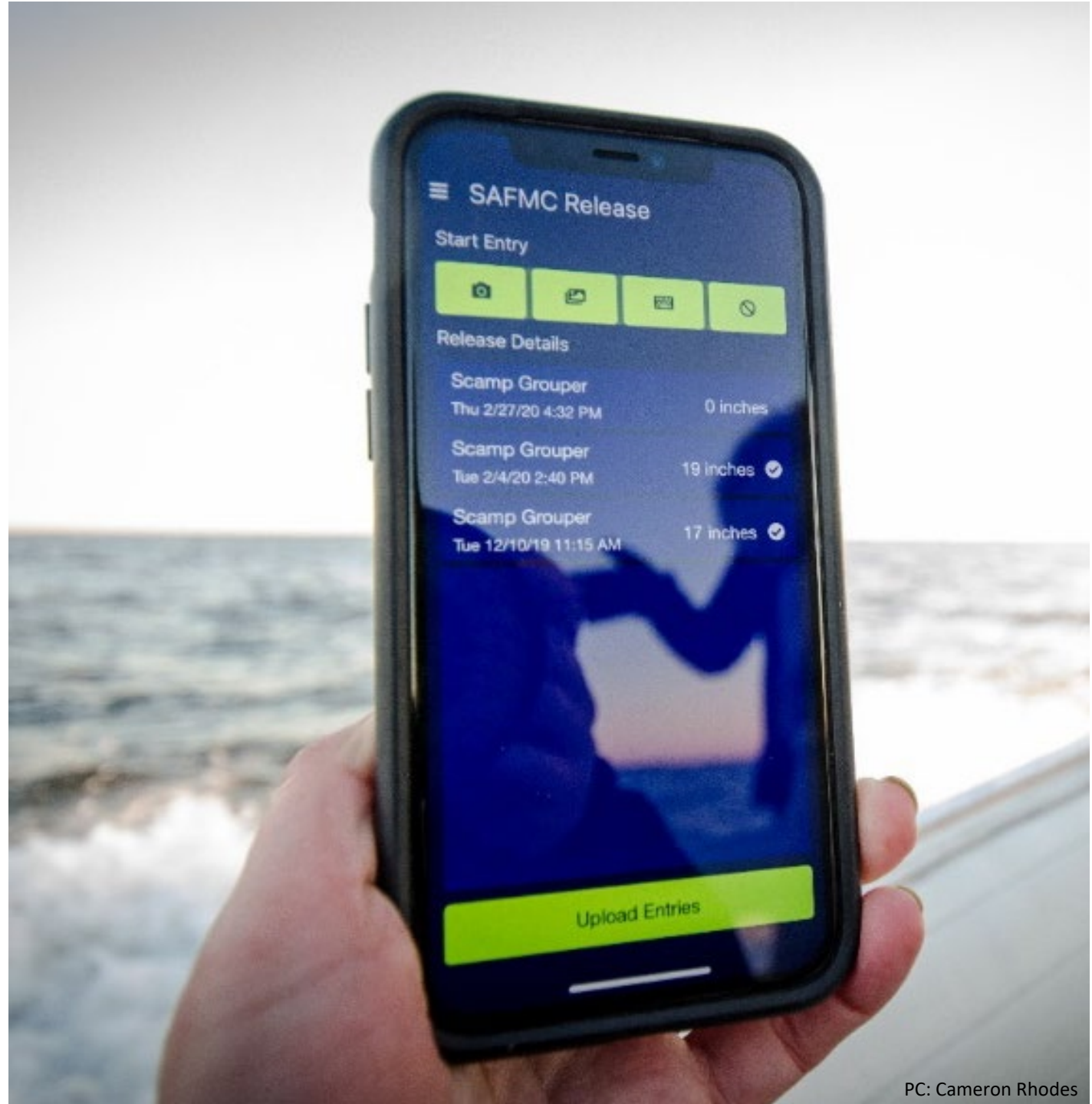


- Work with commercial, for-hire, and recreational fishermen to collect data on released fish via the SciFish mobile app
- Focus on collecting length of released fish & info to help better understand how many released fish survive





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- Data collected include:
    - Date, length, depth, optional location, descending device usage, venting, shark predation
  - [Jan 2022 newsletter](#) summarizing data
  - Upcoming outreach and recruitment push

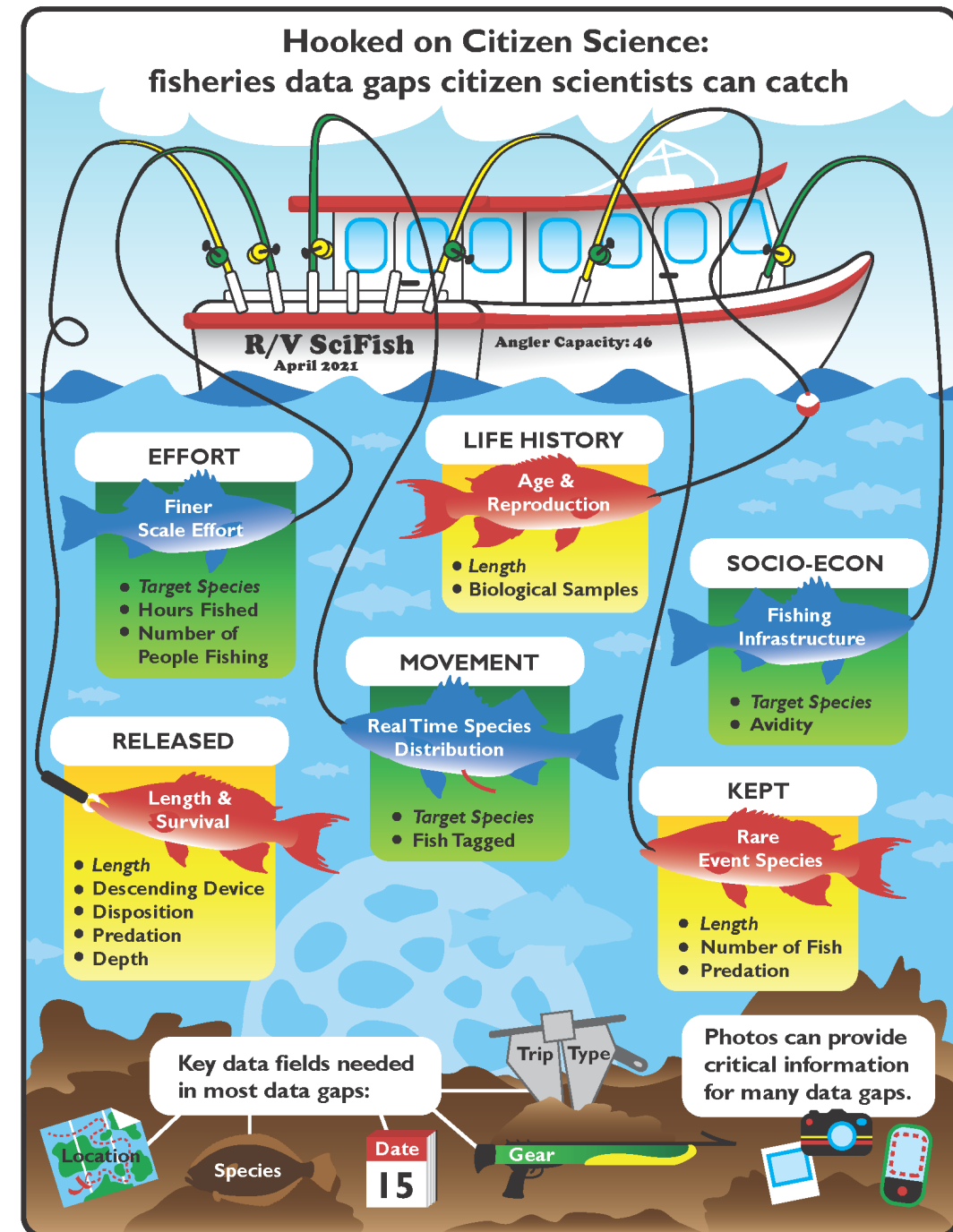




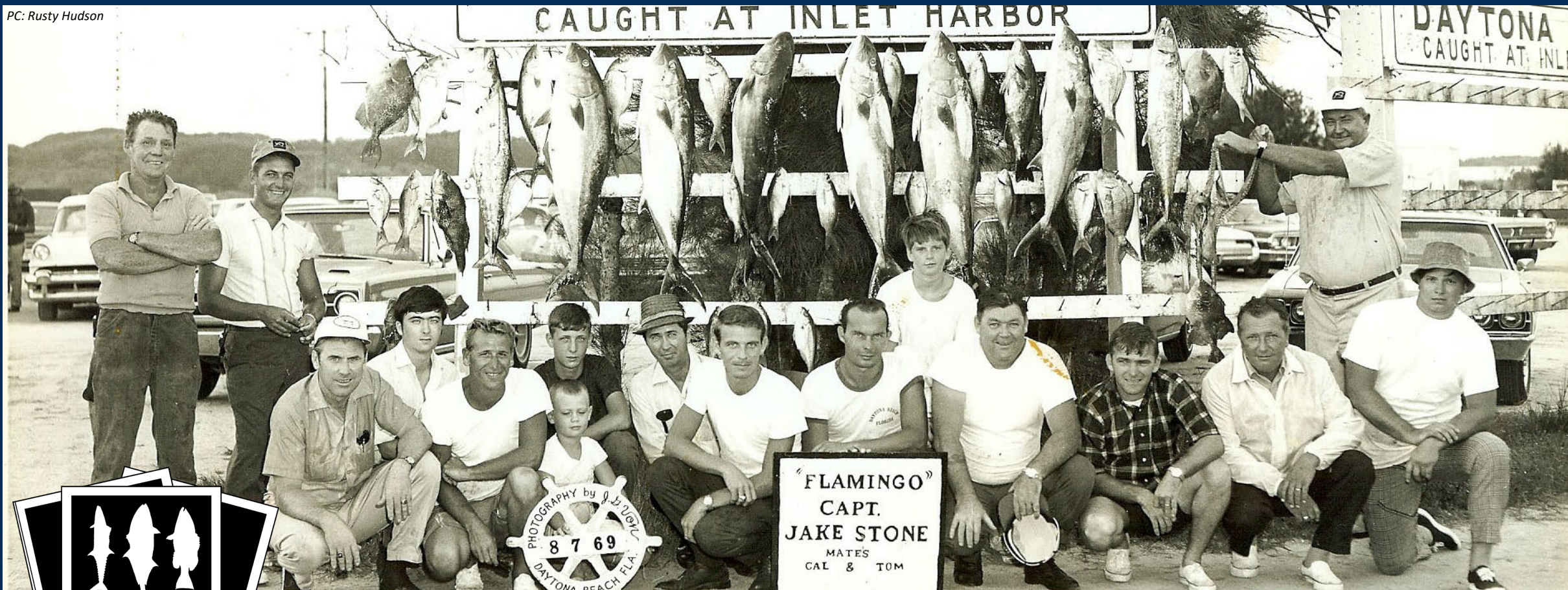
# SciFish Development

Identified data gaps that would respond well to citizen science & corresponding data fields needed to address those gaps

Development underway for the customizable app and project builder



PC: Rusty Hudson



# FISHstory

Pilot project to document for-hire catch and length estimates using historic photos

# FISHstory Project Components & Progress

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Digitize historic  
photos



For-hire catch  
composition in  
Zooniverse



Method to estimate  
length – pilot test on  
King Mackerel

# FISHstory Project Components & Progress

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Digitize historic photos



Over 1,374 photos digitized & archived



For-hire catch composition in Zooniverse



Over 2,120 volunteers made 35,740 classifications  
Validation Team reviewed 180 photos



Method to estimate length – pilot test on King Mackerel



King Mackerel measured in 1,374 photos



# FISHstory Next Steps

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- Pilot grant report submitted
- Developing outreach materials summarizing findings
- Continuing analysis
- Exploring photo scanning opportunities at meetings



# Initial Program Evaluation Plan

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- Working with Rick Bonney to gather baseline data on knowledge, attitudes, collaborations, engagement, and trust levels of various stakeholders in three stages:



Interviews



Develop online survey



Implement & analyze survey

# Initial Program Evaluation Plan

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- Working with Rick Bonney to gather baseline data on knowledge, attitudes, collaborations, engagement, and trust levels of various stakeholders in three stages:



Interviews



Complete: 6 fishermen, 6 scientists,  
6 managers



Develop online survey



Beginning to draft survey questions



Implement & analyze survey

# Online Survey - tentative topics

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Gather baseline information from scientists, fishermen, and managers on their:

- Experience with the Council and citizen science
- Familiarity with the stock assessment and management process
- Knowledge of the Citizen Science Program & research priorities
- Perspectives on data available in the South Atlantic
- Perspectives on citizen science data being used in a management context

# Discussion Questions

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The Citizen Science Program is operating on a limited budget, keeping that in mind consider the following questions:

- In your experience, what can help to get a good response rate with an online survey?
- With limited resources, how can we try to get participants from outside the Council's typical network of people?
- How long should we consider keeping the survey open?



Keep Up with Projects & the Program!  
<http://safmc.net/citizen-science-program/>

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