



Citizen Science

Citizen Science Program Update

SAFMC Meeting
June 2023

Program Activities



NOAA Library [Seminar Presentation](#)



[NOAA Citizen Science Action Plan](#)



Conferences & symposiums



SMILE & SAFMC Release Project Updates



FISHstory Scanning Events

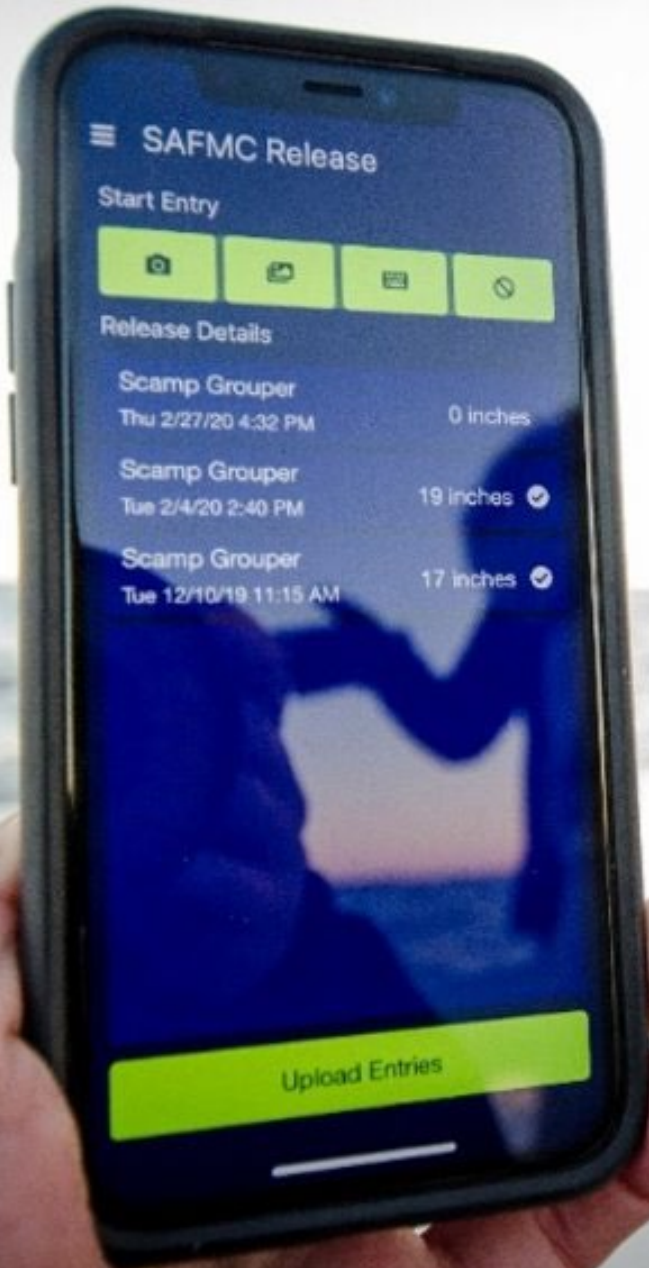


CitSci Evaluation Progress Update

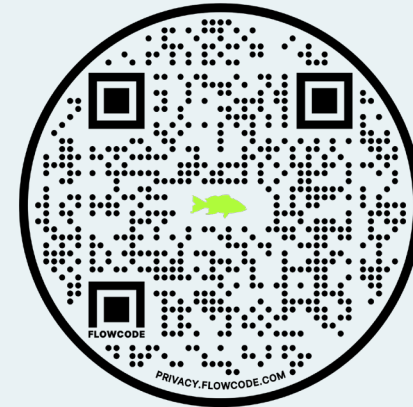
SMILE Pilot Project

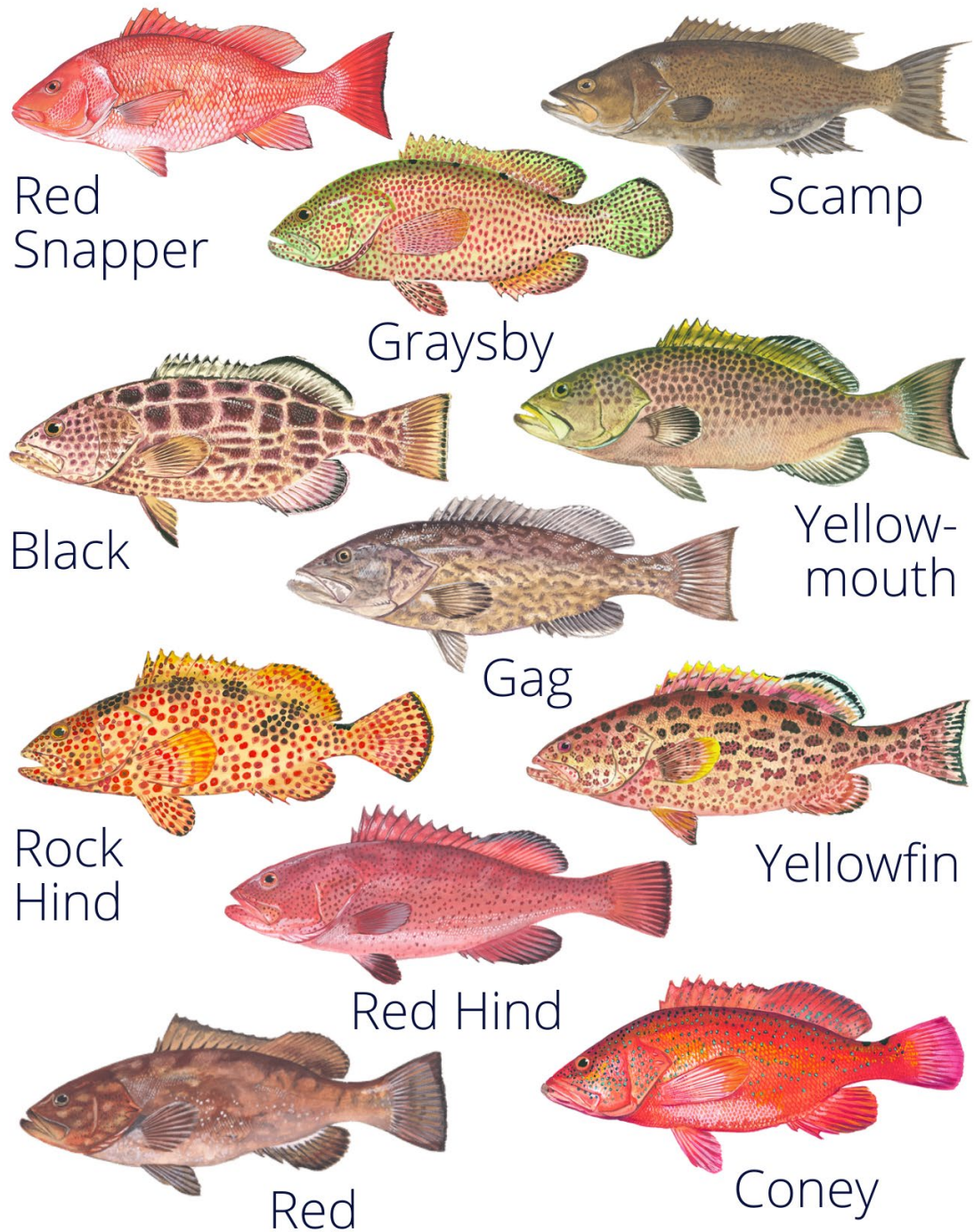
- Partnering with recreational divers to collect length information on data limited species
- Camera development underway
- Field testing – summer 2023





SAFMC Release





Updates

- Participants recording information about released shallow water grouper and Red Snapper in SciFish app
- Continued collaboration with Best Fishing Practices initiative
- Participant Recognition Program
- 2022 Annual Data Summary

SAFMC Release

Participant Recognition Program



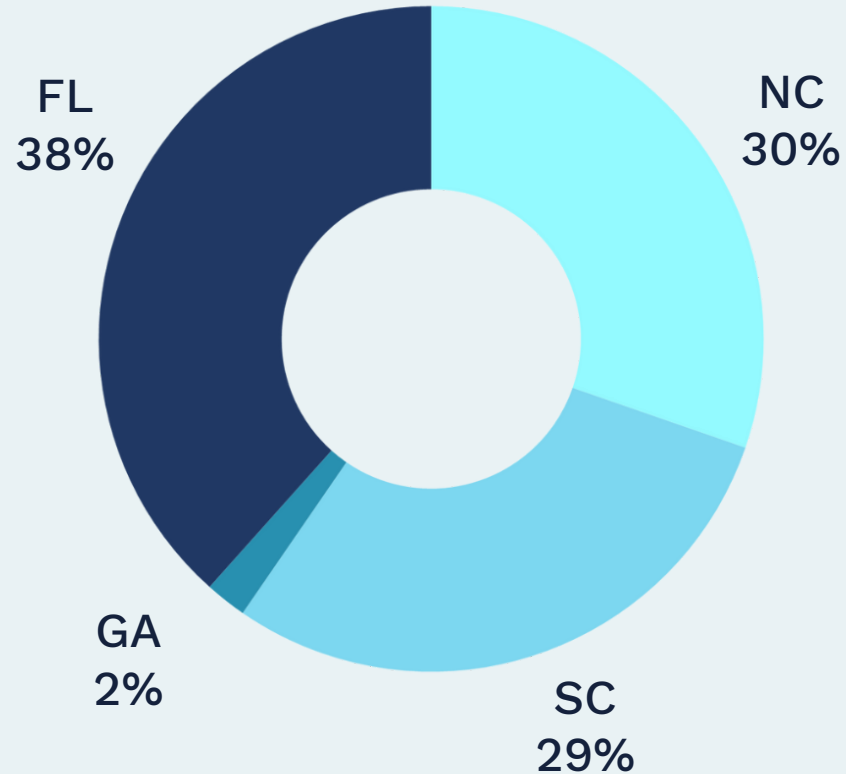
- Designed to celebrate participants' achievements within the SAFMC Release project
- Recognition on various platforms, including Release newsletter and social media
- Set 2023 milestones

safmc.net/documents/safmc-release-prp-2023-milestones/

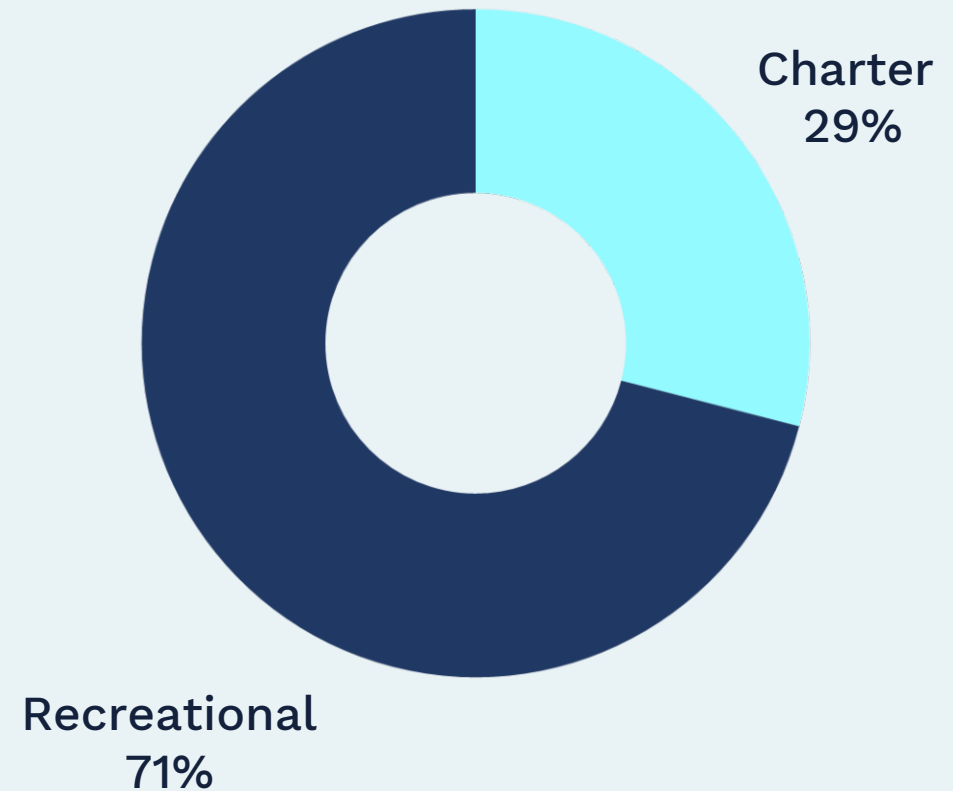


2022 Data Summary: Where Release Submissions Came From

By State

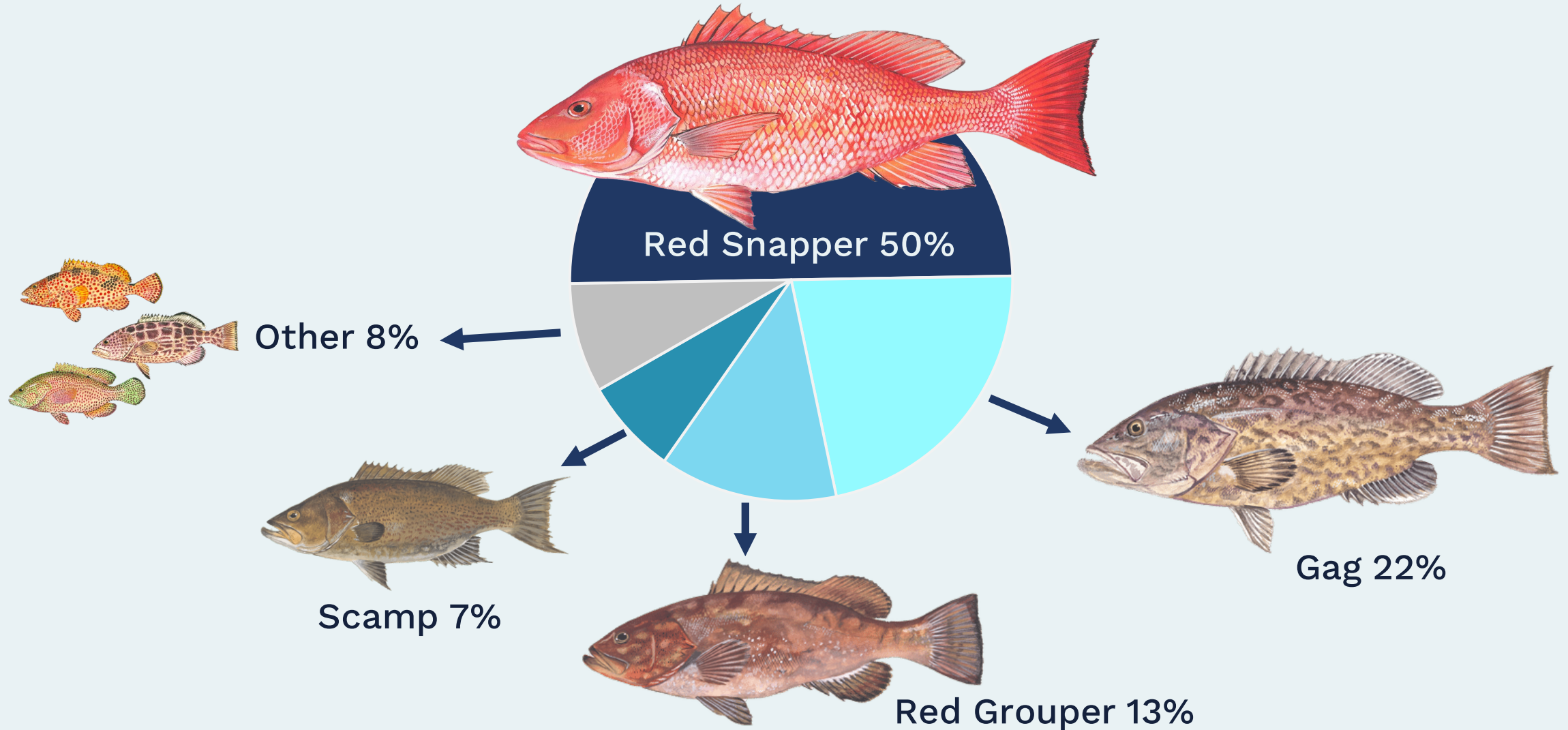


By Sector



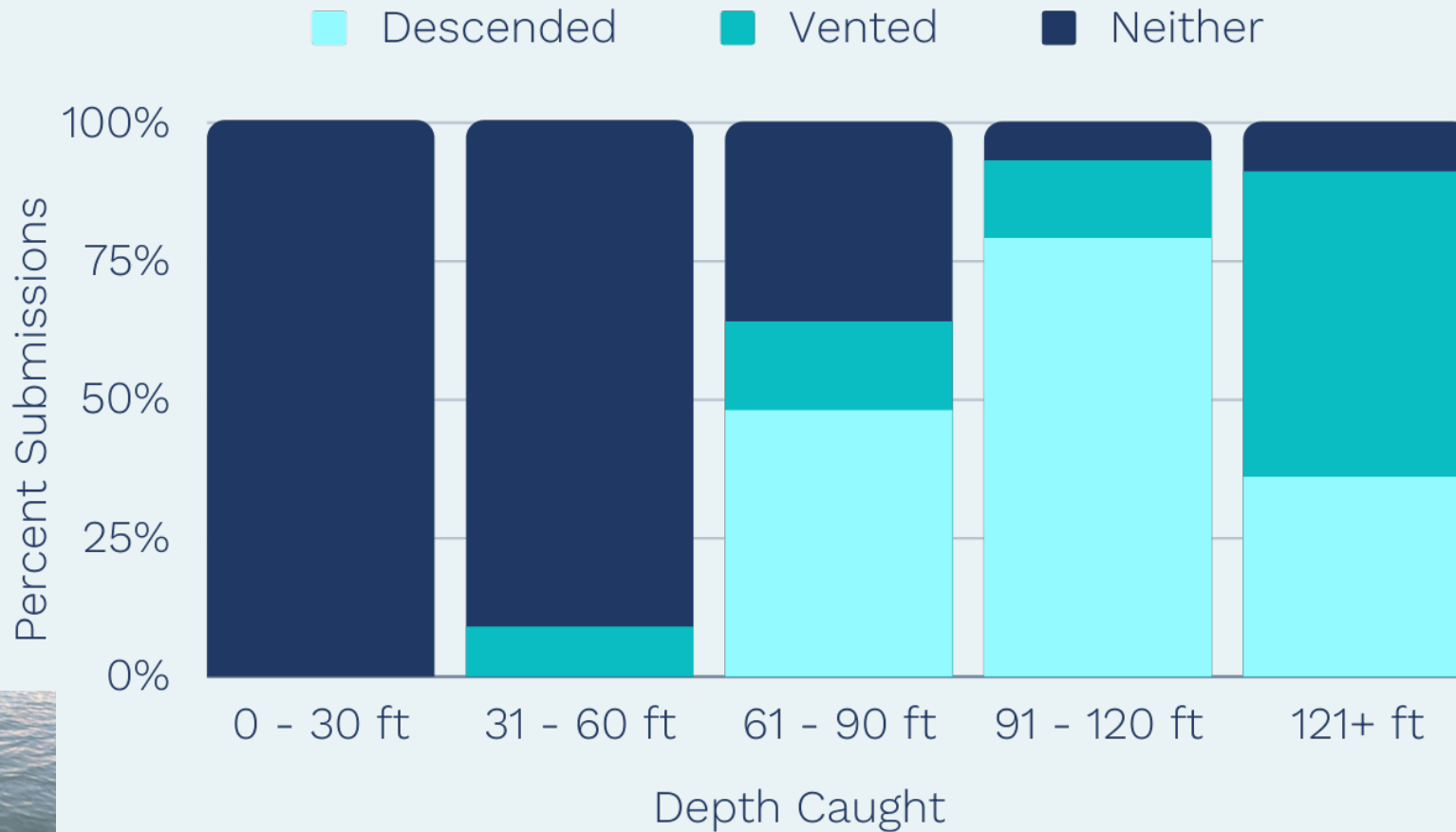


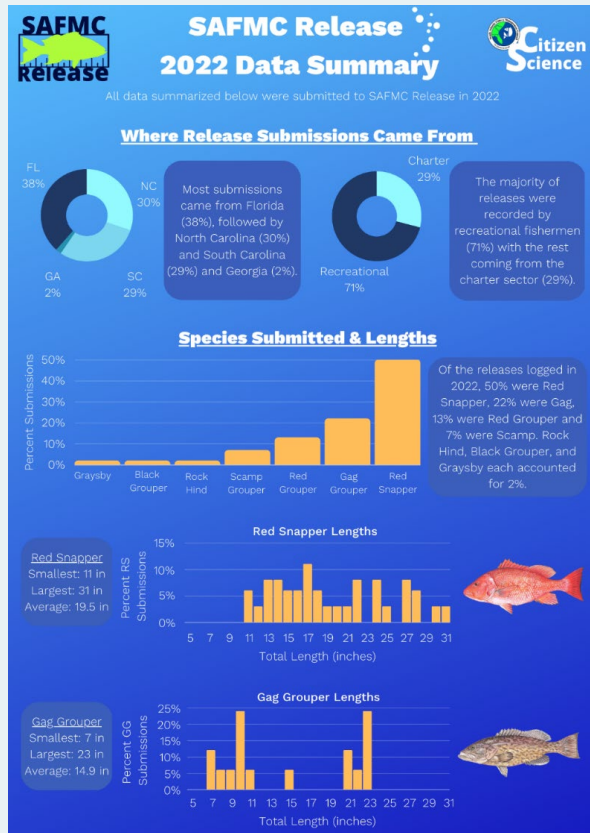
2022 Data Summary: Percent of Releases Logged by Species





2022 Data Summary: Release Treatment by Depth





Summary includes:

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



Citizen
Science

FISHstory



A SAFMC CitSci Project



Next Steps

- Move from pilot to full scale project



Funding to
grow
project



Expand
geographic &
temporal
range of
photos



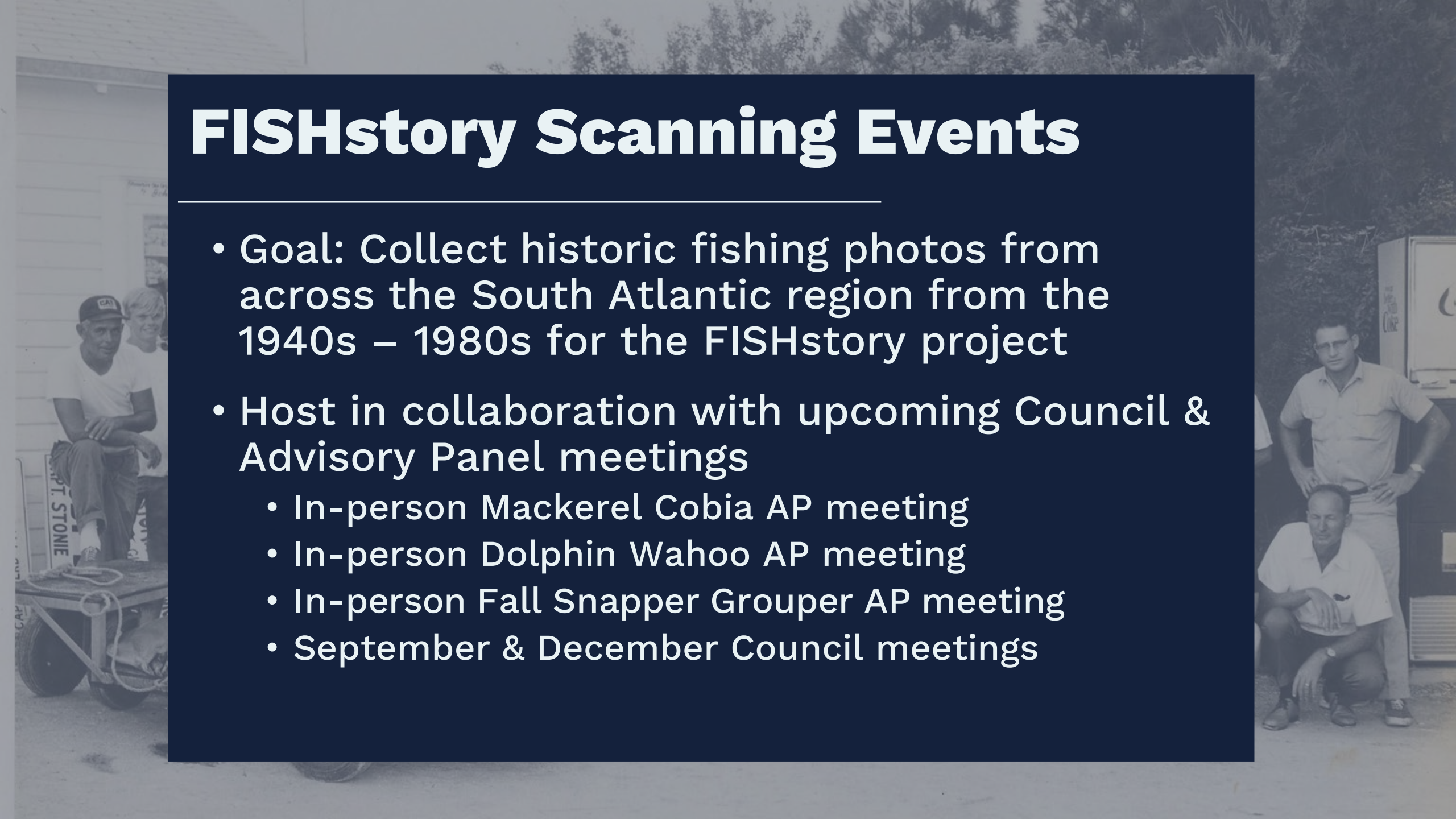
Improve
efficiency of
processes



Estimate
length
compositions
for more
species

FISHstory Scanning Events

- Goal: Collect historic fishing photos from across the South Atlantic region from the 1940s – 1980s for the FISHstory project
- Host in collaboration with upcoming Council & Advisory Panel meetings
 - In-person Mackerel Cobia AP meeting
 - In-person Dolphin Wahoo AP meeting
 - In-person Fall Snapper Grouper AP meeting
 - September & December Council meetings



FISHstory Scanning Events



Bring hard copy photos or digital photos to the event



Scan hard copy photos



Save digital photos



Collect photo details



Share digital copies of photos with provider

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



Good

Picture taken at end of trip displaying harvest with anglers

Year

State

Photo provider name & contact

Better

Fish hanging on leaderboard

Month

City & dock

Vessel name & captain name



Good

Picture taken at end of trip displaying harvest with anglers

Year

State

Photo provider name & contact

Better

Fish hanging on leaderboard

Month

City & dock

Vessel name & captain name



PC: Judy Helmey

Good

Picture taken at end of trip displaying harvest with anglers

Year

State

Photo provider name & contact

Better

Fish hanging on leaderboard

Month

City & dock

Vessel name & captain name

PC: Judy Helmey



Good

Picture taken at end of trip displaying harvest with anglers

Year

State

Photo provider name & contact

Better

Fish hanging on leaderboard

Month

City & dock

Vessel name & captain name

Initial Program Evaluation Plan

- 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

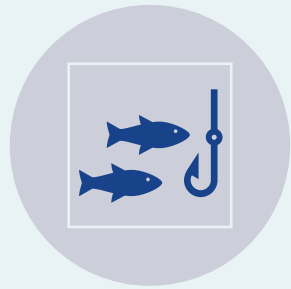


Gather information
from broader group



Implement & analyze results

Interview Focus Areas



Health of South
Atlantic US fishery



Sufficiency of data to
support fisheries
management

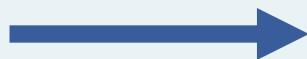


Familiarity with citizen
science & SAFMC
Citizen Science
Program



Support and faith in
citizen science

Interview results available



https://safmc.net/documents/2022/05/citsci_a1_safmc_stakeholderassessment1.pdf/

Initial Program Evaluation Plan

- 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



Gather information from broader group



Online survey – scientists & managers
More interviews – fishermen



Implement & analyze results

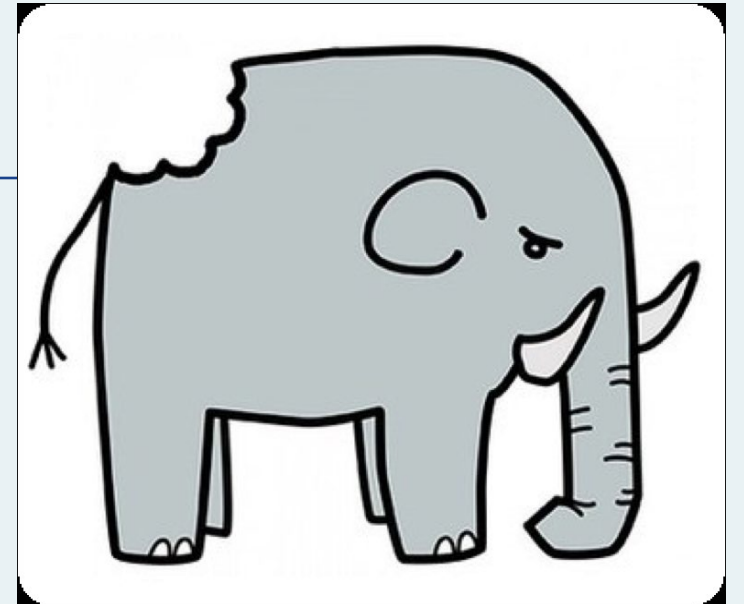


Interviews with Fishermen

Want to gather diverse perspectives & use sampling method that could be repeated in the future

Include fishermen in 4 South Atlantic states and across 3 sectors

Limited resources



Interviews with Fishermen

Commercial & For-Hire



NOAA Permit Database



Snapper Grouper & Mackerels



Focus on 4 Geographic Areas

Private Recreational



Fishing club or organization membership

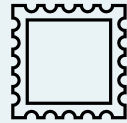


Focus on 4 Geographic Areas

Interviews with Fishermen

Commercial & For-Hire

Recruitment =



Private Recreational

Recruitment =



Interview method options for all sectors



Please consider participating if you are contacted!

Initial Program Evaluation Plan

- 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



Gather information from broader group



Online survey – scientists & managers
More interviews – fishermen



Implement & analyze results



Keep Up with Projects & the Program!

<http://safmc.net/citizen-science-program/>



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

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