



# 2023 Fisheries Science Seminar Citizen Science

## Focus: species

Amberjacks, groupers, king mackerel, snappers, black seabass, dolphinfish, sharks, porgies and grunts



## What is this project about?

FISHstory showcases how citizen science can contribute to analyzing historic photos and inform fisheries management. The pilot project developed a protocol for archiving and analyzing historic fishing photos. These photos document the beginnings of the US South Atlantic for-hire fishery and provided an untapped source of data to recreate information on catch and length composition before fishery dependent surveys began. FISHstory had three primary components: 1) archiving historic fishing photos; 2) analyzing them to estimate for-hire catch composition and effort; and 3) developing a method to estimate fish length in historic photos using lumber in the leaderboards as a scale. It ensured that the data collected would be fit for purpose and useful to fisheries management.



## ...and citizen science?

Prior to the development of the FISHstory project, fisheries scientists and Captain Rusty Hudson had submitted several proposals to fund analysis of historic fishing photos. These endeavors were unsuccessful until the FISHstory project was developed incorporating citizen science. Without the incorporation of citizen science, it is unlikely that these photos would have been analyzed, providing data to inform fisheries management.



## Want to know more?

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