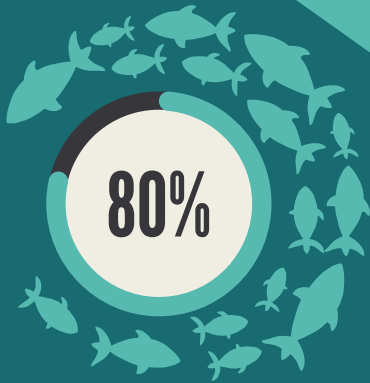


The SMILE Project: Size Matters, Innovative Length Estimates



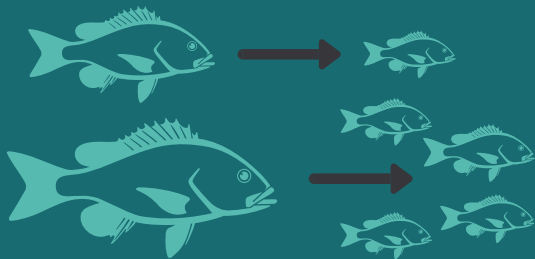
www.REEF.org/smile-project

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We are data limited for 80% of fish stocks in South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico federal waters *

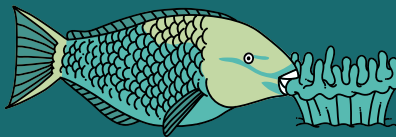
Length data provide key insight into the status of fish populations



Older, bigger fish are often more reproductively active and produce more eggs than younger, smaller fish



Measuring fish often requires handling or harvesting, which can be stressful to the fish



Length data are often limited on ecologically important fish such as parrotfish and grouper



With the SMILE project, citizen science divers photograph key species like Black Grouper with laser mounted cameras



Photos are analyzed to generate a length estimate without handling fish

* Williams, E. (2017, May). *SEDAR Stock Assessments: Transitioning from Benchmarks/Updates to Research/Operational*. NOAA Fisheries.