Chesapeake Bay Program

FY14 Activity Information

Project Title/Outcome Addressed	CBSAC Research Needs Fisheries GIT – Blue Crab Management Outcome
Cost Estimate Range and recommended funding vehicle	Grant to jurisdictions (CBIGs) or academic institutions/CBSAC members to complete identified research or data analyses $ 85K
Project Duration:	Fall-Winter 2014
Priority Area Addressed	Management Strategy Development
Activity Description	Each year, CBSAC identifies specific research and data needs in their Blue Crab Advisory Report. This project would support one or multiple CBSAC research needs that would significantly contribute to our understanding of both the blue crab population and the fishing industry. Specific projects may include analysis of overwintering mortality, survey of the peeler pot industry, and analysis of juvenile recruitment.
Outputs	Improved knowledge of blue crab population dynamics and/or industry operation and effect on the population
Justification for FY '14 funding	The research projects CBSAC identified would contribute significantly as the Fisheries GIT and jurisdictional managers begin to develop the Management Strategy for the blue crab management outcome. Information on the population, especially the juveniles, and industry operation would better inform management decisions and allow for increased accountability. In order to evaluate an allocation-based management system, managers need more data on the fishery.

Chesapeake Bay Program

FY14 Activity Information

Project Title/Outcome Addressed	Baywide Oyster Population Assessment Fisheries GIT – Oyster Outcome
Cost Estimate Range and recommended funding vehicle	Grant to jurisdictions (CBIGs) to support necessary analyses to complete Oyster Population Assessment project being conducted by VIMS $ 50K
Project Duration:	Fall-Winter 2014
Priority Area Addressed	Metric Development and Tracking
Activity Description	Funding would support necessary data analyses identified by VIMS that are needed to complete the Baywide Oyster Population Assessment being conducted by VIMS. The project aims to evaluate the status of the Chesapeake Bay oyster stock with respect to harvest pressure, disease, etc.
Outputs	Metric and information on the status of the Baywide oyster stock
Justification for FY '14 funding	This research project was a priority identified by the Fisheries GIT as it would provide more comprehensive information on the status of oysters Baywide. There is currently no Baywide indicator or metric for oysters and this project would provide important information on the current stock status.

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FY14 Activity Information

Project Title/Outcome Addressed	Forage Fish Indicator/Metric Development Fisheries GIT – Forage Fish Outcome
Cost Estimate Range and recommended funding vehicle	Grant or cooperative agreement with jurisdiction (CBIGs) or academic institution (UMD, UMCES, etc.) to analyze data to develop metrics $50K
Project Duration:	January 2015-June 2015
Priority Area Addressed	Metric Development and Tracking
Activity Description	Use available data on forage species in the Chesapeake Bay to develop indicators/metrics that quantify some aspect of the forage base. Recommendations of how to proceed with developing such metrics will emerge from the STAC Forage Base Workshop planned for November 2014.
Outputs	Forage species indicators/metrics
Justification for FY '14 funding	This project specifically addresses the forage fish outcome and will apply recommendations from the November 2014 STAC workshop to move forward with quantifying the Chesapeake Bay forage base.

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FY14 Activity Information

Project Title/Outcome Addressed	Habitat/Fisheries Data Synthesis plus shallow water survey development Fisheries GIT – Fish Habitat Outcome
Cost Estimate Range and recommended funding vehicle	Cooperative agreement with jurisdictions (CBIGs) to utilize and build on their current data efforts $50K
Project Duration:	Summer-Fall 2014
Priority Area Addressed	Management Strategy Development
Activity Description	This project would compile and assess the available data throughout the Bay watershed related to fish species and their use of habitat. This could include data on habitat quality, characterization, distribution of fish species, catch data, etc. This compilation of available data will help target habitat areas for conservation/restoration that may be important for fish species for nursery, foraging, refuge, etc. Additionally, the results from the data and literature review should be used to develop recommendations to establish new shallow water surveys and scope out the necessary components. Shallow water surveys are critical to monitor and characterize important habitat areas.
Outputs	Data synthesis; recommendations for new shallow water surveys
Justification for FY '14 funding	This project specifically addresses the fish habitat outcome by gathering and exploring all available data that characterizes Bay habitats and fish usage of this habitat. This data could help identify priority habitat areas for restoration/conservation. The recommendations for the shallow water surveys will provide the basis for establishing and procuring resources for potential new surveys.

Chesapeake Bay Program

FY14 Activity Information

Project Title/Outcome Addressed	Striped Bass Health Indicator Development Fisheries GIT – Fish Habitat/Forage Outcome
Cost Estimate Range and recommended funding vehicle	Grant or cooperative agreement with jurisdictions (CBIGs) or academic institution (UMD, UMCES, etc.) to analyze data to develop metrics $40K
Project Duration:	Fall-Winter 2014
Priority Area Addressed	Metric Development and Tracking
Activity Description	Use findings from current research and surveys to develop a CBP indicator of striped bass health. This indicator could incorporate information the diet/nutritional status of striped bass based on current research efforts. The indicator could also document disease prevalence and associated interactive effects from hypoxia on diseased fish.
Outputs	Indicator/publically available information on the most recent data on striped bass health
Justification for FY '14 funding	Striped bass are an iconic Bay species and very valuable fishery in the Bay. Tracking health of Chesapeake Bay striped bass would help inform coastwide management as the Bay serves as the spawning grounds for a majority of the coastwide stock. Tracking health factors such as the interactive effects of disease/hypoxia and nutritional status could help better understand fisheries response to climate change and forage availability respectively.