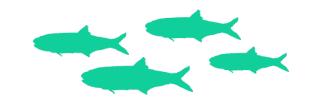


Workplan Status Report: Forage



Leads: Forage Action Team

Recent Activity:

- UMCES report on <u>forage indicators and consumption profiles</u> released.
- Study investigating the drivers of forage population trends underway.
- Convened quarterly Forage Action Team meetings (<u>June</u> and <u>September</u>).
- Chesapeake Bay Program is producing a forage public outreach video "Forage 101".
- Collaborating with undergraduate student to test forage sampling gear.
- Developing a pilot study to determine if forage monitoring can be incorporated into citizen monitoring of SAV.
- Provided public comment supporting MAFMC forage amendment.

Issues:

Communicating additional monitoring needs to CBP (shallow water and plankton)

Next Steps:

- Determine how to utilize and apply forage indicator options.
- Determine if the management strategy and workplan satisfy requirement to develop a strategy for assessing the forage fish base available as food for predatory species in the Chesapeake Bay.



Workplan Status Report: Fish Habitat

Leads: Fish Habitat Action Team

Recent Activity:

- Tetra Tech completed a project for the team including a <u>literature review</u>, a <u>habitat stressor and threat matrix</u> and an <u>egg to larval habitat stressor matrix</u> on selected species by the team. Team members are currently synthesizing this information into an executive summary.
- Convened quarterly Fish Habitat Action Team meetings (June and <u>September</u>)
- Began project to highlight challenges facing tidal wetlands and shorelines and recommend action by CBP.
- Recruited Gina Hunt to coordinate Fish Habitat activities and implementation.
- Initiated engagement with Local Government Advisory Committee.

Issues:

• Large scope for outcome; need to focus workgroup efforts

Next Steps:

- Continue developing Tidal Wetlands and Shorelines whitepap
- Get input from team on communication products and audience.
- Utilize Gina's expertise to create lift on workplan priorities.

