



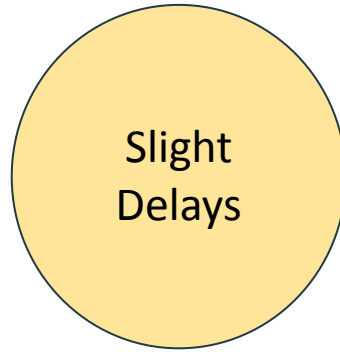
Forage: Action Plan Progress

Leading up to 2021 SRS Cycle

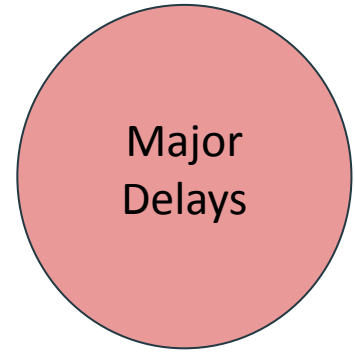




Complete or
On Track



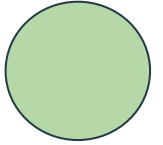
Slight
Delays

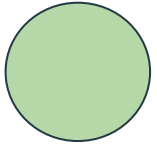


Major
Delays

Tracking Key

Action 1.1: Prioritize Key Species for Indicator Development (Responsible Party: FAT)





Action 2.1: Develop an initial suite of indicators to assess and track the status of the forage base available to predators.

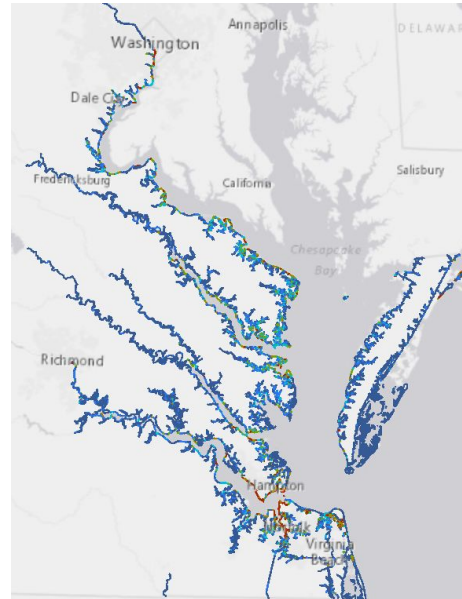
(Responsible Party: NCBO, FAT)

- Forage Indicator Development Plan is complete
- Three indicators under development (or soon to be)
 - *Polychaete abundance*
 - *Springtime warming*
 - *Habitat Suitability (Looking for funding)*

Tier 1: Abundance	Species of Interest
Benthic Invertebrates	Polychaetes
Demersal Finfishes	Atlantic croaker
Pelagic Finfishes	Bay anchovy Atlantic menhaden
Tier 2: Habitat and Environmental Factors	Species of Interest
Springtime Warming	Bay anchovy Polychaetes
Habitat Suitability Index	Bay anchovy
Hardened Shorelines	Juvenile blue crabs
Tier 3: Predator Consumption	Species of Interest
Diet Profiles	Striped bass

Action 3.1: Continue to support research efforts related to key forage species and consider how results can be applied to indicator development and management

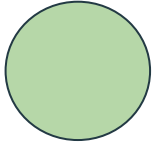
- Shoreline Hardening Work
 - Develop a GIS product that maps shoreline conditions around the Chesapeake Bay using the shoreline development thresholds.
 - Responsible Party: FAT, GIS Team
 - Complete for VA and parts of MD
 - Use the shoreline threshold results and map to inform a habitat indicator of percent shoreline development for forage
 - Responsible Party: FAT
 - Have not taken next steps moving towards indicator development
- Provide support for the Chesapeake Bay telemetry network and use the tagging data to inform movements of key predators and forage species in the Bay.
 - Responsible Party: NCBO
 - Fish GIT continues to coordinate with NCBO as array comes online. New fisheries biologist will be heavily involved with this work



Action 3.1: Continue to support research efforts related to key forage species and consider how results can be applied to indicator development and management

- Complete the NCBO-funded Habitat Suitability Model study and use the results to inform an indicator of available suitable habitat for forage.
 - *Responsible Parties: FAT & PIs*
 - *Mary Fabrizio presented results at previous FAT meeting*
- Complete the NCBO-funded studies of key predators in shallow foraging habitats and use the results to inform a predator consumption indicator.
 - *Responsible Parties: FAT & PIs*
 - *Delays during COVID-19*
- Evaluate potential for GIT/CBT to fund research on the abundance and population dynamics of key forage species (e.g., mysids)
 - *Responsible Parties: FAT, NCBO, PIs*
 - *The idea was considered/explored*
- Provide support for the Bay-specific abundance estimate analyses and use the results to inform forage indicators.
 - *Responsible Parties: FAT, NCBO, PIs*
 - *Bruce and NCBO have coordinating closely with PIs and management community to finalize species of focus*

Action 3.2: Communicate the results of ongoing forage research to a variety of audiences. (Responsible Party: FAT, Communications Team, Pls)



- *Continually updating our Fisheries GIT membership through meetings*
- *NCBO, and team, should continue working to connect research and management application.*

Action 4.1 : Collaborate with CBP partners and other interested groups to identify and evaluate options for shallow water monitoring and plankton surveys.

- Evaluate the potential for field sampling of forage species in nearshore habitats at sentinel sites around the Bay in coordination with partners
 - *Collaboration with SAV fell through*
- Identify and evaluate options for sampling plankton communities to inform forage indicators.
 - *Lack of funds, but there is an upcoming opportunity to suggest key monitoring programs to the PSC*
- Examine the potential to expand the citizen science monitoring effort throughout the Bay and to conduct analyses of forage-habitat associations.

Next Steps

SRS Timeline:

- October 28 - Presentation to STAR
- November 18 - Presentation to Management Board
- March 9 - Final Materials Due

For the FAT:

- We will reconvene in late fall/winter to discuss the outline of our new work plan

Outcome Progress Discussion

Check the chat for a [LINK](#) to Jamboard