Aquatic Life Cohort Science Needs

Blue Crab Abundance

- Investigate stock assessment model's poor fit to sex-specific catch and abundance indices
- Examine differences in gear efficiency between MD and VA
- Evaluate models for fishery-independent indices to standardize index development
- Investigate potential applications of existing fishery-independent datasets
- Evaluate the efficacy of winter dredge survey as an index of abundance
- Evaluate effects of environmental factors on blue crab abundance and recruitment
- Analyze reporting systems and develop recommendations for improvement
- Characterization of catch composition and effort using fishery-dependent sampling
- Documentation of sex ratio and shedding mortality in peeler/soft crab fishery
- Creation of blue crab data hub for stock assessment model data

Forage Fish

- Develop forage fish indicator
- Maintain telemetry network tracking fish movements at mouth of Bay
- Conduct analysis of shoreline condition based on shoreline thresholds

Oysters

- Ecosystem services and benefits of oyster reef restoration
- Oyster restoration monitoring

Submerged Aquatic Vegetation

- Assess impact of climate change on ability to reach SAV goals
- Assess impact of expanding aquaculture on ability to reach SAV goals
- Assess integrated impacts of shallow water uses (e.g. living shorelines, aquaculture, clamming, shoreline structures) on SAV habitat
- Investigate habitat requirements for expanding SAV (e.g. seeds of seedlings) as opposed to maintaining established SAV
- Compare ecosystem services/benefits of Ruppia maritima to Zostera marina
- Investigate impacts of climate change (e.g. warmer temperatures) on freshwater SAV species

Cross-Outcome needs

- Understand impact of invasive blue catfish on native species
- Understand climate change-related changes in fish distribution
- Gauge public perceptions and commercial fishery stakeholder views on key Bay resources