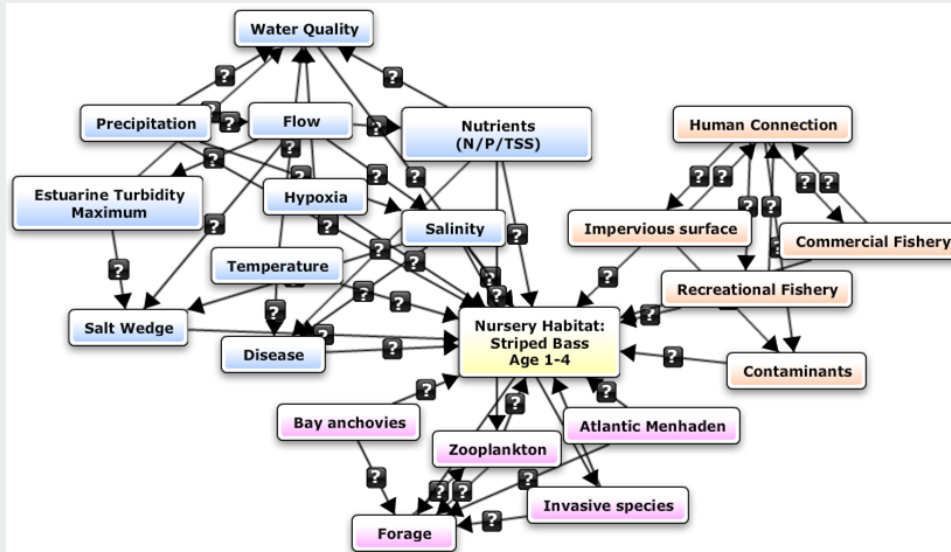# Chesapeake Bay Striped Bass Nursery Habitat Assessment

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Proposal Objective

Image credit: Chris Davis, VIMS

Understand how well the juvenile nursery habitats are functioning to maintain the Chesapeakes contribution to the overall Atlantic stock.

Outcomes

- Improve the understanding of nursery habitat areas for juvenile striped bass (age 1-4) that support survival and recruitment to the adult population.

- Identification of "high quality" nursery habitat to help target tributaries most important to supporting juvenile development.

Outputs

- ○ Evaluation of juvenile striped bass nursery habitat area, condition, and

  historical trends Bay wide

- ○ Indicators/metrics of nursery habitat suitability and resilience

- ○ Estimates of juvenile striped bass carrying capacity in the Chesapeake

  Bay

Cross-Goal Benefits

Fish Habitat Outcome

- Sustainable Fisheries GIT

- Habitat GIT

- Water Quality GIT

Data for:

- Fisheries

- Habitat condition and extent

- Water column habitat suitability based on

  - Dissolved oxygen, temperature, and salinity

- Improve understanding of how environmental factors affect fish spawning, larval development, and recruitment of adults to the fishery.

- Identifying and quantifying areas of "high quality" fish habitat suggesting which waters are most important to critical life stages for fish.