

# FORAGE WORKPLAN PROGRESS UPDATES

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September 20, 2016 Update





# Forage Outreach Effort

**Milestone:** CBP Bay Program videographer has established plan for material and footage and interview questions for experts.(Actions 1.C.2. and 1.C.3.)

**Current Status:**

G

**Participating Parties:** CBP, NCBO, UMCES, VIMS, SERC, MD DNR

**Recent Activity:** Continuing to develop plan with CBP Communications team to create a forage video in the [Bay 101 video series](#). Storyboard has been drafted and reviewed.

**Issues:** None identified

**Next Steps:** Conduct interviews, gather and compile footage, edit footage





# Develop a proposal for shallow-water monitoring surveys

**Milestone:** Proposed a joint-proposal for FY16 GIT funding to include a pilot study on benthic and pelagic forage sampling gear to possibly be included in a citizen science monitoring effort (Action 4.A.3..)

**Current Status:**

G

**Participating Parties:** MD DNR, CBT, CBP, SMCM, Forage Action Team, Riverkeepers and Watershed Groups

**Recent Activity:** Initiated a small-scale study on benthic and pelagic forage sampling gear with undergraduate student in underrepresented habitats including rip rap, marsh, and areas with woody debris. Funding was approved for joint proposal with Habitat GIT.

**Issues:** None identified

**Next Steps:** Check ins with undergraduate student conducting study, development of RFP for GIT funding proposal with Habitat GIT





# Drivers of Forage Trends Study by UMCES-CBL

**Milestone:** Data acquisition: broad range of Fisheries, benthic, and environmental datasets acquired (Next check in date: 10/18/2016) (Action 2.B.1.)

**Current Status:**

G

**Participating Parties:** UMCES, VIMS, research teams; but also includes data from other partners: MD DNR; Versar/CBP data portal for benthos/water quality; USGS flow data

**Recent Activity:** UMCES has compiled available forage and environmental datasets and VIMS has updated predator diet dataset. Regional environmental indices have been calculated, formatting regional forage data nearly complete.

**Issues:** None identified

**Next Steps:** Complete data formatting; initiate planned analyses, review preliminary results, present at December Sustainable Fisheries GIT Meeting





# Identify Shared Efforts/Priorities with MAFMC/ASMFC

**Milestone:** Coordinate Fisheries GIT forage species science and management objectives with ASMFC, MAFMC and state advisory groups. Provide information on Chesapeake Bay forage as needed to ASMFC/MAFMC. (Action 3.A.4.)

**Current Status:**

G

**Participating Parties:** MAFMC, Fisheries GIT Executive Committee, Forage Action Team

## **Recent Activity:**

- The Fisheries GIT Executive Committee revisited the topic of future collaboration with MAFMC on the July 2016 conference call.
- The Fisheries GIT submitted a [comment letter](#) to the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council for their [August 2016](#) meeting to express general support of the Council's work on their unmanaged forage amendment and Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) guidance document. Bay anchovy, Atlantic silversides, and amphipods & isopods are on both the Council's list of unmanaged forage species and the Fisheries GIT's list of key forage species from the STAC workshop.

## **Issues:**

**Next Steps:** MAFMC and Fisheries GIT will coordinate to attend/share information at future MAFMC and GIT meetings.





# Identify which indicators are most useful for forage groups

**Milestone:** Identify which indicators are most useful for specific forage groups using the results of the GIT funded forage project. (Action 2.A.1.)

**Current Status:**

Y

**Participating Parties:** Forage Action Team

**Recent Activity:** Discussion at workgroup meetings in June and September

**Issues:** Prioritize species and develop consensus around which of the suite of indicators is most useful

**Next Steps:** Prioritize species

