

Fisheries Ecosystem Assessment Division

Last Month

Access Databases – Staff are working on compiling data sets into Access databases for each sampling project. These data sets will incorporate all historical data collected. Options are being explored for the best method to enter data into the database and reduce data quality issues.

Standard Operating Procedures – SOPs are undergoing division review.

Federal Aid Report – Staff is working on data analysis and editing for the 2024 Federal Aid Report.

St. Michaels Comprehensive Plan – Staff reviewed the St. Michaels Comprehensive Plan and prepared comments on the plan. These comments were submitted on 1/3/2025.

Leonardtwn Comprehensive Plan – Staff reviewed the Leonardtown Comprehensive Plan and prepared comments on the plan. Staff prepared an estimate of new impervious surface for the Breton Bay watershed after proposed development in the plan and included this in the comments. These comments will be submitted before the deadline.

Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission – Jim Uphoff presented on Fisheries Ecosystem Assessment Division studies examining the recruitment and recent poor year-classes of Striped Bass.

Webinar – Staff participated in the webinar “Understanding the Role of Habitat and Life History in Climate Vulnerability of Fisheries”.

Seasonal 2025 – Staff submitted paperwork to hire the summer seasonal Natural Resources Technician position.

Maryland Department of Environment – Staff met with MDE on 1/16 as an informational session to understand MDE Water Quality Standards and to discuss implications of using FEAD data to help protect watersheds.

Maryland Menhaden Traffic Light Index (TLI) – The report was passed on to the Stakeholder Outreach and Services Division for roll out.

Mattawoman Creek Monitoring in 2025 - FEAD and Cooperative Oxford Laboratory staff had a preliminary meeting about incorporating eDNA sampling into this spring’s presence-absence monitoring of anadromous fish stream spawning in Mattawoman Creek. Adding eDNA would provide more resolution of which anadromous species were using the stream for spawning and their spatial and temporal distribution. Currently, we cannot reasonably differentiate among herring species. There is also the potential to quantify spawning in the creek.

Non-tidal Anadromous Fish Spawning Map - The rebuild of the Non-tidal Anadromous Fish Spawning Map on the ESRI Experience Builder platform was completed. This web map has been published to the existing three links on DNR webpages thereby replacing the previous web map.

Looking Forward

Staff will continue data analysis and report editing for the 2024 Federal Aid Report.

Staff will continue assembling master Access datasets.

Staff will have a spring fieldwork meeting on February 19th.

Staff will attend the Striped Bass Survey Assessment and Habitat Connections Workshop in February to discuss current surveys and research on Striped Bass and identify areas for future research.

Staff will deploy temperature sensors on the Choptank River to prepare for spring spawning.

Staff will deploy conductivity sensors on Mattawoman Creek to monitor impacts from road salt use this winter.