

Fisheries Ecosystem Assessment Division

Last Month

Federal Aid Report – Staff began data analysis and editing for the 2024 Federal Aid Report.

Larval Striped Bass Feeding Study - Staff picked samples from the Midwater Trawl on the Choptank River to examine gut contents of feeding Striped Bass and White Perch larvae. First picks of all samples have been completed. One sample remains for a second pick and 2 samples for larval ID and gut content examination.

Staff found one ambitious White Perch post larvae that consumed an Alosid larvae, instead of the usual copepods and cladocerans.



White Perch postlarvae feeding on an Alosid.



Alosid larvae from the White Perch.

Stomach Content Analysis for Striped Bass – Staff worked with Cooperative Oxford Laboratory (COL) to collect Striped Bass stomachs for forage analysis. Striped Bass were caught via hook and line and brought back to COL. Staff cut open stomachs to determine forage eaten by these fish. Approximately 200 Striped Bass were examined for stomach content analysis in November. Most prey items were Atlantic Menhaden, with the occasional Spot and one Atlantic Croaker found in the stomachs.

Maryland Water Monitoring Council Annual Conference – Staff attended the 30th annual conference for MWMC. J. Uphoff presented at the conference “Agriculture, Development, and Local Fish Habitat Conditions in Chesapeake Bay”.

Meeting with the Director – Staff met with Lynn and Tony to give an overview of our division’s activities and priorities. Staff developed ideas for priorities and future direction of data usage for the division.

Comments and Such - Staff provided comments on terms of reference for a proposed Chesapeake Bay Program workshop on Striped Bass issues in the Bay and the FABS strategic plan.

Webinars – Staff participated in the Lenfest Ocean Program Climate-Resilient Fisheries Monthly Webinar “Informing Adaptive Allocation Strategies for Transboundary Fish Stocks”.

Anadromous Spawning Webmap – The Nontidal Anadromous Spawning Fish Data webmap revisions are being reviewed by DNR staff. While the functionality remains consistent, the interface and symbology have been modified. Additional features include a watershed delineation tool and blockage data from the Chesapeake Fish Passage Prioritization map tool.

Looking Forward

Staff will continue to work with Cooperative Oxford Lab to examine stomach contents of Striped Bass.

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

Staff will finish examining gut contents of larval Striped Bass and White Perch.