



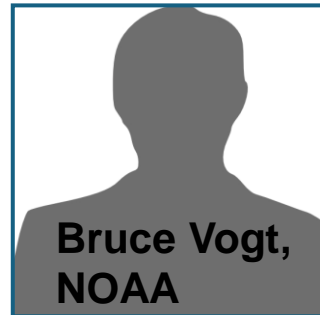
Striped Bass Survey Assessment and Habitat Connections Workshop Report-Out

STAC September 2025 Meeting

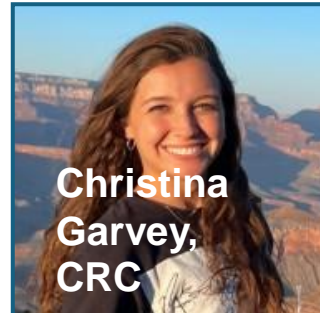


Workshop Steering Committee

Co-Chair



Daniel Ryan,
DC Fish and
Wildlife

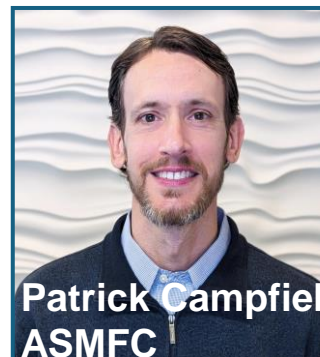


Ingrid Braun-Ricks,
PRFC

Co-Chair



* STAC member





Striped Bass Survey Assessment and Habitat Connections

Purpose:

To improve understanding of Striped Bass recruitment and ensure science-based management. Participants discussed **research needs, data gaps, and opportunities** for collaboration. Recommendations from the workshop will be shared with the Chesapeake Bay Program to support future management efforts.

Objectives:

- Review survey approaches and data on Striped Bass recruitment.
- Identify key environmental and ecological factors affecting recruitment.
- Determine priority science needs for improved management.
- Strengthen collaboration among experts and agencies.

Convened Feb 13-14th

Attendees: 33 in-person, 10 virtual

- Released public survey (in English and Spanish) prior to workshop which informed the agenda
- Livestreamed on YouTube for interested public

Co-chairs:

Carrie Kennedy (MD DNR)
Lynn Fegley (MD DNR)

STAC members:

Mark Monaco (NOAA)
Kenny Rose (UMCES)



Striped Bass Survey Assessment and Habitat Connections

1. Surveys and Stock Assessment

Presentations on an overview of MD and VA striped bass surveys, general striped bass stock assessment

2. Habitat and Early Life History (*Spawning, Recruitment*)

Presentations on critical linkages between habitat conditions and early life history stages of striped bass, patterns in recruitment indices across tributaries, modeling efforts to assess impacts of environmental conditions on recruitment

3. Movement

Presentations on current research and predictions regarding growth and migration patterns, how might change over time

4. Mortality

Presentations on various factors influencing striped bass mortality, focus on natural and human-induced causes

Day 1 Breakout Groups:

Addressed distribution, recruitment, and juvenile sampling in the Bay

Day 2 Breakout Groups:

Discussed migration, natural mortality, and key knowledge gaps

Final Plenary:

Workshop participants distilled key priority recommendations from the breakout groups



Striped Bass Survey Assessment and Habitat Connections

Findings:

Needs spanning jurisdictions and research partners:

- rebuild prey-field information by restarting Bay-wide zooplankton time series and updating juvenile diet analyses to resolve spawn–prey timing
- modernize movement and mortality inputs by expanding acoustic receiver coverage and genetic sampling, estimating size- and season-specific M , and quantifying predator effects (e.g., blue catfish) via comparative tributary studies
- preserve juvenile-index design while adding early life-stage metrics and paired environmental covariates
- re-evaluate mid-1990s reference points under sustained low recruitment
- align plain-language survey summaries across institutions.