



Getting to know forage fish through research fellowships

Too little is known about the small fish that play an outsized role in feeding marine predators from tarpon to sharks.

That's why the Florida Forage Fish Coalition, state universities and the [Fish and Wildlife Research Institute](#) have joined together to create a fellowship program that provides resources to researchers who can discover more about these important prey and their influence on popular predators. Improved knowledge could lead to smart policies that will help conserve forage species and support fishing and recreation.

The coalition funded the first two \$10,000 fellowships in spring 2017. Edward Camp, a University of Florida post-doctoral research associate and fisheries and aquatic sciences professor, will study the forage fish needs of red drum and gag grouper. Meaghan Faletti, a University of South Florida marine science graduate student, is studying the forage species pinfish to determine where they spawn and travel.

Research results are expected in mid-2018.

In the meantime, the Florida Forage Fish Coalition is working to find permanent funding for regular annual fellowships supporting additional forage fish research.

Anyone interested in learning more about the fellowships can contact Jason Schratwieser at the International Game Fish Association at JSchratwieser@igfa.org