

Inviting Industry Input on Forage Species Research Gaps and Priorities on the US Northeast Shelf

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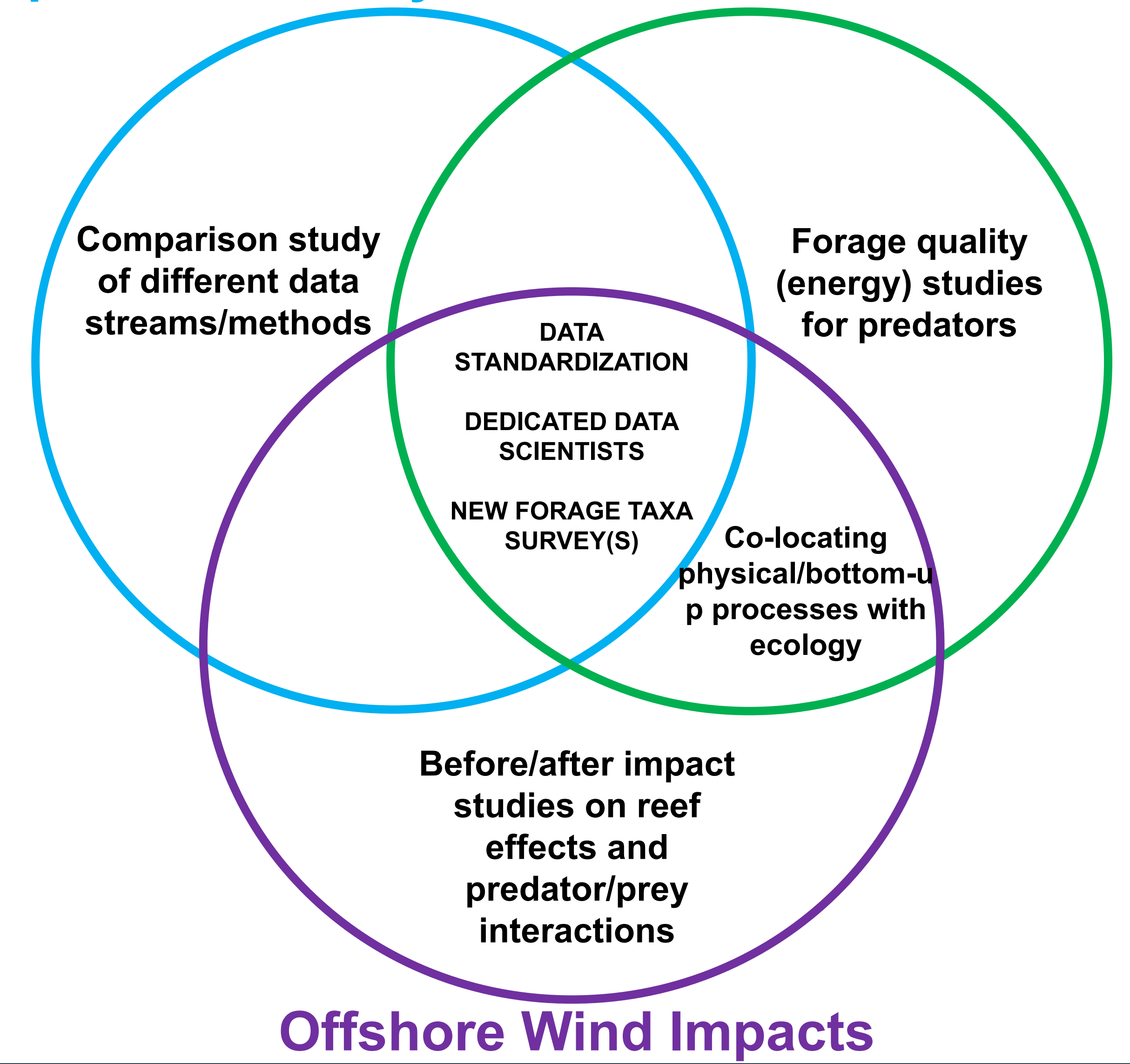


SUMMARY OF 2024 FORAGE SPECIES SIDE MEETING STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSIONS



In July 2024, stakeholder discussions developed **THREE** shared action items for continuing research on forage species.

Data Gaps/Accessibility Research Needs/Priorities



FORAGE SPECIES ARE SEVERELY UNDERSTUDIED ON THE US NORTHEAST SHELF

- Forage species (zooplankton, invertebrates, small pelagic fishes) are **poorly sampled** despite their **key ecological and economic importance** in our region
- Climate change and offshore wind both pose environmental change – what does our community need to understand how will forage species, and the animals that rely on them, respond?

2024: STAKEHOLDER MEETING TO DISCUSS FORAGE SPECIES INFORMATION NEEDS AND ACTION ITEMS

- We hosted a side meeting to discuss the state of the science of forage species at the 2024 State of the Science Meeting (NYSERDA).
- Our meeting brought together **diverse stakeholders to offer perspective on what the community needs** to address the pressures facing forage species and to understand **how our ecosystems will respond**.

MEETING STRUCTURE

Intro Talks: 3 talks on forage species (zooplankton, invertebrates, fish) from experts with Q&A

Stakeholder Discussion: 3 rotating breakout groups addressing 3 topics important for understanding forage species dynamics:

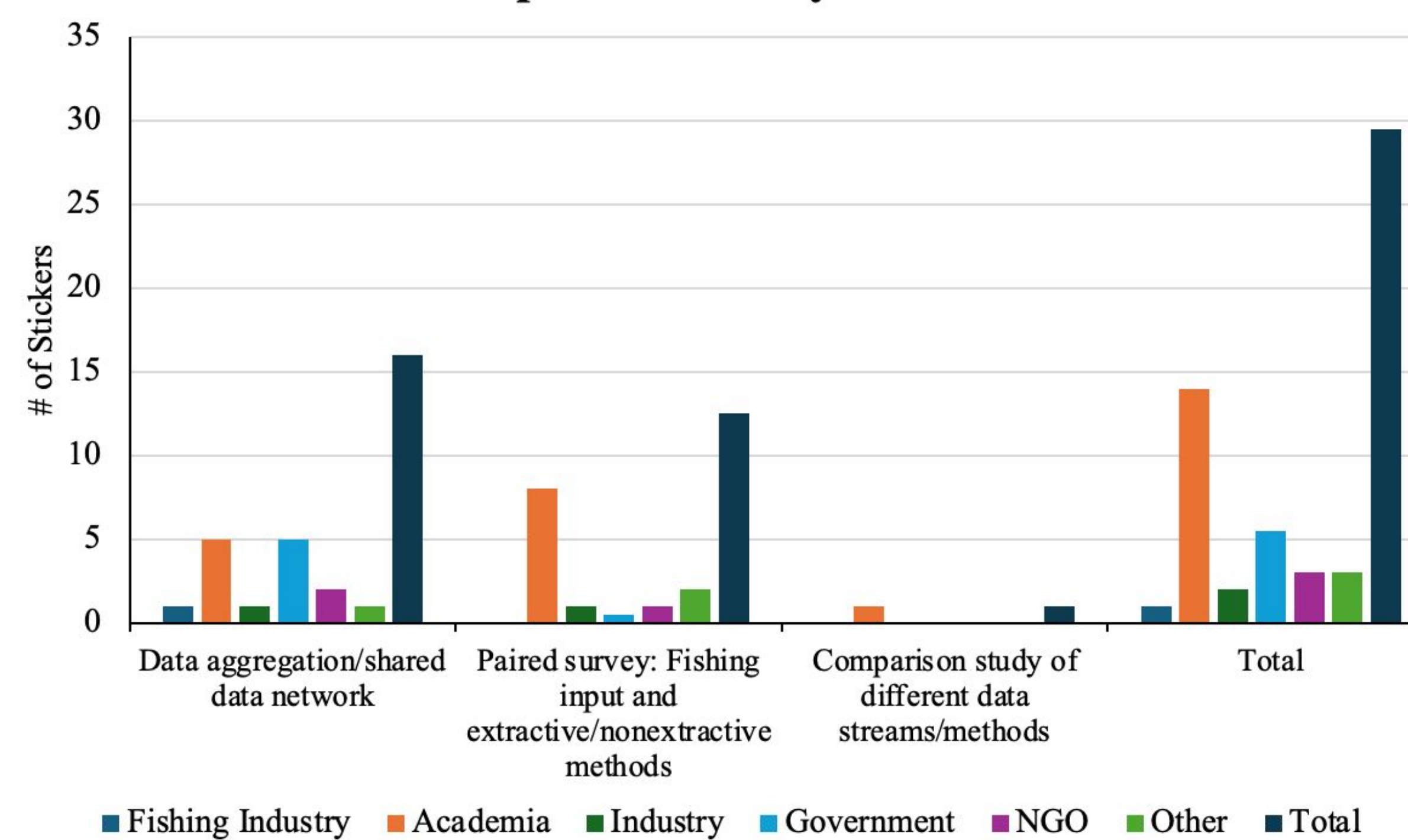
- Data Gaps and Accessibility
- Research Needs and Priorities
- Offshore Wind Impacts

IDENTIFY	PRIORITIZE	ACT
Pre-existing knowledge and gaps in knowledge	Knowledge gaps that need to be filled	Create action items to address prioritized knowledge gaps

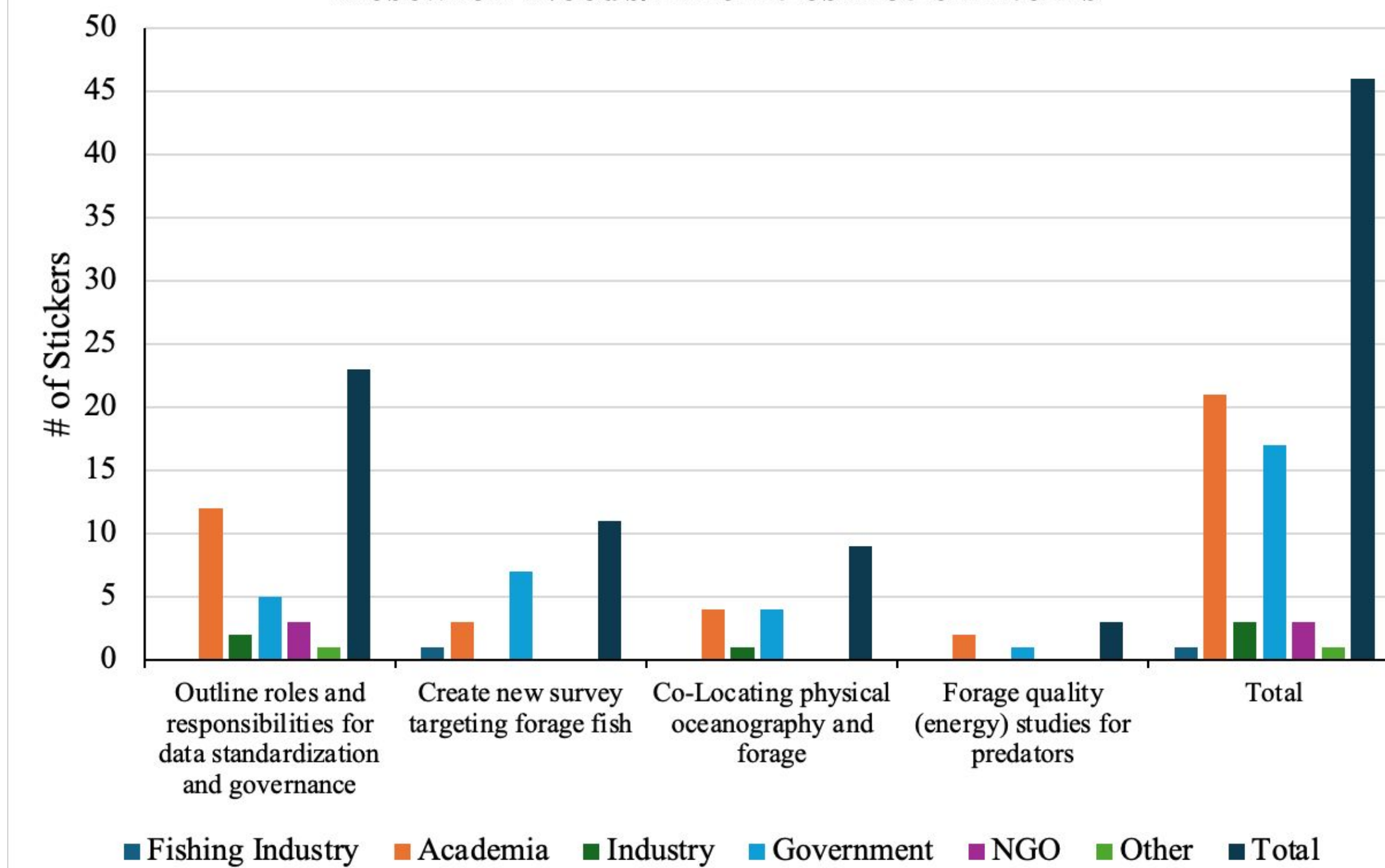
Voting: Stakeholders voted on their top **action items** they created together from community discussion

STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION AND VOTING RESULTS

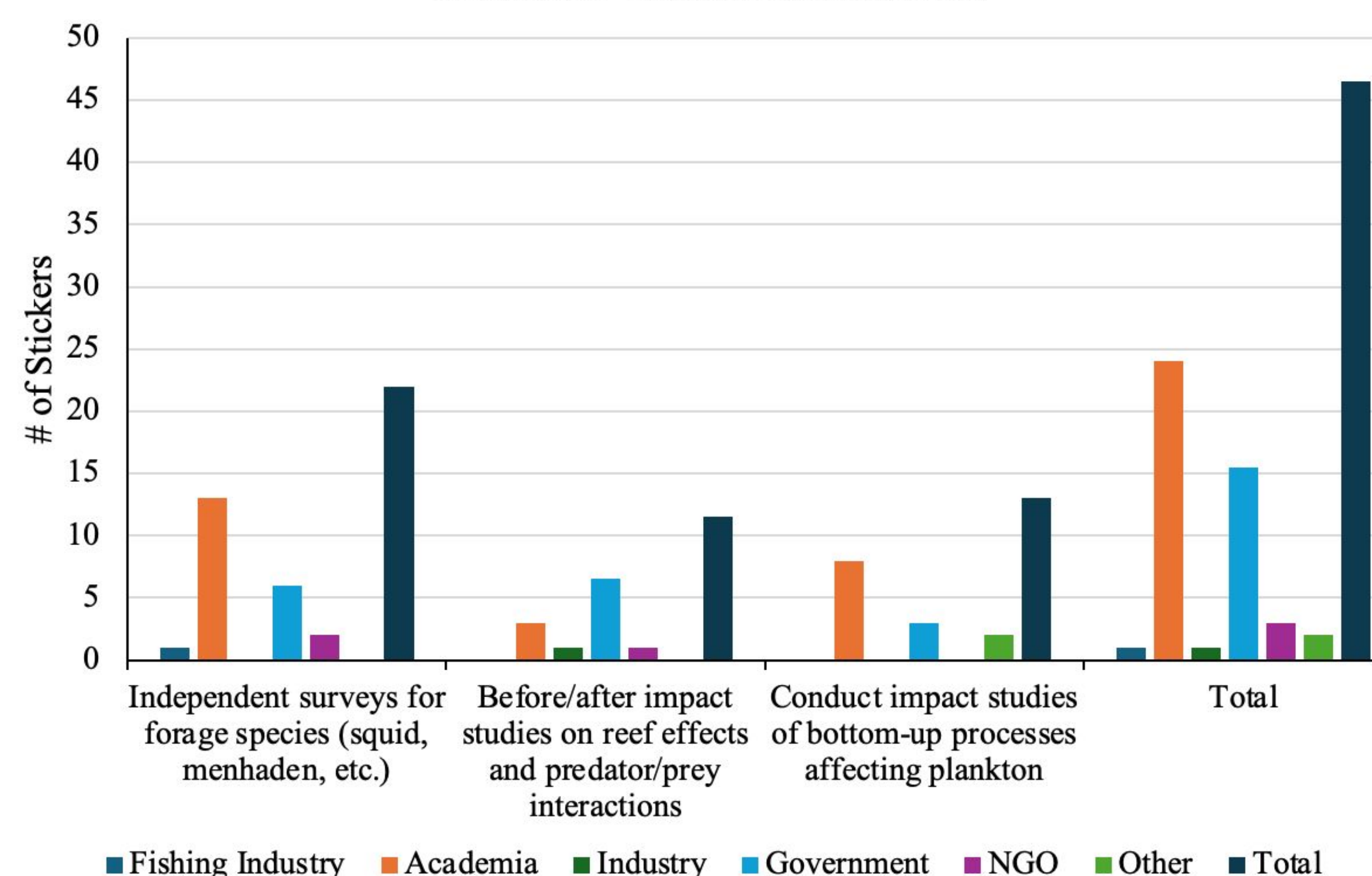
Data Gaps/Accessibility Action Items



Research Needs/Priorities Action Items



Offshore Wind Action Items



Data Gaps/Accessibility

Data aggregation and survey top action items across stakeholders

Research Needs/Priorities

Establish roles/responsibilities for data standardization highest priority

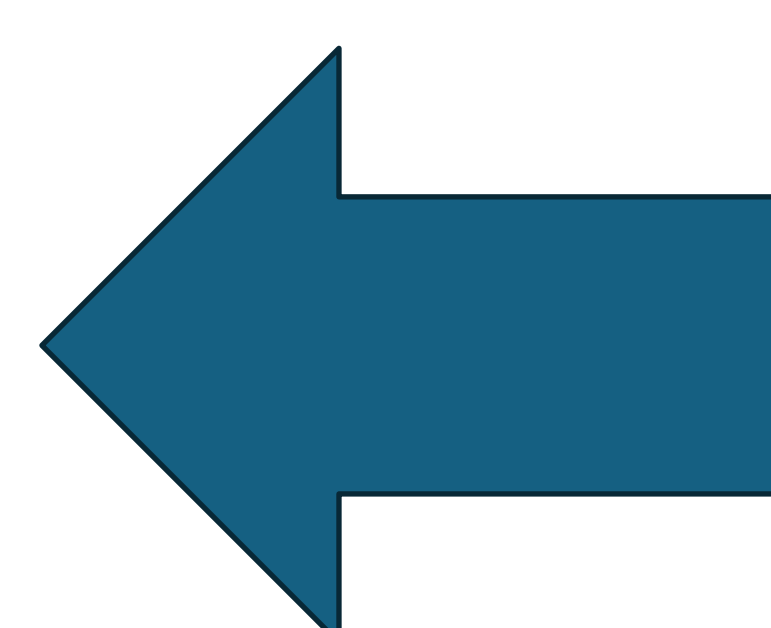
Offshore Wind Impacts

Independent survey for forage species highest priority, impact studies equal in urgency

Are these reflective of industry opinion? Let us know!

WE ARE SEEKING INDUSTRY INPUT ON FORAGE SPECIES RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Sign Up to Give Feedback on Forage Species Research Priorities



Industry Input Needed!
Inform our publicly available summary (coming soon)
Scan QR Code
to sign up to receive survey