

4 BEACH CLEANUPS



We organize regular cleanups at local beaches in need; removing garbage and debris from our shorelines is one small step we can take in protecting these delicate environments.

80% of marine pollution comes from the land

Volunteers removed over 300 lb of garbage along the Gorge Waterway!

5 BEACH PROGRAM EDUCATION

Our BEACH Program can be adapted to any grade as a hands-on environmental education program, getting students engaged in learning about their nearby shorelines through beach cleanups, forage fish spawning surveys, crab identification, beach seining, and more!



Scan above to book a BEACH education event





WE NEED YOUR HELP

Our program would not be possible without the dedication of our amazing community scientists.



- Have you noticed a local shoreline in need of cleanup or restoration?
- Have you seen forage fish, forage fish eggs, or European green crab on a shoreline near you?
- Want to implement a Green Shores® approach to your shoreline property?
- Want to volunteer for our BEACH Program?
- Want to book a BEACH Program education event?

GET IN TOUCH

-  www.peninsulastreams.ca
-  peninsulastreams@gmail.com
-  [@peninsulastreams](https://www.instagram.com/peninsulastreams)
-  [@Peninsula.Streams.Society.](https://www.facebook.com/Peninsula.Streams.Society)

B.E.A.C.H. PROGRAM

Beach Education and Conservation of Habitat



Photo Credit: Graham Dorsay & Brandon Deepwell via Pacific Salmon Foundation

Streams & Peninsula Shorelines

SUPPORTING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP THROUGH EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SCIENCE



TD Friends of the Environment Foundation



OUR PROGRAM

Our BEACH Program offers a variety of initiatives aimed at protecting our local shorelines by giving community members hands-on experience in shoreline conservation.

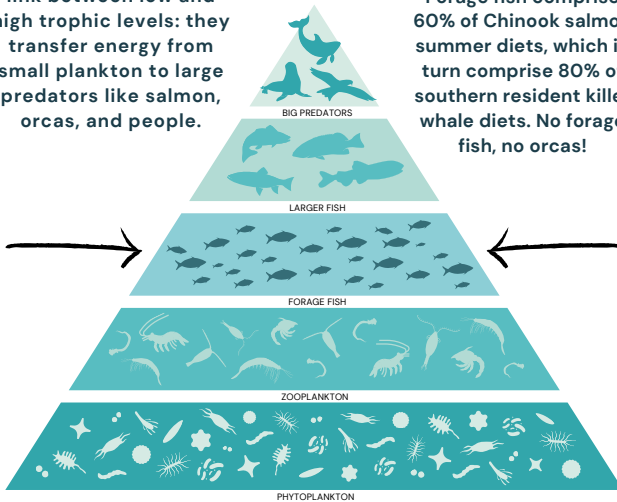
1 FORAGE FISH SPAWNING HABITAT SURVEYS

WHAT ARE FORAGE FISH?

Forage fish are small schooling fish that play an integral role in the marine food web as food, or 'forage', for other species. There are 7 common species of forage fish in BC: Pacific sand lance, surf smelt, Pacific herring, Pacific sardine, Northern anchovy, eulachon, and capelin.

Forage fish are a vital link between low and high trophic levels: they transfer energy from small plankton to large predators like salmon, orcas, and people.

Forage fish comprise 60% of Chinook salmon summer diets, which in turn comprise 80% of southern resident killer whale diets. No forage fish, no orcas!



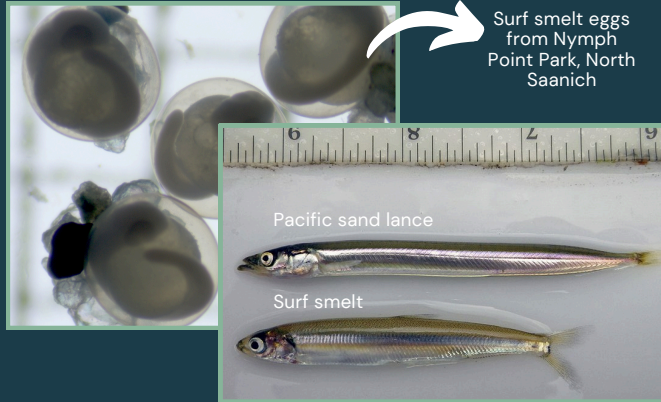
Surf smelt and Pacific sand lance are obligate intertidal spawners, meaning they spawn on sand-gravel beaches (the same ones that people enjoy!) near the high tide line. The eggs incubate within the sediment and rely on shading from overhanging vegetation to protect them from the sun.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Forage fish and their spawning beaches are under threat from:



Our forage fish spawning habitat surveys aim to identify and monitor which Victoria area beaches forage fish use for spawning—and thus which beaches need protection.



Positive detections for forage fish eggs help us to understand forage fish movement, spawning behaviour, how human actions may be affecting them, and other valuable environmental data.



SCAN HERE TO CHECK OUT THE DATA

The Strait of Georgia Data Centre assembles forage fish spawning survey data from the Coastal Forage Fish Network (CFFN), a formalized network of coastal BC organizations, including Peninsula Streams, that have been documenting where and when these fish spawn since the early 2000s.

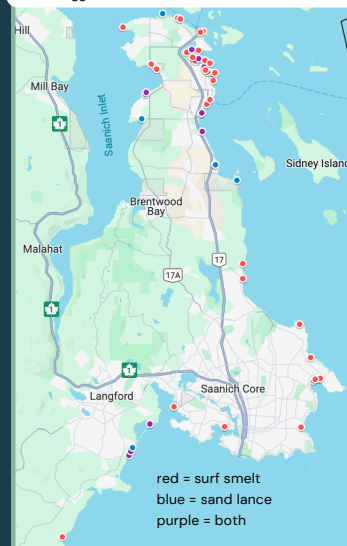
BY THE NUMBERS

Since our program began in 2018, our community scientists have collected over 1000 samples from over 200 sites at over 115 beaches! So far, 62 sites have had positive detections (55 for surf smelt and 23 for sand lance).



Surf smelt eggs in beach sediment

Sites on the Saanich Peninsula with positive forage fish egg detections from Dec. 2018 - Jul. 2024

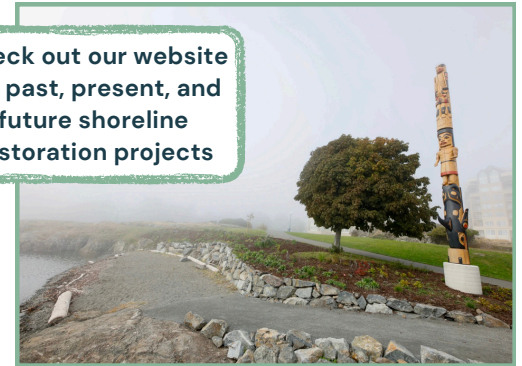


2 RESTORATION & MONITORING



Our goal is to restore, conserve, and protect shoreline habitats against their many threats. We help to identify and monitor key habitats, inform policies, and demonstrate 'soft shore' approaches, such as removing unnecessary riprap and bulkheads, "nourishing" shorelines with forage-fish-friendly sediments, and using native plants to protect shorelines while maintaining natural sediment and nutrient processes so these places persist for people and nature to enjoy.

Check out our website for past, present, and future shoreline restoration projects



Songhees Walkway Pocket Beach restoration project

3 EUROPEAN GREEN CRAB MONITORING

The invasive European green crab (EGC) outcompetes native crabs for food, excavates eelgrass beds during foraging, and feeds on a number of native species.



Key distinguishing feature of EGC are the 5 spines found to the outside of each eye on the shell

Early detection and prevention of this species in our local waters is crucial for protecting our native populations. In the summer, traps are set and checked monthly—native species are released, while EGC are not.