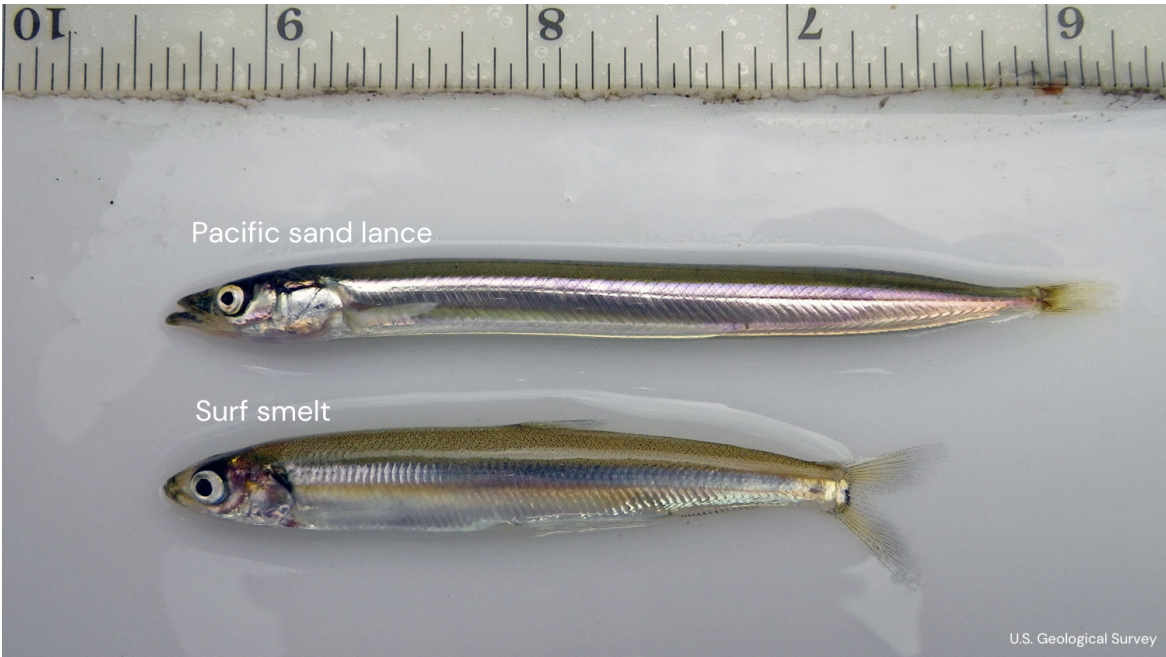




Hey there!

Welcome back to **The Schooler: Issue 2**—your bimonthly PSS newsletter for all things forage fish. As spring unfolds across the Saanich Peninsula, so does a fresh wave of activity along our shores. In this issue, we’ll highlight recent project updates and spotlight some of the incredible efforts our community is making to protect our shorelines.

Let’s dive in!

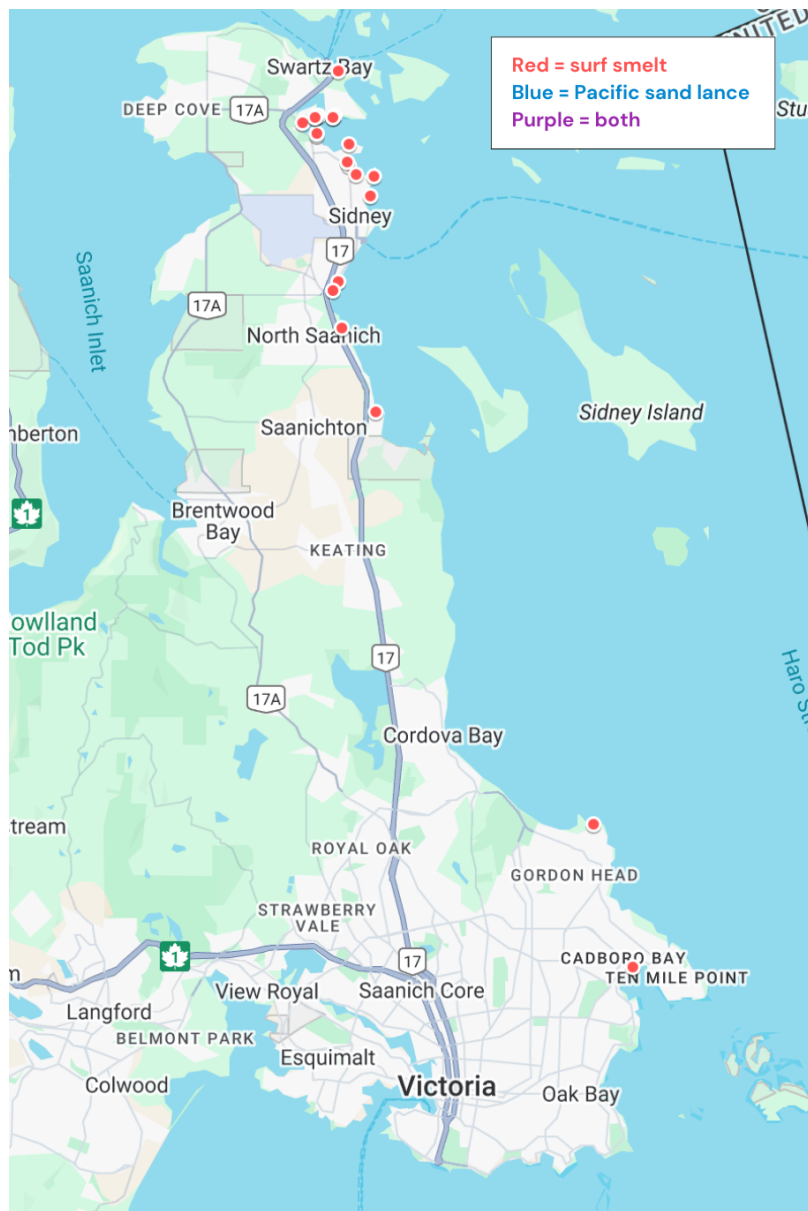


Here are the results for surveys completed in **March and April of 2025**:

Location	Date	Surf smelt	Pacific sand lance
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Tulista Park Beach: Site 4	Feb 24, 2025	0	0
Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club Beach: Site 3	Feb 28, 2025	413	4
Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club Beach: Site 2	Feb 28, 2025	2,496	0
Dallas Road Beach: Site 1	Mar 2, 2025	0	0
Arthur Drive Beach: Site 1	Mar 3, 2025	5	0
Albert Head Lagoon Beach: Site 3	Mar 4, 2025	0	0
Patricia Bay Beach: Site 1	Mar 5, 2025	0	0
Glenelg Beach: Site 1	Mar 5, 2025	0	0
Tryon Beach: Site 3	Mar 6, 2025	228	0
Taylor Beach: Site 4	Mar 6, 2025	0	0
McNeill Bay Beach: Site 2	Mar 6, 2025	0	0
McNeill Bay Beach: Site 3	Mar 6, 2025	0	0
Tilikum Memorial Stone Beach A: Site 1	Mar 7, 2025	0	0
Dallas Road Beach: Site 2	Mar 9, 2025	0	0
Cadboro Bay Beach: Site 5 (Gyro Park)	Mar 9, 2025	0	0
Tulista Park Beach: Site 5	Mar 10, 2025	11	0
Glencoe Cove Beach: Site 2	Mar 10, 2025	0	0
Roberts Bay Beach: Site 5	Mar 11, 2025	3	0
Seaspan Beach: Site 1	Mar 13, 2025	2	0
Lillian Hoffar Park Beach: Site 3	Mar 14, 2025	37	0
Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club Beach: Site 2	Mar 16, 2025	929	0
Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club Beach: Site 5	Mar 16, 2025	502	0
Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club Beach: Site 4	Mar 16, 2025	45	0
Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club Beach: Site 3	Mar 16, 2025	87	0
Weir's Beach: Site 2	Mar 17, 2025	0	0
Duke Road Beach: Site 2	Mar 19, 2025	0	0
McMicken Beach: Site 1	Mar 20, 2025	7	0
Junco Road Beach: Site 1	Mar 20, 2025	0	0
Sylvan Place Beach: Site 1	Mar 20, 2025	0	0
Breakwater Beach: Site 1	Mar 21, 2025	1	0
Patricia Bay Beach: Site 2	Mar 22, 2025	0	0

Rothesay Beach: Site 1	Mar 22, 2025	8	0
Gorge Nature House Beach: Site 1	Mar 22, 2025	0	0
Gorge Nature House Beach: Site 1	Mar 22, 2025	0	0
Roberts Bay Beach: Site 2	Mar 24, 2025	36	0
Goddard Beach: Site 1	Mar 25, 2025	14	0
Arthur Drive Beach: Site 3	Mar 27, 2025	0	0
Cormorant Point Beach (Balmacarra Park): Site 2	Mar 30, 2025	15	0
Gordon's Beach: Site 1	Mar 31, 2025	0	0
Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club Beach: Site 3	Apr 1, 2025	10	0
Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club Beach: Site 2	Apr 1, 2025	322	0
Tulista Park Beach: Site 4	Apr 2, 2025	4	0
Cadboro Bay Beach: Site 5 (Gyro Park)	Apr 3, 2025	22	0
Gonzales Beach: Site 2	Apr 3, 2025	0	0
Tryon Beach: Site 2	Apr 6, 2025	232	0
Albert Head Lagoon Beach: Site 3	Apr 6, 2025	0	0
Victoria International Marina: Site 1	Apr 6, 2025	0	0
Queen's Park Beach: Site 1 (Bailey Beach)	Apr 6, 2025	0	0
Queen's Park Beach: Site 3	Apr 6, 2025	0	0
Breakwater Beach: Site 1	Apr 8, 2025	5	0
Taylor Beach: Site 2	Apr 10, 2025	0	0
Esquimalt Lagoon Beach: Site 4	Apr 15, 2025	0	0
Lillian Hoffar Park Beach: Site 2	Apr 17, 2025	3	0
Royal Beach: Site 6	Apr 17, 2025	0	0
Surfside Beach (Amherst): Site 5	Apr 18, 2025	0	0
Tryon Beach: Site 1	Apr 19, 2025	1,094	0
Cy Hampson Beach: Site 1	Apr 21, 2025	25	0
Roberts Bay Beach: Site 1	Apr 22, 2025	7	0
Arthur Drive Beach: Site 1	Apr 24, 2025	0	0



That's a total of **58 surveys—28 positive for eggs!** Over **430 volunteer hours** went into these results; a huge thank you to each and every community scientist who contributed their time and hard work.

*Don't see one of your submitted surveys? If it was towards the end of the month, it likely didn't make the cutoff for the issue and will be included in the next. If not, please email [chloe.kraemer@peninsulastreams.ca](mailto:chloe.kraemer@peninsulastreams.ca).*



The **Beach Bulletin** is a living space for sampling tips & tricks, program updates, volunteer features, and any other tidbits ("beach bites"). This is **open to all volunteers for**



**contribution;** if there's anything you'd like to share with your fellow forage fish community scientists—some sampling/microscoping advice, a survey anecdote, team member feature, or cool wildlife sighting—we warmly encourage you to send it our way at [chloe.kraemer@peninsulastreams.ca](mailto:chloe.kraemer@peninsulastreams.ca)!

### **This issue's beach bites:**

**Sample Size Reminder:** Reminder to all volunteers collecting samples on the beach to please ensure their final sample is a reasonably small size—this saves our microscopists hours of work! There are two tricks you can try to help reduce the size of your sample: (1) after sieving but before vortexing, you can swish the contents of the finest size in shallow water at the shore to help draw out fine sand through the bottom, and (2) re-vortex your sample as many times as needed to achieve a small sample.

**Summer Spawning:** Although our peak spawning season has come to a close, surf smelt can spawn all year round. Keeping up our sampling effort over the spring and summer is key for helping us to identify critical summer spawning beaches for surf smelt. And, getting to spend time on the beach in nice weather is an added bonus! ✨

**PSS Forage Fish Program Logo:** Exciting new logo reveal! Over the past few months, we've been working with WSÁNEĆ artist Sarah Jim to create a logo for our forage fish program. Check out her amazing portfolio [here](#). Keep an eye out for the logo on upcoming communications, signage, and merch.

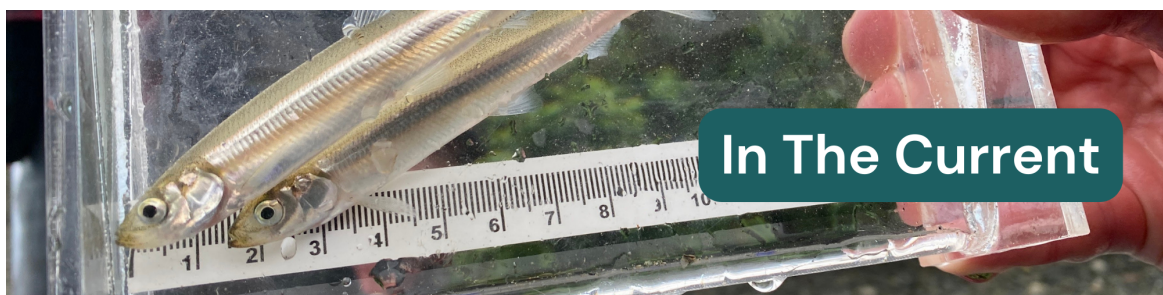


**Nymph Point Park:** Nymph Point Park, or Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club Beach, is one of the top surf smelt spawning beaches in the region, yielding positive egg finds every month of the year and some of the largest number of eggs in a single sample. But, this area is highly developed, and the NE end of the beach has degraded spawning habitat. Our Sidney forage fish volunteer team has recently been "double sampling" the beach—collecting a sample from both the suitable SW end and the unsuitable NE end—demonstrating that the degraded NE end has much lower egg abundance and survivorship than the SW end (*take a look at the above table of results for comparison!*). This September, PSS is partnering with Project Watershed, the District of North Saanich, and others to restore the NE end of the beach through sediment nourishment, invasive species removal, and marine riparian planting.

**Earth Day Celebration:** On April 22nd, PSS staff and volunteers, as well as staff from the North Saanich Marina, conducted an Earth Day Beach Cleanup at Nymph Point Park, successfully removing 117 kg of garbage, 150 L of loose foam, and one derelict dory. A grade 11 class from Parkland Secondary School also joined us for a forage fish egg survey demo, and our sample had hundreds of hatched surf smelt larvae! 🌍



**Save the Date:** Please join us on Monday, May 12th from 1-4pm at the [Institute of Ocean Sciences](#) for a review and strategy session for our BEACH Program. We'll provide an overview of our recent forage fish, European green crab, eDNA, education, and shoreline restoration/monitoring efforts. Attendees will also dive into discussion and brainstorming with break-out groups to help us reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of the program and future directions. [Register here!](#) 📅



**Wanting to dive deeper? Wade into this issue's current events and news below:**

[CFFN Annual Symposium:](#) Did you tune into the Coastal Forage Fish Network (CFFN)'s Annual Symposium on April 23rd? If not, you can click the link above to watch the recording! Speakers included Mark Tagal ("A Surf Smelt Story") and Jason Hall & Melinda Paulus ("The Benefits of Shoreline Armour Removal"). A few CFFN member groups also provided updates on their forage fish work, including PSS. Check it out! 📺

[BC Coastal Marine Strategy:](#) On April 26th, we participated in the Coastal Marine Strategy Workshop in Victoria, hosted by the Georgia Strait Alliance. The workshop, featuring PSS

Executive Director Kyle Armstrong and David Dick of the W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council, highlighted the BC Coastal Marine Strategy—a landmark plan to restore nearshore habitats, reduce marine pollution, enhance biodiversity, and support Indigenous leadership, climate resilience, and coastal community revitalization. On April 12th, a resolution championed by the District of Saanich and City of Langford was passed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities that calls on BC to legislate the Strategy to ensure its implementation. With many municipalities currently updating their Official Community Plans (OCPs), communities now have a timely opportunity to align local land-use policies with the goals of the Coastal Marine Strategy, reinforcing shoreline protection and adopting nature-based solutions at the local level.

Thanks so much for tuning in! Catch you in our next issue in June.

**Chloe Kraemer**

*BEACH Program Coordinator*

Peninsula Streams & Shorelines

Living and working within Coast and Straits Salish territory, the territories of the Lekwungen peoples, known today as Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, and the W̱SÁNEĆ peoples, known today as W̱JOŁELP (Tsartlip), BOKECEN (Pauquachin), S̱TÁUTW (Tsawout), W̱SIKEM (Tseycum), and M̱ALEXEL (Malahat) Nations.



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