

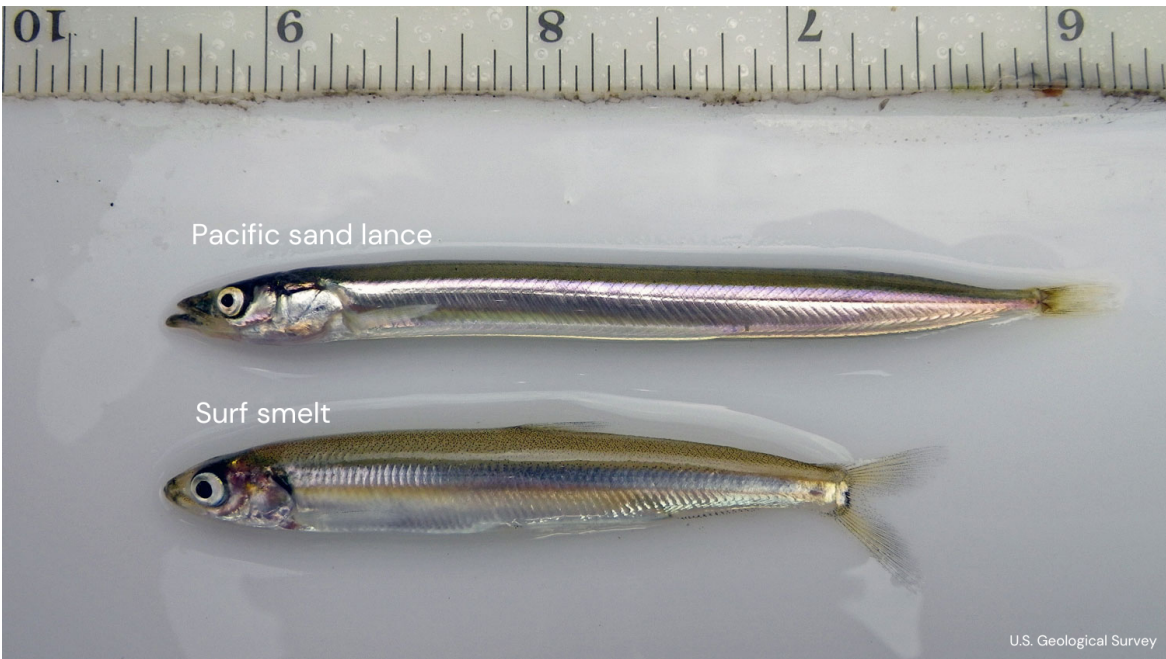


Hey there!

Welcome back to **The Schooler: Issue 5**—your bimonthly PSS newsletter for all things forage fish. Here, we'll provide key updates on recent survey findings and other program news.

Spawning is picking up again! As temperatures drop, we're slowly starting to see more egg detections pop up on beaches across the peninsula. If you haven't been out to survey yet, dust off your kits, charge up your batteries, put your boots on, and hit the beach!

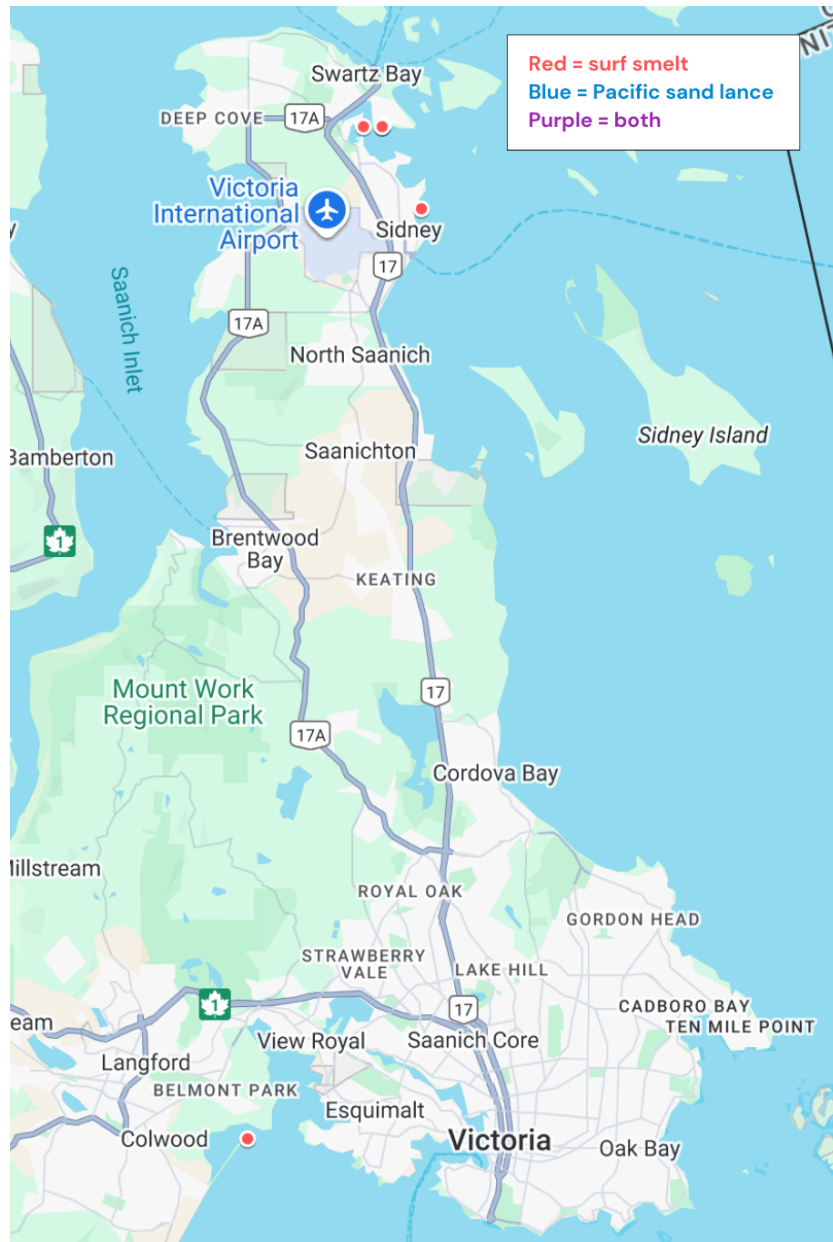
Let's dive in!



Here are the results for surveys completed **since the last edition** in August 2025:

Location	Date	Surf	Pacific
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		smelt	sand lance
Tryon Beach: Site 1	Jul 28, 2025	102	0
Lillian Hoffar Park Beach: Site 2	Jul 29, 2025	0	0
Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club Beach: Site 3	Sep 2, 2025	0	0
Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club Beach: Site 2	Sep 2, 2025	0	0
Albert Head Lagoon Beach: Site 1	Sep 4, 2025	0	0
Albert Head Lagoon Beach: Site 3	Sep 4, 2025	0	0
Resthaven Island Beach: Site 1	Sep 4, 2025	0	0
Roberts Bay Beach: Site 5	Sep 6, 2025	0	0
Goddard Beach: Site 1	Sep 13, 2025	0	0
Tryon Beach: Site 1	Sep 14, 2025	268	0
Tryon Beach: Site 1	Sep 19, 2025	278	0
McMicken Beach: Site 1	Sep 26, 2025	0	0
Roberts Bay Beach: Site 1	Sep 27, 2025	0	0
Tulista Park Beach: Site 4	Sep 28, 2025	0	0
Breakwater Beach: Site 1	Sep 30, 2025	0	0
Esquimalt Lagoon Beach: Site 4	Oct 3, 2025	0	0
Esquimalt Lagoon Beach: Site 5	Oct 3, 2025	2	0
Amherst Beach: Site 2	Oct 3, 2025	0	0
Tryon Beach: Site 3	Oct 4, 2025	2	0
Lillian Hoffar Park Beach: Site 1	Oct 6, 2025	0	0
Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club Beach: Site 2	Oct 8, 2025	7	0
Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club Beach: Site 3	Oct 8, 2025	0	0
Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club Beach: Site 2	Oct 9, 2025	0	0
Rothsay Beach: Site 1	Oct 13, 2025	1	0
Albert Head Lagoon Beach: Site 3	Oct 16, 2025	0	0
Arthur Drive Beach: Site 2	Oct 17, 2025	0	0
Cadboro Bay Beach: Site 5 (Gyro Park)	Oct 17, 2025	0	0
Tryon Beach: Site 2	Oct 20, 2025	13	0
Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club Beach: Site 2	Oct 20, 2025	3	0
Roberts Bay Beach: Site 2	Oct 21, 2025	0	0



That's a total of 31 surveys, 9 positive for eggs. 200 volunteer hours went into these results—a huge thank you to each and every community scientist who contributed their time and hard work!

Highlights:

- Surf smelt eggs found at Esquimalt Lagoon Beach for the first time since 2022! Huge shoutout to team lead Diane O'Connell and her volunteers, who have been sampling consistently in the Metchosin area for years with no eggs. Congrats!
- The surveys conducted at Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club Beach: Site 2 on Oct. 9th and 20th were with two Marine Science classes (grades 10 and 11) from Parkland Secondary School, who took the samples back to class for analysis. In addition to the forage fish survey, we also conducted a beach seine with the students, walking out a long rectangular net from shore to catch any species in the nearshore waters. We've

been hosting education events for the school for years, and always enjoy the students' passion and curiosity for learning outside!

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.



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!

This issue's beach bites:

Student power: On Oct. 17th, we re-trained students from the UVic Ecological Restoration Club, who have been sampling with us for over 4 years. Each fall, the club welcomes a new batch of student members, and we conduct a training session at Cadboro Bay to get the new members up to speed and refresh the memories of existing members. No eggs were found in our sample, but now these students are ready to hit the beaches around Saanich to seek them out!

All Buffleheads Day 2025: Oct. 18th marked All Buffleheads Day 2025! This annual celebration hosted by the [Friends of Shoal Harbour](#) brings together government officials, First Nations, organizations, and local residents to celebrate the remarkably punctual migratory return of North America's smallest diving sea duck. The buffleheads that overwinter in the Salish Sea return to the Shoal Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary on October 15th every year—the 297th day of the solar cycle. We were honoured to speak before the group on the importance of forage fish, their connection to the coastal food web, and the importance of protecting natural shorelines. Read more about it in our blog post [here](#).



Team expansion: To fill gaps in our sampling coverage and help strengthen the effort of our existing teams, we'll be conducting ongoing training sessions for new volunteers. We have four November dates now open for registration across various beaches:

- Nov. 10th - 4:00-5:00 PM - Cordova Bay
- Nov. 13th - 9:00-10:00 AM - Willows Beach
- Nov. 17th - 9:00-10:00 AM - Tulista Park Beach
- Nov. 26th - 8:00-9:00 AM - Esquimalt Lagoon

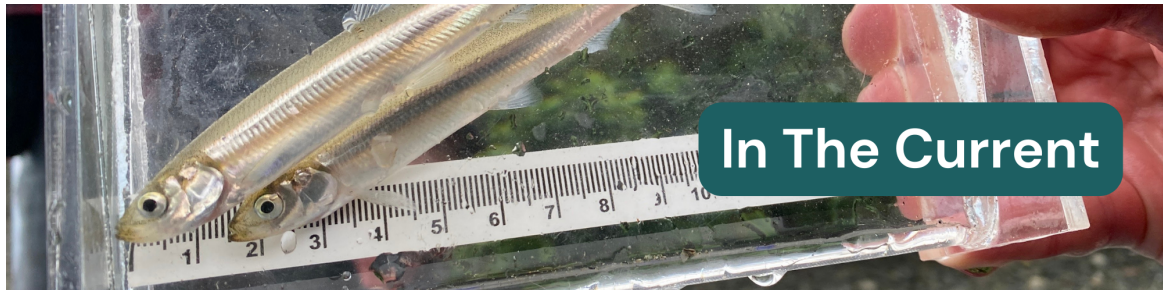
Upcoming events: We have some exciting events coming up at the end of November! Dates, times, and locations are TBD — stay tuned. 😊

(1) Forage Fish Social — In collaboration with the [Gorge Waterway Action Society \(GWAS\)](#), who will be sampling throughout the Gorge Waterway this winter for a habitat suitability and toxicology project, we're hosting a forage fish social featuring presentations, egg viewing, and mingling.

(2) Forage Fish Egg Microscopy Workshop — In collaboration with Moira Galbraith, DFO Zooplankton Biologist, we're hosting a small workshop in the zooplankton laboratory at the Institute of Ocean Sciences in Sidney. This workshop will review identification of forage fish eggs, stages of embryo development, and microscopy best practices.

Pacific Sand Lance Week/Day: The [Coastal Forage Fish Network \(CFFN\)](#) will be celebrating Pacific Sand Lance Week from Nov. 30th to Dec. 6th, with Pacific Sand Lance

Day falling on Nov. 3rd. This highlighted week/day is all about raising awareness of this important cryptic forage fish species. **The goal is for teams across the coast to conduct several surveys in this window, allowing for more comparable data.** There will also be an educational social media campaign from all members of the CFFN to help spread knowledge of this largely unknown species! 🐟



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

Songhees Walkway Pocket Beach is now Green Shores certified

Our Songhees Walkway Pocket Beach Restoration Project has been approved for [Green Shores for Shoreline Development \(GSSD\) certification](#). This project restored a highly modified shoreline by Lime Bay Park in Victoria Harbour, creating a small forage fish pocket beach habitat. The beach now serves as a Green Shores demonstration site under the [Resilient Coasts for Salmon program](#).

3rd Victoria Herring Symposium

Last night we attended the [3rd Victoria Herring Symposium](#), hosted by the [Herring Conservation and Restoration Society](#). Speakers included [Tsawout Hereditary Chief Eric Pelkey](#), Sydney Dixon from [Pacific Wild](#), and Sydney McCabe & Lili Wilson from [Eagle Wing Tours](#). Pacific Wild has excellent letter templates that you can submit to your local representatives and Fisheries Minister, Joanne Thompson, telling them that you support an immediate moratorium and movement towards an ecosystem-based approach to management of the herring fishery. Find those templates [here](#), and have your voice be heard!

Coastal Forage Fish Network Logo

In addition to the new website and data dashboard, the [Coastal Forage Fish Network \(CFFN\)](#) now has an official logo, thanks to artist Emily Clark!



Thanks so much for tuning in! Catch you in our last issue of 2025 in December.

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, the T'Sou-ke Nation, and the WSANEC peoples, known today as WJOLELP (Tsartlip), BOKECEN (Pauquachin), S7AUTW (Tsawout), WSIKEM (Tseycum), and MALEXEL (Malahat) Nations.



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