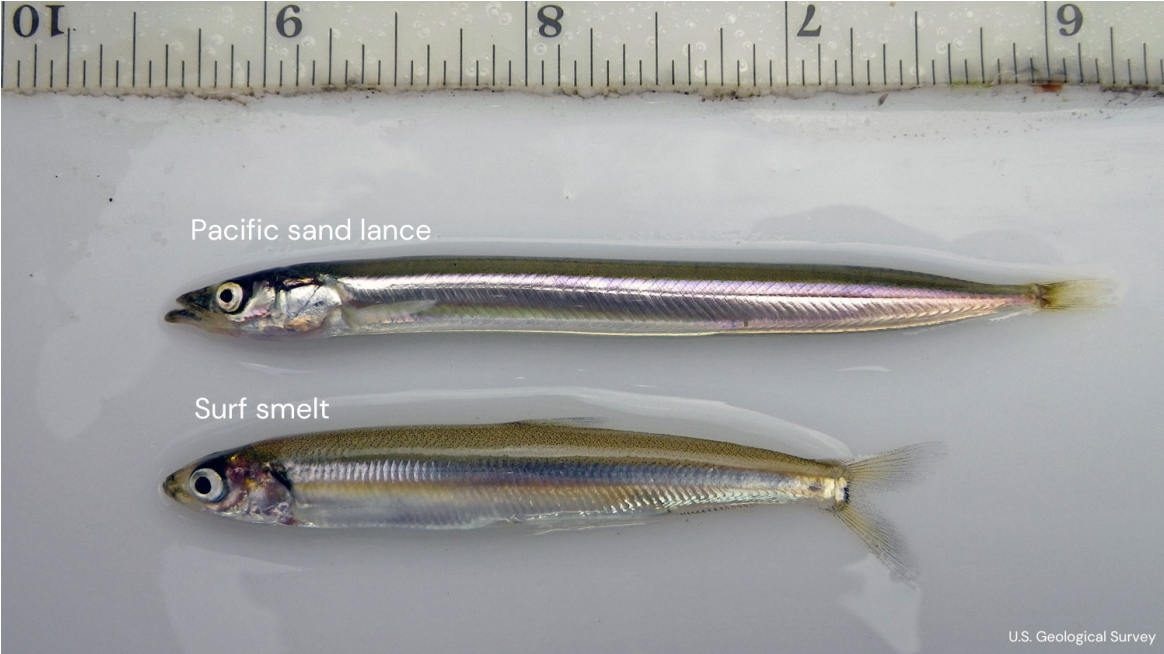




Hey firstname,

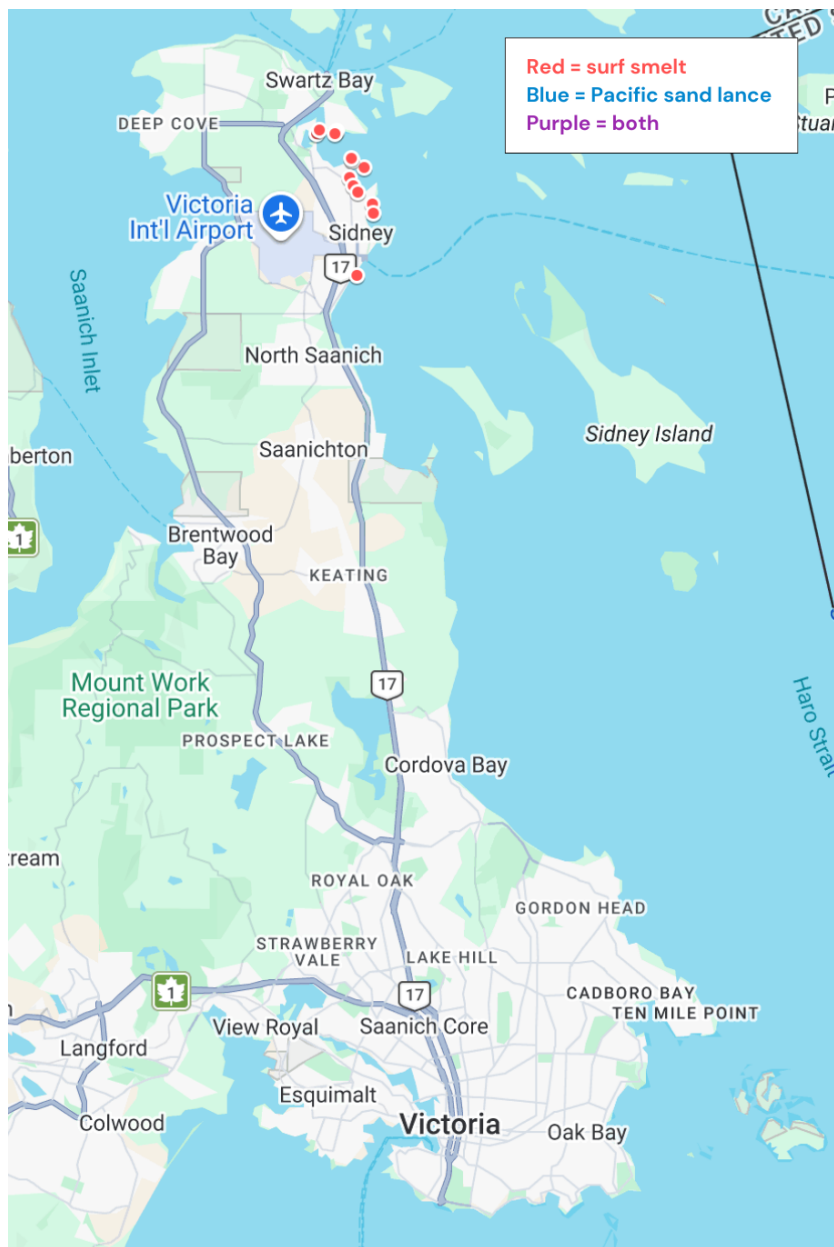
Welcome back to **The Schooler**, your bimonthly PSS newsletter for all things forage fish. Summer brings the quiet season for forage fish spawning, but there's still plenty to keep our BEACH community busy.

Let's dive in and see what our community scientists have been up to!



Surveys completed since the last edition in April 2026:

Location	Date	Surf smelt	Pacific sand lance
Smuggler's Cove: Site 1	Apr 24, 2026	0	0
Rothesay Beach: Site 1	Apr 26, 2026	2	0
Holland Point Park: Site 2	Apr 26, 2026	0	0
Big Rock Beach: Site 1	Apr 27, 2026	9	0
Clover Point Park: Site 2	Apr 28, 2026	0	0
Esquimalt Lagoon Beach: Site 5	Apr 28, 2026	0	0
Roberts Bay Beach: Site 2	Apr 29, 2026	1	0
Breakwater Beach: Site 1	May 7, 2026	1	0
Tryon Beach: Site 2	May 8, 2026	523	0
Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club Beach: Site 2	May 9, 2026	105	0
Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club Beach: Site 3	May 9, 2026	116	0
Tulista Park Beach: Site 1	May 12, 2026	17	0
Lillian Hoffar Park Beach: Site 1	May 13, 2026	0	0
Maple Beach: Site 2	May 13, 2026	0	0
Amherst Beach: Site 5	May 20, 2026	3	0
Roberts Bay Beach: Site 5	May 21, 2026	1	0
Resthaven Island Beach: Site 1	May 22, 2026	0	0
Breakwater Beach: Site 2	May 28, 2026	2	0
Tryon Beach: Site 1	May 29, 2026	31	0
Arbutus Cove Beach: Site 1	Jun 3, 2026	0	0
Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club Beach: Site 2	Jun 4, 2026	4	0
Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club Beach: Site 3	Jun 4, 2026	64	0
Roberts Bay Beach: Site 4	Jun 7, 2026	1	0
Seaspan Beach: Site 2	Jun 8, 2026	0	0
Tulista Park Beach: Site 4	Jun 18, 2026	0	0
Tryon Beach: Site 3	Jun 19, 2026	7	0
Goddard Beach: Site 1	Jun 20, 2026	0	0
Plumper Bay: Site 1	Jun 25, 2026	0	0
Arthur Drive Beach: Site 2	Jun 26, 2026	0	0



That's a total of 29 surveys, 16 positive for eggs. 176 volunteer hours went into these results—a huge heartfelt thank you to each and every community scientist who contributed their time, hard work, and expertise!

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 program updates and announcements, volunteer features, and any other tidbits.

This issue's beach bites:

Biomonitoring forage fish exposure to contaminants in stormwater: In collaboration with program volunteer Norm Healey, Board-Certified Toxicologist with Azimuth Consulting Group Inc., we're exploring new ways to better understand how pollution affects beach-spawning forage fish reproduction and development. Building on knowledge from [previous research](#) that exposing Pacific herring eggs to just one gram of crude oil per kilogram of gravel for a single day causes significant heart swelling and growth defects, we've begun early research into testing surf smelt eggs for contaminants, including metals and petroleum-related pollutants such as PAHs, which can come from spills, road runoff, and urban stormwater. A huge thank you to TrichAnalytics Inc. in Saanichton, who are currently analyzing several egg samples from various beaches collected by our Sidney volunteer team. Norm is also preparing to share this project concept at two environmental toxicology conferences this fall, helping us gather feedback and build the next steps for this important research.

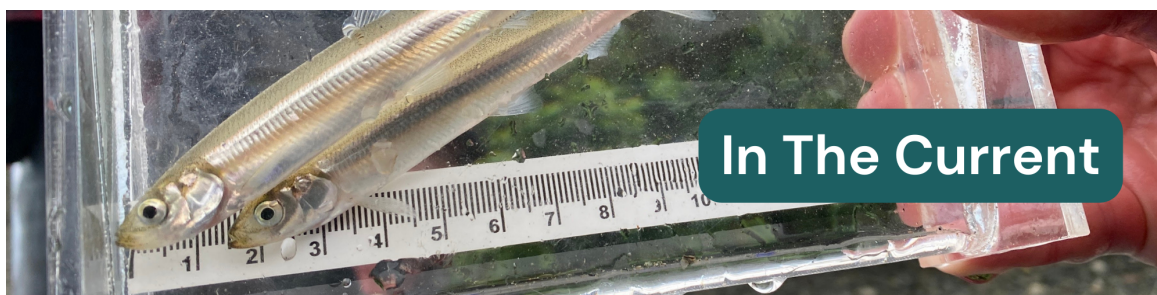
Team expansion: At the end of June, we trained and provided equipment to the Esquimalt Nation Marine Team, who will now monitor beaches within their territory. Training took place at Plumper Bay in View Royal, where a revitalization project is underway to restore the ecologically and culturally significant shoreline habitat of the bay after a long history of contamination. Learn more [here](#).

Recognizing Jan Cox: This spring, PSS was honoured to recognize longtime volunteer Jan Cox with the Watershed Warrior Award at our 2026 Soirée. Jan has been an instrumental pillar of our forage fish program for many years, bringing her microscope expertise, dedication, and care to the detailed work of sample analysis. She helped develop the standardized protocols and data collection methods that continue to guide our program today, while also supporting beach sampling, school programs, and building a valuable teaching and reference library of samples. Jan's generosity extends well beyond her volunteer hours, and her family's connection to PSS runs deep, with her late husband also playing an important role in the early days of stream restoration and education with the organization. We're so grateful for Jan's many years of humble, behind-the-scenes leadership and lasting contributions to local shoreline stewardship!

BEACH Program Fundraiser: This summer, Peninsula Streams & Shorelines is aiming to raise \$25,000 by BC CrabFest on July 18th to help take our BEACH Program to the next level. What began as a community shoreline monitoring program has grown into a regional

effort to better understand, restore, and protect the beaches that support forage fish, juvenile salmon, seabirds, and the broader marine food web. Donations will help expand forage fish spawning surveys, launch new contaminant and genetics research, support beach seining in local estuaries, map shoreline pressures, restore beach and backshore habitats, remove invasive European green crab, and train more volunteers, students, and community members as shoreline stewards. Every gift helps move this work from documenting what's happening on our shorelines to taking action where it's needed most. Please share widely with your networks to help us reach our goal!

Donate



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

🐟 Urge Fisheries and Oceans Canada to protect forage fish

[Oceana Canada](#) has released a new report, [Little Being, Big Foundation: Where Rebuilding Ocean Abundance Begins](#), calling for stronger national protections for forage fish (herring, capelin, mackerel, sardine). The report highlights the need to rebuild depleted populations through legal protection under the Fisheries Act, science-based management guardrails, and stronger integration of Indigenous Knowledge Systems. For those who want to support broader forage fish protection beyond our local monitoring work, Oceana Canada is inviting people to sign a petition and send a letter to the Minister of Fisheries calling for stronger action.

Sign the Petition

Thanks so much for tuning in! Catch you in the next issue in August.

Sincerely,

Chloe Kraemer

BEACH Program Coordinator



*Streams
Peninsula & Shorelines*
Since 2002

9860 West Saanich Road, North Saanich BC, V8L 4B2

Living and working within Coast and Straits Salish territory, the territories of the ləkʷəŋən People, known today as Songhees Nation and Xwsepsum (Esquimalt) Nation; the W̱SÁNEĆ People, known today as W̱JOŁŁP (Tsartlip), BOŶÉĆEN (Pauquachin), S̶ÁUTW̶ (Tsawout), W̶SIŶEM (Tseycum), and MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat) Nations; and the T'Sou-ke First Nation.

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