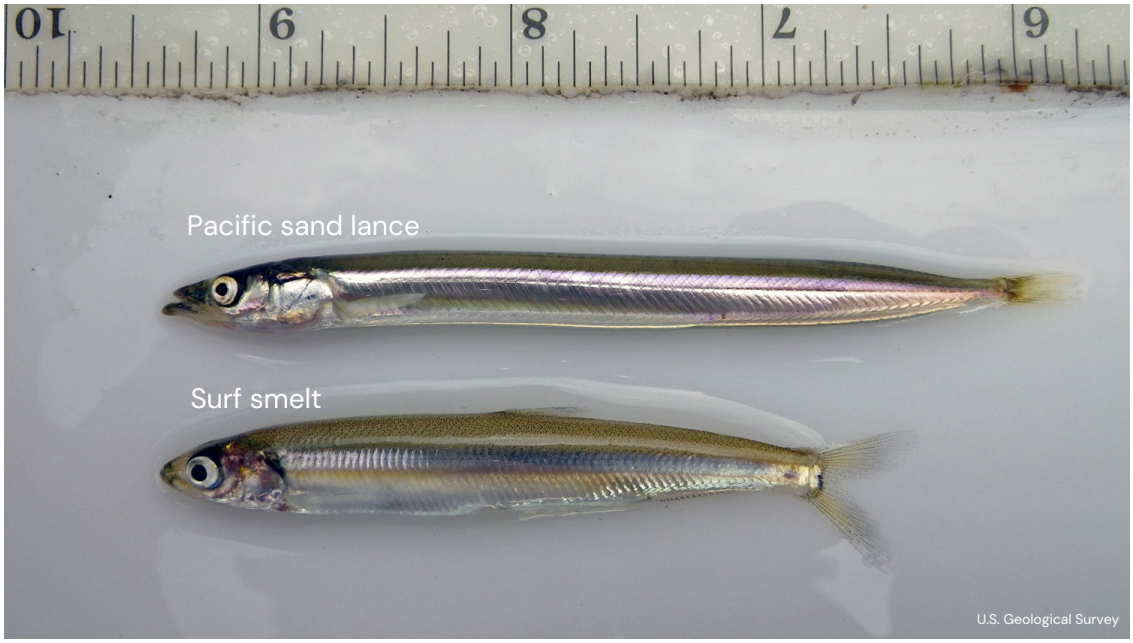


Hey firstname,

Welcome back to **The Schooler**, your bimonthly PSS newsletter for all things forage fish.

Peak spawning season is almost here! Starting this month, we'll begin seeing egg detections increase across Greater Victoria, reaching a peak in January through to spring. Now's the time to start hitting the beach in search of those eggs!

Below, you'll find updates on what the past two months have looked like for our forage fish program. Let's dive in!

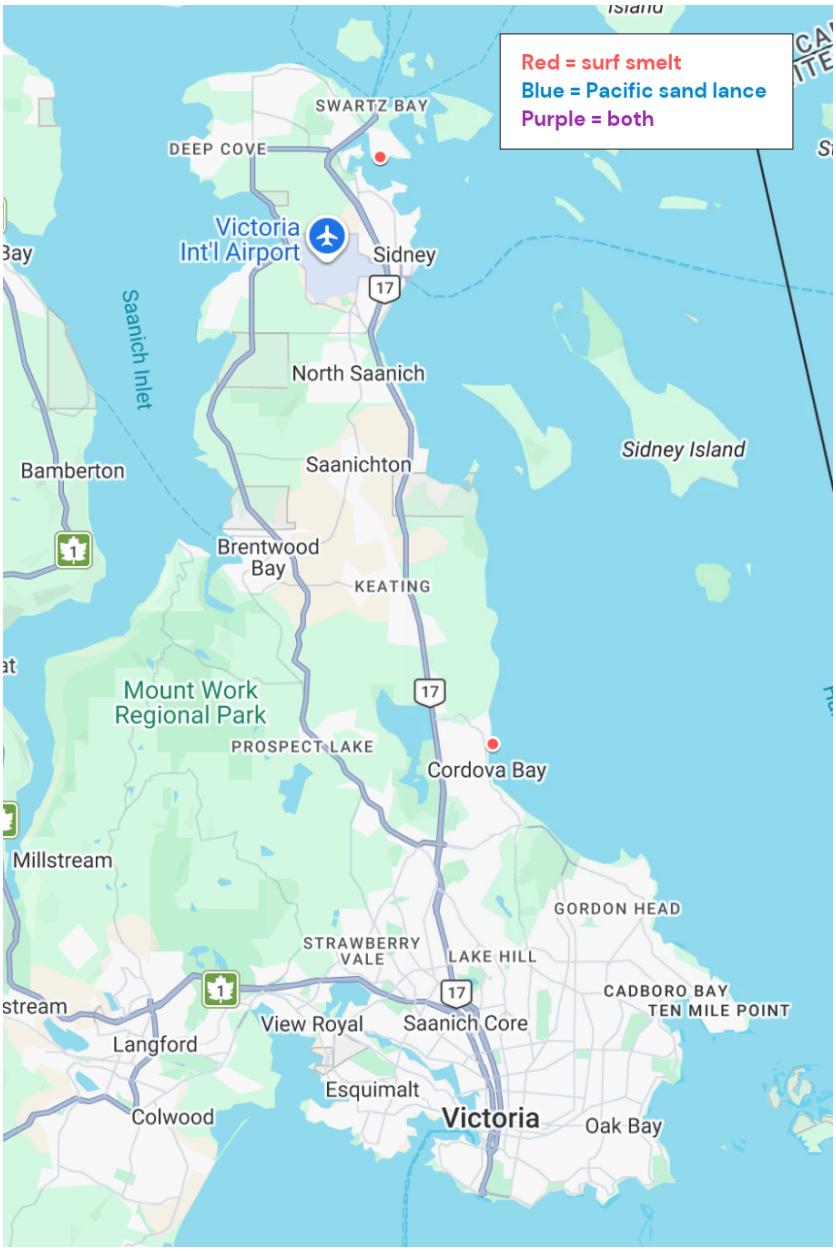




Survey Results

Surveys completed since the last edition in August 2026:

Location	Date	Surf smelt	Pacific sand lance
Fishboat Bay Park: Site 2	Aug 25, 2026	0	0
Breakwater Beach: Site 1	Aug 30, 2026	0	0
Sandcut Beach: Site 1	Sep 1, 2026	0	0
Shell Beach: Site 1	Sep 11, 2026	0	0
Island View Beach: Site 3	Sep 12, 2026	0	0
Tryon Beach: Site 2	Sep 19, 2026	17	0
Cordova Bay Beach: Site 1 (Agate Park)	Sep 26, 2026	2	0
Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club Beach: Site 2	Sep 27, 2026	0	0
Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club Beach: Site 3	Sep 27, 2026	0	0
Tsartlip Beach: Site 1	Oct 9, 2026	0	0
Roberts Bay Beach: Site 5	Oct 12, 2026	0	0
Tryon Beach: Site 1	Oct 13, 2026	264	0
Lillian Hoffar Park Beach: Site 3	Oct 17, 2026	0	0
Resthaven Island Beach: Site 1	Oct 19, 2026	0	0
Senanus Island: Site 1	Oct 20, 2026	0	0
Sluggett Point: Site 1	Oct 20, 2026	0	0
Mount Douglas Beach: Site 2	Oct 22, 2026	0	0
Esquimalt Lagoon Beach: Site 5	Oct 22, 2026	0	0
Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club Beach: Site 3	Oct 23, 2026	0	0
Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club Beach: Site 2	Oct 23, 2026	0	0
Tulista Park Beach: Site 4	Oct 26, 2026	0	0



That's a total of 21 surveys, 3 positive for eggs. 99 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.



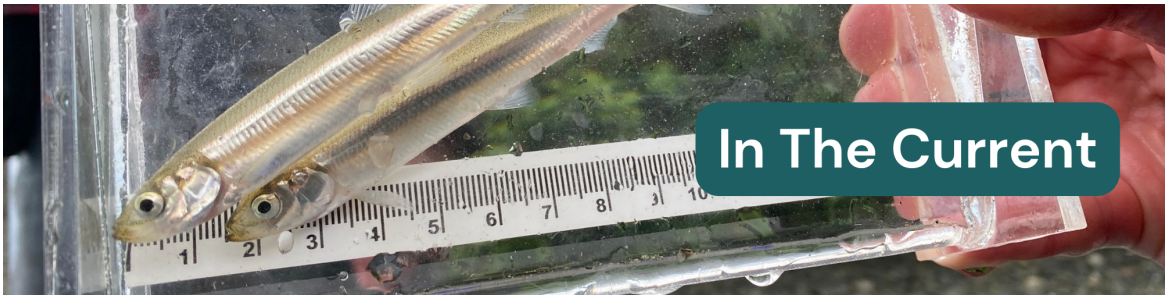
The Beach Bulletin is a living space for program updates and announcements, volunteer features, and any other tidbits.

This issue's beach bites:

Team expansion: Our forage fish survey network continues to grow! In October, we brought on board the Tsartlip First Nation Stewardship Team, who will work to capture first-time survey data on beaches around Brentwood Bay and the greater Saanich Inlet. We'll also be hosting some volunteer training sessions over the winter to boost our volunteer numbers and capacity for sampling!

Updates on our surf smelt toxicity research: Program volunteer Norm Healey recently presented our work at the Canadian Ecotoxicity Workshop (CEW) in Saskatoon, where the project received positive feedback from the scientific community. He's currently at the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) North America 47th Annual Meeting in Montreal this week—good luck Norm!

Building on this work, we're planning to expand our efforts during the upcoming spawning season by collecting and preserving more egg samples. Our focus will be on establishing baseline data and comparing metal concentrations in eggs collected from reference beaches (without stormwater outfalls) and beaches with stormwater outfalls. This next phase will help us better understand potential links between urban stormwater runoff and contaminant exposure in these important forage fish. Stay tuned for more information!



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

Building Stronger Shoreline Protection Policies

This summer, Peninsula Streams & Shorelines welcomed UVic Sustainability Scholar Mehdi Hosseini Dehaghani, who completed a report examining shoreline protection policies across five municipalities in the Capital Region. His research highlights strengths, gaps, and opportunities to better protect coastal habitats, address climate change, and encourage nature-based shoreline management. Read his full report, Benchmarking Shoreline

Resilience: A Cross-Municipal Review of Shoreline Protection Policies in the Capital Region, to explore the findings and recommendations.

FOSH Webinar: Protecting Our Local Migratory Bird Sanctuaries

Join the Friends of Shoal Harbour (FOSH) for an informative Zoom presentation with James Reynolds, Protected Areas Technician with the Canadian Wildlife Service, exploring the history and conservation challenges of Greater Victoria's three federal Migratory Bird Sanctuaries: Victoria Harbour, Esquimalt Lagoon, and Shoal Harbour. With a special focus on Shoal Harbour, James will discuss the sanctuary's importance for seabirds, shorebirds, and waterfowl, the pressures it faces, and ongoing efforts to protect this valuable coastal habitat. Learn more about the important work being done to safeguard our region's migratory birds!

Zoom Link

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

Sincerely,

Chloe Kraemer
BEACH Program Coordinator

Peninsula Streams & 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 lək̓ʷəŋən People, known today as Songhees Nation and Xwsepsum (Esquimalt) Nation; the W̱SÁNEĆ People, known today as W̱JOŁEŁP (Tsartlip), BOḴEĆEN (Pauquachin), SȾÁUTW̱ (Tsawout), W̱SIḴEM (Tseycum), and MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat) Nations; and the T'Sou-ke First Nation.

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