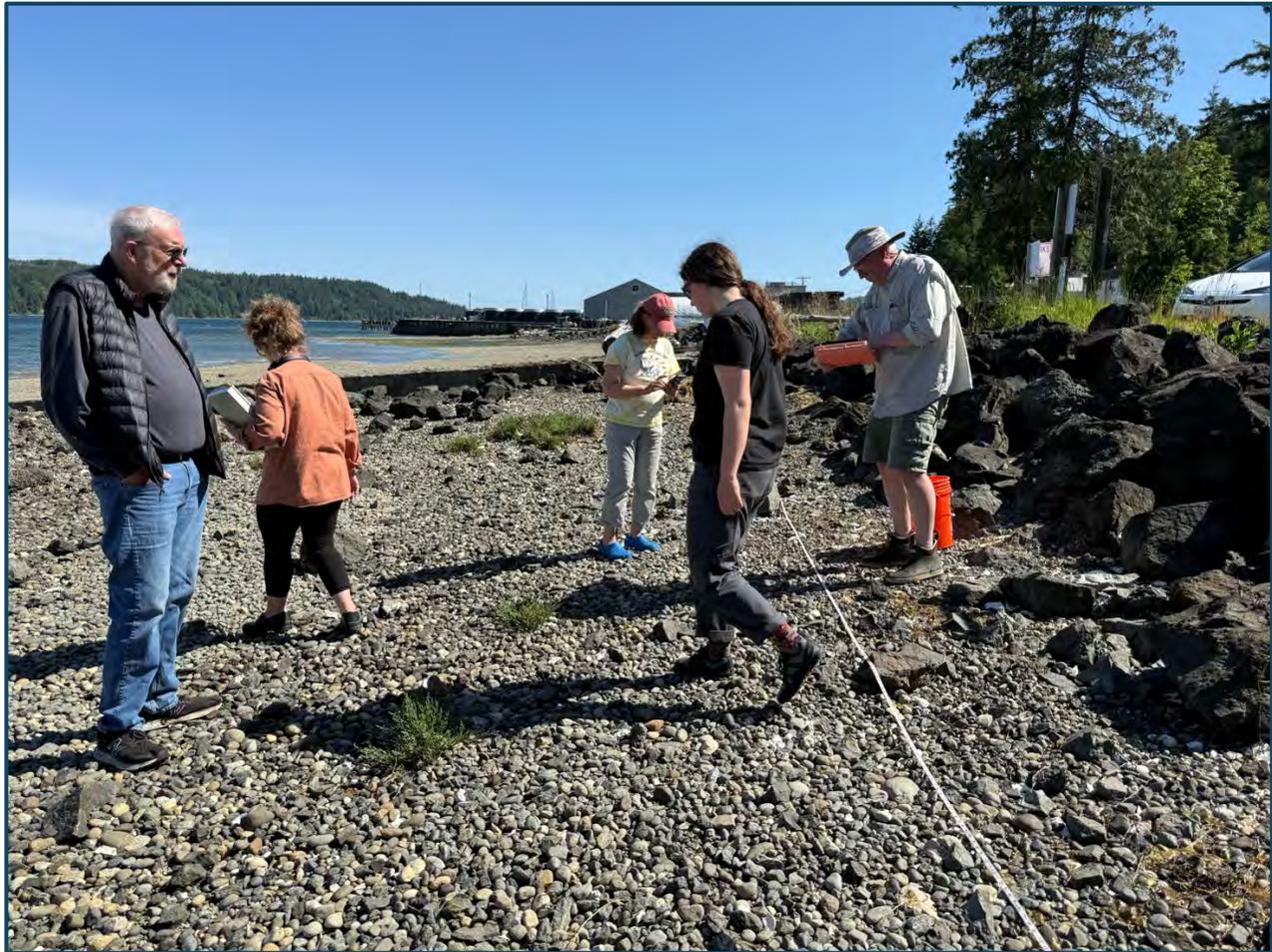


Project Summary Report

Forage Fish



Project Reporting Period: October 2024-September 2025

Grant number: SEANWS-2023-JeCoWS-00006

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Jefferson County
**Marine
Resources
Committee**



PUGET SOUND
PARTNERSHIP



**Northwest
Straits**
INITIATIVE

Project Lead: Sarah Fisken

Subcommittee Members: Janette Mestre, Troy McKelvey, Tim Cross, Akeyla Behrenfeld

Additional Volunteers: Anne Seeley

Project Overview

Forage fish are a vital link in the marine food web, and the monitoring of their status is important for informing recovery efforts of the Salish Sea. Sampling to identify spawning of forage fish, specifically surf smelt (*Hypomesus pretiosus*) and Pacific sand lance (*Ammodytes hexapterus*), is conducted by the MRC and other community volunteers who have received training, following WDFW protocols. This survey is designed to establish continuity with existing WDFW data in an effort to measure seasonal and temporal trends of spawning and to develop an understanding of the conditions and processes affecting each monitoring site over time. Volunteers collect data through the iForm app and send beach samples to WDFW to identify and count presence of eggs. To date, the Jefferson MRC has been monitoring forage fish spawning at the Siri's Cove site in Dabob Bay for five years (since June 2020). The MRC added an additional forage fish site this year in January 2025 at the Quilcene Yacht Club/Marina, a planned future restoration site.

Volunteer Engagement

During this period, Jefferson County MRC member Sarah Fisken took on project lead responsibilities, organizing sampling days, filling out data sheets and volunteer reporting forms, and overseeing delivery of samples to our WDFW partners who process the beach samples. Throughout the season, five MRC members (Sarah, Troy, Janette, Tim and Akeyla) and one community volunteer (Anne) participated in monitoring.

Project Partners

Project partners include WDFW, who provides annual sampling training, and processes all forage fish samples and data. The Quilcene Yacht Club site is sampled with support of the Port of Port Townsend's nearshore restoration of the yacht club beach at the Quilcene Marina.

Data Results

During the 2024-2025 forage fish monitoring season, 11 samples were collected at Siri's Cove, and 8 samples were collected at the Quilcene Yacht Club. At the time of this report, 7 of 19 samples have been analyzed by WDFW. Data results are shown in Table 1 and 2 below.

Table 1. Siri's Cove Forage Fish data, Oct 2024-Sep 2025

Survey Date	Location	Beach Station	Sample	Field Sheet	Lab Sheet Sample	Photos	DFW_QAQC	Surf Smelt	Sand Lance	Rock Sole	DFW database	SS Spawn Event?	SL Spawn Event?
10/31/24	Siri Cove	1	1	Y	N	Y	Y	0	0	0	Y	0	0
11/17/24	Siri Cove	1	1	Y	N	Y	Y	0	11	0	Y	0	1
12/6/24	Siri Cove	1	1	Y	N	Y	Y	3	27	0	Y	1	1
1/18/25	Siri Cove	1	1	Y	N	Y	Y	0	1	0	Y	0	0
2/17/25	Siri Cove	1	1	Y	N	Y	Y	0	0	0	Y	0	0
3/22/25	Siri Cove	1	1	Y	N	Y	Pending lab processing 9/3/25					0	0
4/26/25	Siri Cove	1	1	Y	N	Y	Pending lab processing 9/3/25					0	0
5/28/25	Siri Cove	1	1				Pending lab processing 9/3/25					0	0
6/26/25	Siri Cove	1	1	Y	N	Y	Pending lab processing 9/3/25					0	0
8/20/25	Siri Cove	1	1	Digital data received, awaiting sample									
9/24/25	Siri Cove	Sample not yet received by WDFW lab											

Table 2. Quilcene Yacht Club Forage Fish data, Jan 2025-Sep 2025

Survey Date	Location	Beach Station	Sample	Field Sheet	Lab Sheet Sample	Photos	DFW_QAQC	Surf Smelt	Sand Lance	Rock Sole	DFW database	SS Spawn Event?	SL Spawn Event?
1/29/25	Quilcene Yacht Club	1	1	Y	N	Y	Y	0	0	0	Y	0	0
2/17/25	Quilcene Yacht Club	1	1	Y	N	Y	Y	1	0	0	Y	0	0
3/22/25	Quilcene Yacht Club	1	1	Y	N	Y	Pending 10% QC					0	0
4/26/25	Quilcene Yacht Club	1	1	Y	N	Y	Pending 10% QC					0	0
5/28/25	Quilcene Yacht Club	1	1	Y		Y	Pending 10% QC					0	0
6/26/25	Quilcene Yacht Club	1	1	Y	N	Y	Pending 10% QC					0	0
8/20/25	Quilcene Yacht Club	1	1	Digital data received, awaiting sample									
9/24/25	Quilcene Yacht Club Sample not yet received by WDFW lab												

Images



March 22, 2025, Siri's Cove, Dabob Bay, WA
MRC members Janette Mestre, Akeyla Behrenfeld, and Sarah Fiskén discuss sampling procedure (left) and then work together to sieve the sample, separating sand and debris from any eggs present in the sample collected (right).
Photo Credit: Troy McKelvey



May 28, 2025, Siri's Cove, Dabob Bay, WA
Example of a completed sample label.
Photo credit: Sarah Fiskén



May 28, 2025, Siri's Cove, Dabob Bay, WA
MRC members Akeyla Behrenfeld, Troy McKelvey, and Tim Cross sieve a sediment sample.
Photo credit: Sarah Fiskén