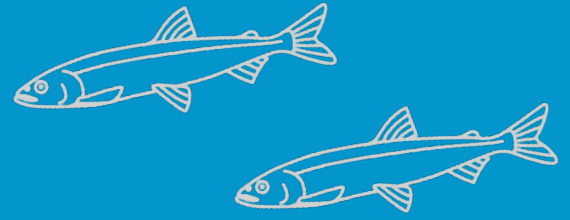


The Forager



Issue #: 011

Welcome to the 11th issue of *The Forager*, your citizen science forage fish newsletter.

This newsletter will be sent out every two months to update our network for forage fish citizen scientists on what all the other participants have been up to, highlighting success stories, and providing forage fish knowledge!

If you or anyone from your group would like to submit a story, photos, why this initiative is important to you, or your hopes for this project, please email those to Haley Tomlin, MABRRI Projects Coordinator at Haley.Tomlin@viu.ca.



Welcome Back Citizen Scientists!

The MABRRI Team is so happy to welcome back the dedicated citizen scientists to the forage fish project! We're so happy to have you back – you've already provided us with 42 samples since you've been back!



Citizen Science Update



25 beaches sampled



309 samples taken



15 beaches with eggs

Current & Past Funders

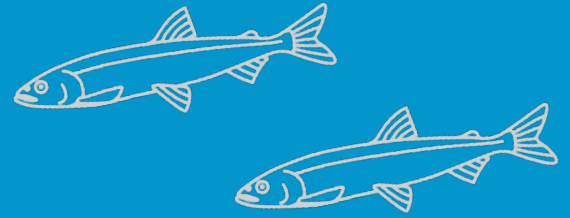


Current Partners



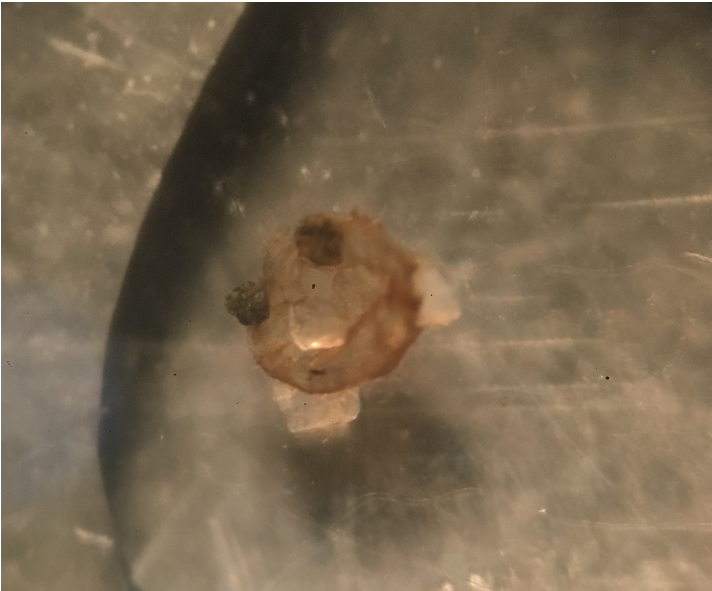
Pender Islands Conservancy

The Forager



Gabriola Island ShoreKeepers

The group on Gabriola Island picked up right where they left off in March – handing in 8 samples in November. In December, the group will be passing the 100 sample mark since they began in 2018! From the samples that were handed in, there was one sample from RuBay Beach that had one potential Pacific sand lance embryo – we'll send this off to get it confirmed shortly.



Potential PSL embryo from RuBay Beach – appears quite degraded. Still must be confirmed by expert.

Did you know?

Forage fish sustain many 'dependent predators', in that the majority of these predators' annual diet is composed of forage fish. There is significant evidence that dependent predator populations mirror forage fish population fluctuations, increasing and decreasing as a result of resource availability.

In Case You Missed It...

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Canada hosted the Forage Fish Monitoring Network – Collaborators & Stakeholders Meeting on October 7th. If you missed, it you can view the meeting [here](#).



Forage Fish Collaborators & Stakeholders Meeting

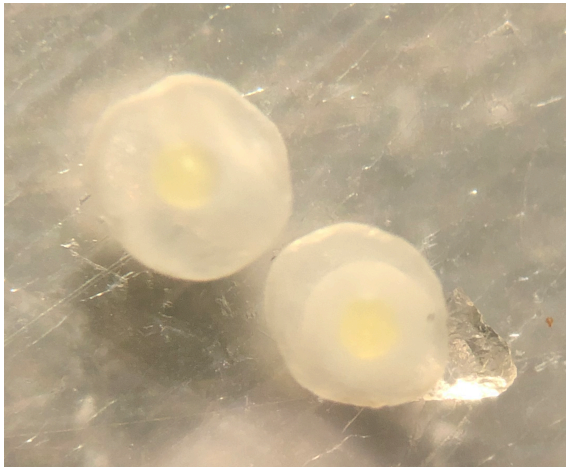
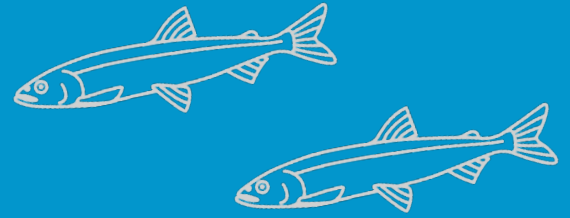
Forage Fish Monitoring in the BC Salish Sea

By: Jacklyn Barrs, Specialist, Forage Fish & Marine Conservation
Date: October 7, 2020

Thetis Island Nature Conservancy

The group on Thetis Island also began sampling again in November. They have provided 6 samples to be analyzed and we're just finishing those up so we'll update if there are any embryos detected in the next newsletter and let the Thetis Island volunteers know shortly!

The Forager

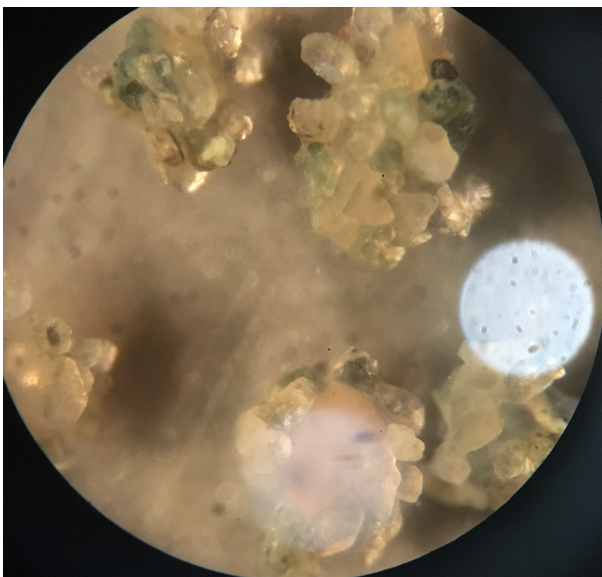


Potential PSL embryo from San Paniel Beach.

MVIHES



This group has carried on sampling the Parksville area, from Craig Bay north to French Creek. The team covered 11 beaches in November and had embryos in two of their samples: Community Park Beach had 5 potential PSL embryos and San Paniel Beach had 2 potential PSL embryos!



Potential PSL embryo from Community Park Beach.

Cowichan Bay Group



The Cowichan Bay group sampled 4 beaches in November and expanded outside of Cowichan Bay, sampling the Maple Bay site, as well. Unfortunately, no embryos have been detected in these samples yet, but that is as expected as we haven't seen embryos in the Maple Bay area earlier than December during the last couple years of sampling.

Name ↑

Cowichan Bay Group
Dover Bay Eco-Club & Tsawalk Aboriginal Centre Stu...
Gabriola Island ShoreKeepers
MVIHES
Pender Group
Qualicum Beach StreamKeepers
Saturna Island Group
Thetis Island Nature Conservancy

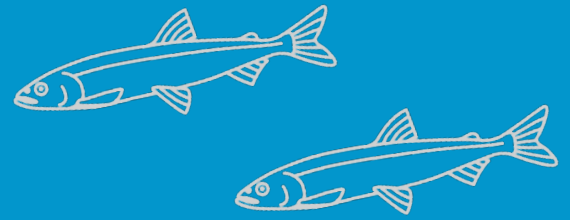
Google Drive Folders for each group.

Updated Materials For Volunteers

Just a reminder for those that weren't able to attend the online virtual refresher, you can find the refresher course video [here](#). Additionally, we have put all materials, including up-to-date location documents and sampling calendars into Google Drive folders for each respective group. If you have been unable to access your group's drive, please let Haley or Alanna know!



The Forager



Qualicum Beach StreamKeepers



The Qualicum Beach StreamKeepers continued sampling the locations near the Little Qualicum Estuary and Surfside Beach region. No embryos this month – but hopefully we’ll see some soon! New volunteers have joined this group recently and will be taking on the Judges Row sites.

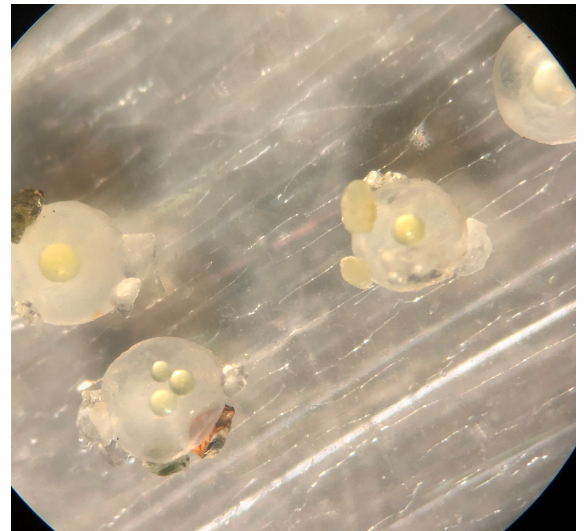


Little Qualicum Beach sample location. Photo: Daryl Erickson

Pender Island Conservancy



Our team was fortunate enough to train a new group down on the Pender Islands to take part in the forage fish program. Volunteers began sampling in November and we’re very excited to get some samples from further South – maybe we’ll find some surf smelt, in addition to Pacific sand lance! The samples from November didn’t have any embryos, but we’re hopeful for December.



Potential PSL embryo from Sebastian Beach.

Upcoming Training Events



No training events have been booked recently and with COVID-19 cases on the rise again, it is unlikely we will be able to take part in any in-person training events at least until the New Year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. We’re always available to chat on the phone, through email, or on Zoom.

MABRRI Sampling Update



The MABRRI Team is back to filling in the gaps along the coast where there are no established Citizen Science groups. We sampled on November 16th and found 65 potential PSL embryos in the Sebastian Beach sample from Lantzville. Now that we’re moving into December, we’re hopeful we’ll be finding a lot more embryos in more of the samples!