

**Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee  
2023 Siri's Cove (Dabob Bay) Forage Fish Project Summary Report**

**Project Lead:** Sarah Fisken

**Subcommittee Members:** Janette Mestre, Troy McKelvey, Gordon King, Joanie Hendricks

**Additional Volunteers:** Cheryl Lowe, Anne Seeley, Gregg Patton, Mark Fisken

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 about three years (since June 2020) and plans to continue surveying this site.

Volunteer Engagement

Monitoring at Dabob Bay occurred from October 2022 through June 2023. 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, three MRC members (Sarah, Troy, Janette, Joanie) and four community volunteers (Cheryl, Anne, Gregg, Mark) participated in monitoring, contributing **a total of 45.5 hours of volunteer time** (see Table 1 below). The MRC monitors two other forage fish sites, at Adelma Beach in Discovery Bay (WDFW index site) and Fort Townsend State Park (restoration site). **In total, MRC members and community volunteers contributed 127.5 hours to forage fish monitoring** (18.5-Adelma, 45.5-Dabob, 54.5-Fort Townsend, and 9-forage fish education workshops).

*Table 1: Volunteer hours contributed between October 2022 and September 2023.*

Date	Volunteers	Hours
10/24/2022	Sarah Fisken	3
	Troy McKelvey	3
	Cheryl Lowe	3
11/11/2022	Sarah Fisken	2
	Janette Mestre	2
	Troy McKelvey	2
1/24/2023	Sarah Fisken	1.5

	Janette Mestre	2
	Troy McKelvey	2
	Anne Seeley	2
	Gregg Patton	2
2/13/2023	Sarah Fisken	1
	Janette Mestre	2
	Anne Seeley	1
4/24/2023	Sarah Fisken	1
	Troy McKelvey	2
	Mark Fisken	1
7/21/2023	Sarah Fisken	2
	Troy McKelvey	2
	Anne Seeley	2
9/15/2023	Sarah Fisken	1.5
	Cheryl Lowe	2.5
	Anne Seeley	1.5
	Joanie Hendricks	1.5
<b>Total Hours Volunteered</b>		<b>45.5</b>

### Data Results

A total of seven surveys were conducted during the 2022-2023 forage fish monitoring season. Just one egg was found, a single surf smelt egg in the 10/24/2022 sample. There were no eggs found in the 11/11/2022 sample and results are pending for the 1/24/2023, 4/24/2023 and 5/24/2023 samples. Samples have not yet been delivered to WDFW for the 7/21/2023 or 9/15/2023 surveys.

### Photos



*2/13/2023 Photo of the Siri's Cove forage fish sampling site by Monica Montgomery.*