

Forage Fish Spawning Beach Survey

Access Database ID:

Samplers

Name(s)	
Organization	
Date (YYYY/MM/DD)	
Time (24hr)	
Camera ID	

Beach Name	Beach Station #	Beach ID

Last High Tide

Time (24hr):	
Elevation:	
Date:	

2nd Effective High Tide

Time (24hr):	
Elevation:	
Date:	

Calculating Tidal Elevation

Station #	Elevation Change		Subtract Eye Height	Elevation Difference	Time	Tide Level (Tide Table)	Elevation Relative to Chart Datum
	A						
	B						
	C						
	D						
	Total						

Current Conditions

Weather Conditions	
Air Temp (°C)	
Wind Direction	
Wind Speed (km/hr)	
Water Temp (°C)	

Episodic Events (determined prior to or after sampling)

Has there been a storm event in the last week? Yes No

Storm Date(s)			
Maximum Wind Speed		Precipitation from Event (mm)	
Storm Category			

Evidence of beach wrack harvesting? Yes No

Site Attributes

Beach Slope	Flat (<5°)	Inclined (5°-20°)	Steep (>20°)	Slope of Beach (°):
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Sediment Sample Collection

Sample Station #	Sample #	Time (24hr)	Lat/Long at Transect Midpoint (decimal degree preferred)	1° Beach	2° Beach	Backshore	Width (m)	Length (m)	Landmark Object	Landmark Distance (m)	Tidal Elevation	Shading	Sample Type	Surf Smelt	Sand Lance	Photo #

Comments:

Forage Fish Sample Lab Analysis

Sample Station #	Sample #	Species	# of Eggs	Alive:Dead	Comments (species, development stage, etc)

Processed by:

Analyzed by:

Developed by: The Mount
Arrowsmith Biosphere Region
Research Institute (MABRRI)
Version: September 2024

Field Observation Sampling Codes

Calculating Tidal Elevation *(Step by step)*

1. Record the beach station.
2. Use a survey rod and clinometer/hand sight level (rested on a 1m post/at eye height) to determine the elevation change from the sample transect. Several measurements may be necessary due to the water line distance.
3. Subtract your eye height/1m from each "Elevation Change" measurements.
4. **Record the time at the water line.** This is important.
5. Record the "Tide Level (Tide Table)" from your tide chart (acquired from www.tides.gc.ca); it is the elevation at the time closest to the time recorded.
6. "Elevation Relative to Chart Datum" is equal to the Total "Elevation Difference" plus "Tide Level (Tide Table)". If the tidal elevation is 2m to 3m above the Mean Low Low water (acquired from CHS Marine Maps), the sample transect is within the typical tidal elevation for Pacific sand lance and surf smelt spawning. There is no need to change the elevation of the transect if it is within 1m of the ideal elevation.

Episodic Events refer to storm events that may be altering the beach structure, impacting forage fish spawning behaviour or egg distribution. *Note: All wind speeds exclude gusts.* (1 knot = 1.85km/hr)

Strong Wind Warnings	20 – 33 knots
Gale Warnings	34 – 47 knots
Storm Warnings	48 – 63 knots
Hurricane Force Wind Warnings	> 64 knots

Beach Slope is determined using a clinometer to measure the slope of the sample area width (5m).

1° Beach: Dominant/primary sediment character of the beach.

- 0 = silt and mud (<0.0625 mm, feels "slimy")
1 = pure sand (0.0625 mm – 2.0 mm, feels "gritty")
2 = pea gravel (2.0 mm – 4.0 mm, "fine gravel") with sand base
3 = pebble gravel (4.0 mm – 64.0 mm) with sand base
4 = cobble gravel (64.0 mm – 256.0 mm) with sand base
5 = boulder gravel (256.0 mm – 4096.0 mm) with sand base
6 = boulders (>4096.0 mm) with sand base
7 = gravel to boulders without sand base
8 = bedrock, no habitat
10 = organics (shell hash, drift vegetation)

2° Beach: Secondary sediment character of the beach. Use codes from 1° Beach, above.

Backshore: Integrity of backshore (up to 30m of high-water mark)

1 = natural, 0% impacted	4 = 75% impacted
2 = 25% impacted	5 = 100% impacted
3 = 50% impacted	

Width of the potential spawning substrate band to the nearest metre. Judged by character of substrate and presence of spawn, when possible.

Length of the beach up to 300 metres (150 metres on either side of the station).

Landmark Object: Note a landmark object in the backshore area that is parallel to the sample zone transect. This will be the object from which you measure the "Sample Zone" distance from. Ensure that the object chosen is a permanent structure.

Landmark Distance: Distance of sample zone transect to the landmark, in metres to the nearest 0.5 metre. This will be used to repeat a sampling event in the exact same location.

Tidal Elevation: This value can be transferred from the "Calculating Tidal Elevation" portion of the data sheet. This value is the "Tidal Elevation (Chart Datum)".

Shading: Amount of spawning substrate zone that is shaded, averaging over the entire length of the beach station. Consider the best interpretation for the entire day and season.

1 = fully exposed	4 = 75% shaded
2 = 25% shaded	5 = 100% shaded
3 = 50% shaded	

Sample Type: S = Scoop; B = Bulk; E = eDNA;

S + E = Scoop & eDNA; B + E = Bulk & eDNA

If eggs are visible to the naked eye, it is only necessary to take a single 500mL scoop of sediment to be processed. In all other cases a bulk sample is to be collected.

Smelt & Sand Lance: Subjective field assessment of spawn intensity apparent to the naked eye.

0 = no eggs visible

L = light, but apparent

M = medium, readily visible

H = heavy, broadly abundant

W = eggs observed in winnow

Photos: Take 6 photos standing at the centre of the sample transect.

***Photo 1:** Completed sample tag

***Photo 2:** Sediment w/scale at transect

Photo 3: Beach backshore

Photo 4: Beach right

Photo 5: Beach foreshore (towards water)

Photo 6: Beach left

**If multiple samples are collected at a single station, only photos 1 & 2 should be repeated for each sample.*

*****I certify that to the best of my abilities, the surveys recorded on this data sheet and the associated samples were collected and documented to the methodology instructed to me and the information I am providing are the true and accurate results of these surveys.**

Lead Signature: _____