

From: [BrownScott, Jennifer](#)
To: [Thomas, Sue](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: recent forage fish data for Dungeness Harbor
Date: Monday, August 2, 2021 12:30:27 PM

Okay...that looks similar to what the state has on their website. Probably simplest to go with WDFW as our information source. I think we're good.

-jennifer

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~~[Dungeness NWR](#)~[Protection Island NWR](#)~[San Juan Islands NWR](#)~[Copalis NWR](#)~[Flattery Rocks NWR](#)~[Quillayute Needles NWR](#)~~

From: Thomas, Sue <sue_thomas@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 2, 2021 11:49 AM
To: BrownScott, Jennifer <jennifer_brownScott@fws.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] RE: recent forage fish data for Dungeness Harbor

Good question. This is what I received from Todd, though the map does not include older records when herring spawn occurred in the project area. Sounds like they survey annually, so we could either request that he release preliminary data once completed or the permittee could make the request and cc us.

Conservation measures 7-9 address this but do not provide timeframes for spawning surveys by sp or the length of time necessary for eggs to hatch. I'd suggest we follow those guidelines for forage fish on Refuge lands to assure forage fish are not harmed by ground disturbance activities associated with removal of debris. The issue then becomes how to balance disturbance vs mortality especially with larger or more wide-spread releases of debris.

If that doesn't meet the need, I could reach out to Todd again to get specifics. They are releasing a new assessment this fall (see below) so it seems that the stock status from 2016, published in 2019, stands for now unless they update annually but do not publish. I will reach out to clarify that point. Is there anything else I should ask while I'm at it?

Sue

Sue Thomas
Wildlife Biologist
Washington Maritime NWRC
360 457 8451

From: Sandell, Todd A (DFW) <Todd.Sandell@dfw.wa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 5:21 PM
To: Thomas, Sue <sue_thomas@fws.gov>
Cc: Dionne, Phillip E (DFW) <Phillip.Dionne@dfw.wa.gov>; Clark, Roy (DFW) <Roy.Clark@dfw.wa.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: recent forage fish data for Dungeness Harbor

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Hi Sue- I just saw your request and I'm off tomorrow so sending this ASAP. Looks like our previous correspondence covered through 2018 but just to be sure I attached all the rakes where spawn was detected for 20112-2020 here. We are in the process of generating the 2020 Quadrannual herring report but it won't be done until fall.

In 2021 we found a total of 34.152751 tonnes of spawn in Dungeness Bay; these data have not yet been merged with the "master" database so I included it here in a separate excel sheet, with lat/longs. Adam has taken another position within the Department so we are without a GIS/mapping expert for awhile. However, he did make a map for Dungeness through 2020; that is also attached. The project area appears clear of recent herring spawn but if it has aquatic vegetation it may be inside the buffer for being protected.

Hope this information is useful. I am interested to see how this plays out.
Cheers,
Todd

*** Please note that herring season has begun and I will be out in the field the majority of the time through June. As a result I will be slow to respond to emails; if you need a quick response please call or text. ***

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Want to know more about herring in the Southern Salish Sea?

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/02105>

From: Thomas, Sue <sue_thomas@fws.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 4:01 PM
To: Sandell, Todd A (DFW) <Todd.Sandell@dfw.wa.gov>
Subject: recent forage fish data for Dungeness Harbor

External Email

Hi Todd,

My apologies for sending this email during the busy field season.

Unfortunately, we are working under a tight timeline to document forage fish distribution within Dungeness Harbor for an aquaculture farm and I'm working on providing the most current data & metadata. You shared the attached info on herring spawning distribution on 4/2019 and I'm wondering if these data have been provided in a recent report. If so, can you forward when you get a moment? Anything that provides more detail on the data points for the record would be appreciated.

Thanks for your help and hope you had time to get out in the field this year,
Sue

Sue Thomas
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