

Forage Fish in Fidalgo Bay



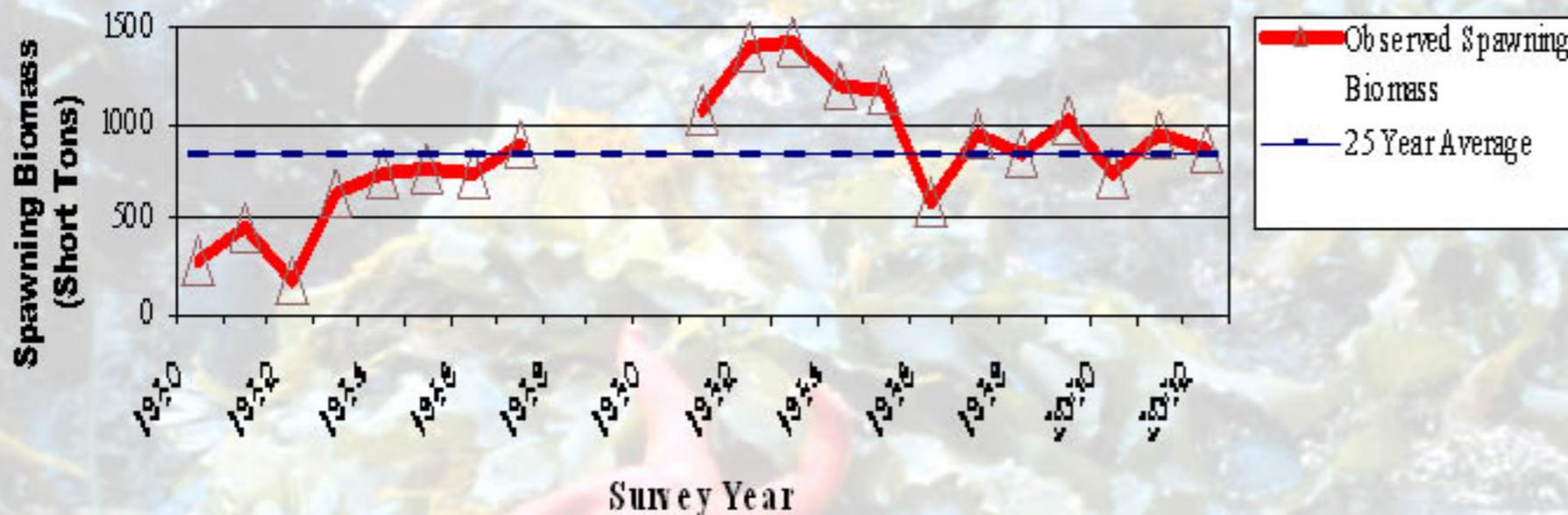
One of eighteen Puget Sound spawning stocks of Pacific herring in Puget Sound spawns annually in and around Fidalgo Bay. Spawn is typically found at low densities on the eelgrass flats within Fidalgo Bay between mid-January and mid-April each year. This population is one of six stocks in North Puget Sound and is considered moderately healthy as of the last stock status report.



Sand lance and surf smelt are other forage fish which have also been found spawning along beaches adjacent to the Fidalgo Bay Aquatic Reserve.

Note: Beaches identified at left are areas which have been inventoried and spawn has been detected. Other areas may or may not have been inventoried.

Fidalgo Bay Herring Spawning Biomass



The Fidalgo Bay herring spawning biomass varies from year to year. Many marine birds and other forms of sea life feed on herring and other forage fish. This population is one of seven stocks identified as moderately healthy in the last stock assessment (1996). Two herring spawning populations (Cherry Point and Discovery Bay) show signs of potential collapse.