



- WHEREAS** Surf Smelt Day is organized by the Coastal Forage Fish Network and will be celebrated across the Salish Sea; AND
- WHEREAS** surf smelt spawn throughout the year, with the highest egg concentrations occurring in late summer and early fall, demonstrating their ecological significance; AND
- WHEREAS** historically, surf smelt contributed to a thriving commercial fishery in the Salish Sea and were a staple in some Indigenous food fisheries, highlighting their cultural and economic importance; AND
- WHEREAS** surf smelt require specific beach habitats—coarse sandy and pebbly shores with overhanging vegetation—to successfully spawn, and these habitats are increasingly threatened by human activities and climate change; AND
- WHEREAS** the presence of surf smelt has significantly declined in the Northern Salish Sea, necessitating urgent action to protect their spawning grounds and ensure the sustainability of their populations; AND
- WHEREAS** Project Watershed’s Forage Fish Citizen Science program focuses on identifying and monitoring these critical beach habitats to support surf smelt and other beach-spawning fish;
- THEREFORE** as Chair of the Board of Directors, I do hereby proclaim **October 25, 2024** as **Smurf Smelt Day** within the Comox Valley Regional District

Will Cole-Hamilton

Dated this 8th day of October, 2024