

## **Fidalgo Bay Day 2014 Beach Seine Report**

### **February 11, 2015**

The annual Fidalgo Bay Day (FBD) community education and outreach event for 2014 was held on September 12, 2014 at the Samish Tribe's RV Park on South Fidalgo Bay and sponsored by many organizations (Skagit Marine Resources Committee, Friends of Skagit Beaches, Skagit Beach Watchers, Samish Tribe, Taylor Shellfish and others). This event included one beach seine set using an 80' beach seine and followed the sampling protocols described by the Skagit System Cooperative Research Department (SSCRD 2003). The sampling was conducted as a community education event and was permitted by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Scientific Collection Permit #14-175. Beach seining at a second location (Ship Harbor, near the Anacortes-San Juan Island ferry terminal) permitted by this same permit was not conducted due to concerns about the possibility of catching endangered juvenile Chinook salmon at this location.

The single FBD beach seine sample was collected on the north shore of Weaverling Spit at GPS coordinates: 48° 30.703' N and 122° 37.295' W (Figs. 1 and 2). All fish and a single crab collected from the net were held briefly in a large tub (Fig. 3) while they were identified, counted and used as educational displays for the gathered public (~75 people, including many kids - Fig. 4). The fish were treated carefully and returned to the water alive.

A total of 27 fish and 1 crab were caught in the beach seine. The following fish and crab species and their numbers (in parentheses) were enumerated from this seine catch:

Pacific staghorn sculpin, *Leptocottus armatus* (17)  
Threespine stickleback, *Gasterosteus aculeatus* (4)  
Pacific shiner perch, *Cymatogaster aggregata* (4)  
Bay pipefish, *Syngnathus griseolineatus* (1)  
Gunnel sp. (1)  
Hairy horse crab, *Telmessus cheiragonus* (1)

### **Acknowledgements**

Many volunteers assisted with the beach seining exercise, with special mention to Dan Penttila, Paul Dinnel, Tom Richards, Wayne Husby and Erik Dinnel.

### **References**

SSCRD (Skagit System Cooperative Research Department). 2003. Estuarine fish sampling methods, March 2003. Beach seine and fyke trap sampling protocol. La Conner, Washington, 8 pp.



Figure 1. Location of the beach seine site on the north side of Weaverling Spit located in South Fidalgo Bay and preparations for seining.



Figure 2. Setting of the beach seine and community observers.





Figure 3. The catch in a large tub.



Figure 4. Dan Penttila (center) instructing the public about the various species caught in the net and identification and enumeration of the catch (left).