





# PUGET SOUND VITAL SIGNS

## VITAL SIGN ZOOPLANKTON

Zooplankton are a diverse group of tiny animals that float freely in the water column and feed on phytoplankton (plant plankton) and other zooplankton. This group includes jellyfish and comb-jellies, small crustaceans like copepods and krill, the larval forms of crabs and oysters, the larval or juvenile forms of some fish, and many other organisms. This Vital Sign tells us about the abundance and distribution of zooplankton populations in Puget Sound. Zooplankton play a critical role in the marine food web as important prey for juvenile salmon and small forage fish.

### Related Strategies

- Awareness of Effects of Climate Change
- Climate Adaptation & Resilience
- Education Partnerships
- Funding
- Research & Monitoring
- Salmon Recovery
- Stewardship & Motivating Action
- Strategic Leadership & Collaboration

VITAL SIGN > INDICATOR	PROGRESS	STATUS
Zooplankton		
Average zooplankton biomass		
Zooplankton Index		

### Vital Sign Reporter

### Last Updated

2/13/2023

## Key Vital Sign Messages

This is a new Vital Sign and we are working with our partners to compile and report key messages.

## Background Documents

## Other Resources

## Contributing Partners