

North Coast (Derek Wiley, Assistant Project Leader):

NF Nehalem:

For the week we trapped 5 wild steelhead and 33 hatchery steelhead at Waterhouse Falls and 1 hatchery steelhead at Fall Cr Falls. The biggest push of fish came on Tuesday, with 18 lively steelhead in the Waterhouse Falls trap. The crowder is now installed at Waterhouse Falls and we are holding 10 hatchery steelhead to be recycled down to Aldervale over the weekend. This batch of fish contains both green (*i.e.* non-ripe) and stripped females, all with one green Floy tag inserted near the dorsal fin for identification if recaptured at the trap or by an angler. All hatchery steelhead males were stream enriched at the trap.

Survey conditions were good this week, as flows finally dropped and clarity improved. We made our rounds through most of the basin with limited fish activity observed. After nearly a month we were finally able to float the mainstem on Tuesday, surveying all seven reaches between the lower and upper adult traps and the three reaches upstream of the upper adult trap. Only one live steelhead was observed and two tagged wild coho carcasses found. Limited visibility in the deep holes likely precluded us from seeing all fish, but salmon activity in the basin appears to be nearly done at this time. Nothing was observed in tributary surveys. Next week we will be starting our steelhead redd surveys, as hatchery steelhead spawning has already been observed in the basin.

EF Trask:

For the week we trapped 1 wild steelhead and 7 hatchery steelhead at the EF Trask adult trap. LCM surveys downstream of the trap still show coho actively spawning, with the few remaining Chinook dying off this week. Staff finally got all OASIS surveys in the EF and SF Trask basins back on rotation this week in addition to surveying Cedar Cr (Wilson River tributary) to assist the OASIS project. Coho were observed on most surveys, with a handful of steelhead and Chinook also seen. The highlight this week was seeing a wild male, female, and jack coho upstream of a large wood jam on Bill Cr in the SF Trask basin. For several years this large jam blocked upstream fish movement after a large slide came downstream from a clear-cut and sealed the few openings available for fish to ascend. The latest round of flooding opened up just enough side channel habitat to allow fish to navigate the maze of wood and other debris in the jam. With some excellent spawning habitat upstream of the jam, it was great to see a few fish once again making it into this reach.

N Scappoose (Ron Constable, Assistant Project Leader):

Flows have receded enough to reveal that our release pen had survived the great, frog-strangling rains of 2015. The coho run is most likely over. It was a very disappointing year - only 23 adult coho returned to the basin. We did catch one steelhead this week (solitary Sammy) and some large cutthroat. Other than these the trap has been very quiet.

Chum Reintroduction (Brian Alfonse, Assistant Project Leader):

Updated egg counts from Big Creek hatchery indicated that we have 35,000 fewer chum eggs than what we had previously calculated for this year's broodstock. This shortfall was due to lower than estimated fecundity rates from our females. Unfortunately with this reduction in the number of eggs available we will no longer have enough eggs to operate an additional Remote Site Incubator (RSI) on Stewart Creek this year. However, we will still have enough eggs to outplant around 50,000 eggs into our RSI on Perkins Creek. The final touches on this site were being put into place this week and everything should be operational by the time we receive our first batch of chum eggs next Tuesday.

Mid-South Coast (Pat Burns, Assistant Project Leader):

West Fork Smith:

We (Joe Metzler) were able to get the weir panels cleaned and fishing again last week. Surprisingly there was no damage to any of the panels after such sustained high flows. Although nice and clean we did not capture any adult salmonids for the week. Our season total remains at 144 tagged coho (69 females, 68 males, seven jacks). We may add a few late returning coho but our focus is now on the arrival of winter steelhead which should begin showing up at any time. All spawning ground surveys are back in rotation. The mainstem surveys have been swept clean of any sign of spawning activity with pieces of carcass encountered in random spots. The tributary surveys are all but empty with a handful of adults, redds and carcasses recorded. Overall, carcass recoveries have been dismal with a total of 10 collected from all surveys.

Winchester Creek:

The weir pickets were put back in place and the trap was fishing again this week. No coho were caught but it is still possible that the peak of the run has not arrived yet. Spawning ground surveys are showing very little spawning activity to date. We have seen a total of six adult coho (three tagged and three un-tagged) and three redds for the season.

Mid Coast (Chris Lorion, Assistant Project Leader):

It was a very slow week at the mid-coast traps. The total catch for the week was one adult coho at Siletz-Mill Creek, one adult coho and three wild steelhead at Yaquina-Mill Creek, and one hatchery steelhead and three cutthroat at Cascade Creek. On a more positive note, survey conditions were the best we've seen in weeks and we were able to get a lot of surveying done at Mill Creek-Siletz and Lobster Creek. Fish were hard to come by on the surveys, though, and we saw only 14 coho spawners in the 5+ miles of habitat that we survey in upper Lobster Creek. They were even more scarce on the Mill Creek surveys, where we saw just a handful of live fish.