

North Coast (Derek Wiley, Assistant Project Leader):

EF Trask (Jenn King and Alec Underwood):

With a drier weather pattern here in Tillamook, the Trask River has continued to drop. The lower flow and clearer water has brought about great survey conditions. Live fish numbers have continued to drop in the LCM surveys, with no live visuals in the tributaries and only 3 coho adults observed in the EF Trask. Along with our normal OASIS surveys in the Trask watershed, we picked up Cedar Creek and Hughey Creek in the Wilson River watershed this week in order to assist the OASIS crew. Cedar Creek showed signs of increased coho activity and Hughey Creek had no activity whatsoever. We will finish out the season taking over Cedar Creek and Little North Fork Wilson for the OASIS crew. Our normal OASIS surveys are showing the same trend as our LCM surveys with few live fish observations. Along with fewer fish observed on spawning surveys in the EF Trask, we have not had a fish in the trap since 12/29/15.

NF Nehalem (Derek Wiley):

We have officially ended our salmon season on the NF Nehalem, with the last coho of the season caught several weeks ago and no fish observed on spawning surveys in recent weeks. Final population estimates for coho and Chinook will be available within the next week after the last data checks are performed. We began our steelhead redd surveys this week and have already marked a few redds in the basin. High water in December made the transition to steelhead surveys easier for us this year, as nearly all old coho redds were smoothed over by the start of our steelhead surveys. High pressure conditions over the weekend slowed catch at the adult traps, but cloudier days and some light rain since then enticed a few steelhead into the traps this week. Hatchery fish dominate the catch at this time, with only a handful of wild fish tagged and passed upstream to date.

N Scappoose (Ron Constable, Assistant Project Leader):

Even by N Scappoose standards it has been a quiet winter when it comes to fish numbers. There were no fish in the trap this week, and we are concerned that solitary sammy will not find a spawning partner. Flows did drop below the "action stage" for the first time in 3 weeks, allowing us to see that the trap and ladder were in good condition and functioning properly. All we need is some steelhead to use it.

Chum Reintroduction (Brian Alfonse, Assistant Project Leader):

Our adult trap at Stewart Creek had a very unfortunate season. After surviving several high flow events this fall, which caused minimal damage to the weir panels, a large cottonwood tree dealt a "crushing" blow. This week when our crew went to remove the trap, we found that a large cottonwood tree had fallen directly across the top of the trap box. Fortunately the trap was in a channelized section of the stream and the tree ended up perched on the banks of the stream. The damage to the trap is substantial but it doesn't appear to be a total loss. The attached pictures show the intact trap during installation, a slightly bent and beaten trap during the big floods, and a flatter, more broken trap under a

tree. On a more positive note, we outplanted our first batch of eggs in the RSI at Perkins Creek this Monday. Although some of the eggs were already hatching upon arrival, they appear to be settling into their new home nicely.



Mid-South Coast:

Receding waters revealed a WF Smith River weir still intact and ready to fish, though no steelhead have shown up yet.

Mid Coast (Chris Lorion, Assistant Project Leader):

It was another very slow week at our adult fish traps, with a grand total of two fish captured. We had one wild steelhead at Yaquina-Mill Creek and one hatchery steelhead at Siletz-Mill Creek whose combination of clips and a coded wire tag indicate that it was a stray from Big Elk Creek in the Yaquina basin. Stream flows have dropped enough that it will take a substantial rain to bring more coho spawners to our traps, if there are any still out there. Spawning activity continues to decline on the surveys, with just a handful of live fish observed this week. Our biggest accomplishment of the week was moving a massive amount of gravel out of the upper chamber in the Cascade Creek trap. When we tightened up the bar spacing there to capture jacks we expected to catch more organic debris, but gravel retention has been an even bigger issue. Today we'll be installing new trap bars with a lower door that can be opened to move this gravel through without having to totally remove the trap bars. Finally, the PIT tag antenna array in lower Siletz-Mill Creek continues to function well, and survived two very high flow events in December without major damage. We've picked up 6 PIT-tagged parr (smolts?) over the last three weeks and have now detected a total of 133 juvenile coho this fall/winter, over 10% of the total tagged in the fall. Most of these fish were captured and tagged in lower Mill Creek, but detections now include fish from all the major tribs of Mill Creek and 11 of the 26 reaches where fish were tagged last fall.