

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

West Fork Smith:

It was another strong week of trapping at the site. We tagged and released an additional 52 adult winter steelhead (23 females and 29 males). This gives us a total of 96 tagged steelhead for the month (36 females and 60 males). This is the most steelhead we have tagged in the month of January far surpassing the 56 we tagged in 2004. With our typical peak at the trap a month away we could be in the midst of a strong return. Spawning surveys continue to be an issue due to high flows in both the mainstem and tributaries. We were able to get to all surveys this week before the next round of rain pummels us. We recorded a few tagged live adults and marked a couple of redds, but overall spawning activity is low at this point.

The preparation for the smolt trap season has begun with an inventory of parts needed for deployment. It is our plan to get it instream next week weather permitting.

Winchester Creek: No report from the adult side of the project. The trap is closed up for the season and we are awaiting lower flows and conducive tides to pull the remainder of the pickets from the wings. Smolt trap preparation has begun at this site as well.

**Mid Coast (Adrian Gonzalez, Acting Assistant Project Leader):**

This week on the Mid-Coast there was very little activity at our sites. The Siletz-Mill adult trap hasn't had a new coho since last Wednesday. However, now that we are starting to work on zeroing out our surveys, we are observing spawners on Cerine and SF Mill. We had two tagged fish, two untagged fish, an unknown tagged fish and a jack spotted on the surveys. We will start the zero out process for the surveys which have had no recent activity.

At the Yaquina-Mill adult trap we have had eight steelhead enter the trap this week. Two of these fish were repeat spawners, one caught in 2013-14 at 630mm and now measuring at a whopping 800mm. This fish was a monster and it's safe to say he found a honey hole, I hope to see him next year. The other was a repeat spawner from last year, still impressive, considering the journey these fish have to make, to come full circle.

At the Cascade trap we continue to see two or three coho trickling in. We also have had a few steelhead make their way into the trap. The Lobster Creek surveys are close to being zeroed out, with the exception of a few surveys which had one or two fish actively spawning.

### **North Coast (Aaron Truesdell, Crew Leader):**

#### NF Nehalem:

Another somewhat wet week has passed on the NF Nehalem and we continue to see a large amount of hatchery steelhead at the trap. For the week we captured 22 wild winter steelhead and 116 hatchery winter steelhead at Waterhouse Falls and 5 wild winter steelhead and 3 hatchery steelhead at Fall Cr Falls. The week started out ominously with both traps being closed on Friday due to high flows but we were able to get them back fishing on Saturday. Unfortunately Wednesday night we had another 2 inches of rain, and with already moderate flows it didn't take much and we find the upper trap closed again. One would hope these weather patterns change soon otherwise it could be a long smolt trap season (knock on wood). With the high hatchery numbers we recycled another 29 fish earlier this week and already have another 25 holding in the trap. For the year we have recycled 127 females downstream to Aldervale. It appears with this week's hatchery totals we have reached an all-time high for hatchery steelhead at Waterhouse Falls, one makes me wonder what diet plan they are following because it certainly doesn't jive with this year's wild or hatchery coho run. As far as redd surveys go we are starting to see more redds show up in some of our bigger tributaries with a few live visuals scattered throughout the basin, to date we have marked 16 redds.

#### EF Trask:

With less rain coming in, the rivers have been able to drop significantly over the past few days meaning we had fewer fish moving into the trap. This week we captured 33 wild winter steelhead, 3 hatchery winter steelhead, and 6 sea-run cutthroat. The lower river levels also brought about good survey conditions this week making it possible for us to get all of our surveys done before the rain moved in on Wednesday night. We are winding down our coho surveys for LCM and OASIS in preparation for the beginning of steelhead season, with Cedar Creek having the only live visuals of coho this week. Steelhead are continuing to move into the streams and even finding their way into Bill Creek which opened up at the end of December. More fish should be moving into the streams with this next push of rain predicted to come in.

### **Chum Reintroduction (Brian Alfonse, Assistant Project Leader):**

Our remote site incubator (RSI) on Perkins Creek is still running smoothly and we have had no issues so far this year. We should have a better idea on how the eggs/fry are developing sometime next week. In addition to the daily RSI checks and cleaning the crew has been busy finalizing some reports.