

North Coast (Derek Wiley, Assistant Project Leader):

EF Trask:

For the week we trapped 18 wild winter steelhead, 2 hatchery winter steelhead, and 1 sea-run cutthroat trout at the adult trap. We began steelhead redd surveys upstream of the dam this week, with a few redds marked in Steampot Cr (seg 2) and Miller Cr. Mainstem reaches will be surveyed today prior to the heavy rain predicted Saturday night into Sunday. Yesterday, we installed the EF Trask screw trap with the help of the Nehalem crew. If the weather cooperates we plan to start fishing the screw trap the last week in February.

NF Nehalem:

For the week we trapped 17 wild winter steelhead and 40 hatchery winter steelhead at Waterhouse Falls and 6 wild winter steelhead at Fall Cr Falls. To date we have trapped 516 hatchery winter steelhead at Waterhouse Falls, easily surpassing our project yearly average (198 hatchery steelhead) and our previous highest catch observed last year (397 hatchery steelhead). Our wild winter steelhead catch so far this year (88 wild steelhead) is slightly behind last year's total through this week (11 less fish). A few more redds were marked in spawning surveys this week, but higher flows continue to make larger surveys tough to keep on rotation and more difficult to survey. Rain this weekend will likely affect our next round of surveys at least through early next week. The upper NF Nehalem screw trap was installed Tuesday with the help of the Tillamook crew.

N Scappoose (Ron Constable, Assistant Project Leader):

We do not have a tally of fish caught this week, but as of Wednesday we had none. Our season total stands at 4 steelhead and they have been fairly scatter apart in terms of timing. Hopefully they will find each other - it is Valentine's Day.

There is some site prep that we will work on before installing the screw trap next week.

Chum Reintroduction (Brian Alfonse, Assistant Project Leader):

Spring trapping season is almost here. This week we were able to install both our Clatskanie River screw trap and our Stewart Creek fry trap. Next week we plan on installing our final screw trap into Conyers Creek and will start operating all of these traps by the end of the week. The high flows we had this winter altered the channel at our Clatskanie River trap site causing more flow to go into a side channel adjacent to where our trap operates. This could affect the operation and efficiency at this trap site by allowing more fish to go into this side channel and around our trap. We will be placing some weir panels upstream of the trap at the head of this side channel to divert more flow and fish into our trap.

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

West Fork Smith:

The smolt trap has been deployed and is fishing. A big thanks to Erik coming down to help put everything together and get in place. The adult trap remained quiet for most of the week with a few wild adult steelhead tagged and released. For the season we have a tagged a total of 116 adult winter steelhead (40 females and 76 males). We have also recorded an additional nine hatchery adults (three females and six males) that have been removed from the system. The spawning ground surveys are seeing an increase in redd activity with moderate observations of tagged/untagged adults. We should expect spawning activity to increase over the next several weeks.

Winchester Creek:

The smolt trap has been deployed and is turning well on its own although the motor is being readied for use when the time comes. The catch has been low up to this point but coho smolts have been caught and a few coho smolts have been re-captured.

Mid Coast (Adrian Gonzalez, Crew Leader):

This week was a busy one on the Mid-Coast with the installation of our first two traps at Yaquina-Mill and Cascade creek. On Tuesday Richard Biederbeck came over from Corvallis and brought our Yaquina-Mill incline plain trap. The install went well and we will be touching up the site till we officially start trapping near the end of the month. The adult trap at Yaquina saw its last adult Coho on the 25th of January.

The Siletz-Mill adult trap hasn't had a new fish of any species since January 20th, I'm hoping the little bit of rain this week will bring in some steelhead. The Mill-Creek surveys have been zeroed out for the season. Next week we will be installing the smolt trap.

This Thursday we installed our first rotary screw trap at cascade creek. Bill and Wes Shum (our new EBA for the season) did some prep work before the installation and cleared out the trap site trail, and put in our tripods for the panel wall. The adult trap hasn't had a Coho since January 28th and is seeing a steelhead here and there. The Lobster Creek surveys have all been zeroed out for the season, which is bittersweet, as I find them to be some of the most beautiful sites on the Oregon Coast.