

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

West Fork Smith:

It was a slow week at the adult trap this past week even though rains brought river levels up to ideal migrating conditions. For the week we tagged an additional six adult steelhead (four females and two males). Our season total to date is 159 adult winter steelhead (66 females and 93 males). We still anticipate a few large pulses of adults over the next few weeks. The spawning surveys continue in the basin with an increase in both live fish and redds observed this week. Adult trap efficiency remains high at 85%.

The smolt trap was pulled to the bank over the weekend due to high flows and large amounts of debris. The catch of salmonids was low both prior and post removal. A few skinny coho and chinook fry are being observed in the catch.

Winchester Creek:

The catch at the smolt trap of all fish is low at this time. We seem to be catching 2-4 coho smolts a day with recaptures of 1-2 the following day. We are in the process of building a new mounting platform for the motorization of the trap which will most likely happen in the next few weeks.

Mid Coast (Adrian Gonzalez, Crew Leader):

On Monday we started up our first smolt trap of the season on Cascade Creek! We have been catching smolts and we recapped 9 of 12. Bill and Wes got the trap set up real nice, and the season is started off in good order.

Tuesday we attempted to install Tenmile Creek, but were stymied by a VERY large spruce that decided to take up residency in the middle of the creek, posing a potential trap hazard if the flows come up. We wrestled with that the whole day and unloaded the trap. Richard got to use his new chainsaw and cut the tree up, as much as possible. With that we were able to float some pieces of the tree down the creek. Bill and Wes worked on the tree some more Wednesday, and made head way. Bill moved the remaining root wad out of the middle of the creek and onto the side of the creek, with the help of the come-along.

Chris made his return for the season, and while we wrestled the tree at Tenmile he set up some of the panel wall and got all of the trap rigging up at Siletz-Mill. Thursday Wes, myself and Chris returned to Siletz-Mill and finished the panel wall and ran to Yaquina-Mill to set up our hydro-unit for the incline-plane trap.

Friday we plan to finish up the install at Tenmile Creek and get ready for the full start of the 2016 smolt trapping season, Monday!

North Coast (Derek Wiley, Assistant Project Leader):

We had a modest week at the adult traps, with a handful of steelhead passed upstream. The NF Nehalem lower screw trap was installed yesterday which now completes our final install of the spring. If the weather holds, we plan to start all three traps on Sunday. The weather looks wet next week but we are hoping we are able to fish the traps for the entirety of the week. Spawning surveys are still producing a few live fish observations and a moderate number of redds.