

Mid Coast (Adrian Gonzalez, Crew Leader):

This week has been a very wet and persistent one for us on the Mid-Coast. The heavy rains and associated flows really halted our trapping this week. Siletz-Mill has been shut down since Monday and the flows have been really slow to drop at the site. We were finally able to start fishing the trap Thursday. On a positive note, the rain brought in seven wild steelhead to the adult trap and a couple of mouthwatering hatchery steelhead that we released downstream for some lucky angler.

The steelhead also showed up at Yaquina-Mill adding four to the system above the reservoir. We fished the smolt trap conservatively all week with the high flows. We managed to get a few hundred fry and one or two smolts. We plan to put the trap in the direct flow Thursday and start buttoning up the trap for the remainder of the season (hopefully next week's rains play nice).

We finally restarted Tenmile Creek up Tuesday, after a week hiatus due to high flows and turbidity. We haven't caught much, but a few chum fry, steelhead smolts, coho/chinook fry and a smolt or two. Once the flows drop a little more Bill will start the long endeavor of installing panel walls, which is always a sight when completed. Cascade Creek was on a similar shutdown till Tuesday. The temperatures at the trap sites also cooled this week so there hasn't been much movement, which I expect to change quickly while the sun remains bright in the sky. We also shut down the adult trap in anticipation of the high flows (if not, it's a long few days of shoveling out the upper chamber).

Lastly, the Lobster Creek sites were running on and off this past week. Sunday I had to shut down East Fork due to flows rising while I was at the trap site (100 cfs to 181 cfs). I arrived just after a large branch came floating downstream and stopped the screen, luckily there was no fish on the move. Upper Main seemed to fare the storm well and caught a few fish throughout the week, when not shut down. Needless to say this weather has been keeping us on our toes!

North Coast (Derek Wiley, Assistant Project Leader):EF Trask:

We had a good push of fish at the adult trap last weekend, as heavy rains and a rising river enticed 41 wild steelhead into the trap on Saturday and another 13 wild steelhead on Sunday. The heavy catch on Saturday was in part due to the adult trap being closed for a few nights late that week. Unfortunately, the rain was not good for screw trapping as the trap was pulled until Wednesday (3/16) due to high water. But then again, that may have been for the best as a good-sized alder tree fell about where the trap would have been fishing on Monday night (see attached pics). The tree did fall on our winch cable and bent one of the trap legs. But amazingly it did not snap the cable or rip the leg completely off of the trap. Jenn and Alec did a great job wrangling the cable under the tree and back to the trap on Tuesday and the entire crew went out on Wednesday to remove the tree so we could fish the trap that evening. Catch on Thursday consisted primarily of fry with a few coho smolts mixed in. Hopefully, we can finally get a full week of fishing with this break in the weather!

NF Nehalem:

It was a slow trapping week on the NF Nehalem with two wild winter steelhead captured at the Waterhouse Falls adult trap and five wild winter steelhead and two hatchery winter steelhead captured at the Fall Cr Falls adult trap. High water made screw trapping tough this week, as the upper trap could not be fished until Monday and the lower trap on Wednesday. Some fry and a few smolts were caught, but high water forced us to fish the traps further downstream than ideal. The upper screw trap also was stopped by a stick Wednesday night. The latest forecast shows wet weather on Sunday and Monday but nicer weather again next week, so we have our fingers crossed that our next update will include results of a full week of screw trapping and not include stick or tree issues!



N Scappoose (Ron Constable, Assistant Project Leader):

This week we saw lots and lots of rain and high flows. Our screw trap was pulled out of the thalweg on Friday, but still fished through the weekend. On Monday, with the river still rising, the trap was pulled. It began fishing again on Wednesday. Very little was caught in the trap - again, just a handful of coho fry and not much else.

The adult trap was quiet as well. With any luck the warming weather will bring some fish as flows drop.

Chum Reintroduction (Brian Alfonse, Assistant Project Leader):

It was another tough week for trapping on the Lower Columbia with constant rain (averaging 0.5 in. per day) and high stream flows. Under these conditions our Clatskanie River and Beaver Creek traps each operated only one full day and our Stewart Creek and Conyers Creek traps both operated a total of four days during this week. During the days that these traps were fully operating (a 24 hour period without interruption), the average catch for Coho Salmon fry was low, with 3 fry at Clatskanie, 3 fry at Conyers, and 10 fry at Stewart. We also continue to see Chum Salmon fry at Stewart Creek, with six being caught on Wednesday. With stream flows on the decline and a more favorable forecast ahead, our traps should operate more consistently this following week.

The crew trained on scale pressing and reading in Clackamas on Wednesday. Many of the Chum Salmon scales read during training were from age-5 fish. This was not surprising considering the larger fish observed this fall on spawning ground surveys and at Big Creek Hatchery.

	Chum Fry	Coho		Chinook Fry	Steelhead			Cutthroat					Trout Fry
		Fry	Smolt		<90	90-119	≥120	<90	90-119	120-159	160-249	≥250	
Weekly Catch as of : March 16, 2016													
Clatskanie River (screw trap)		3											
Conyers Creek (screw trap)		13	1										
Stewart Creek (fry trap)	7	44			1								
Beaver Creek (screw trap)		1											
Season Catch Totals													
Clatskanie River (screw trap)		28	20						2				
Conyers Creek (screw trap)		115	10			3	2	6	2	2		1	
Stewart Creek (fry trap)	24	463	1		1		1						
Beaver Creek (screw trap)		1											

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

West Fork Smith: High water persisted for much of the week which prevented us from deploying the smolt trap until today (3/17). The adult trap fished well all week and we were able to tag and release an additional 34 adult steelhead (25 females and nine males). Our season total to date now stands at 248 adult steelhead (128 females and 120 males). The mainstem spawning ground surveys have been affected by high water and were not surveyed this week. There was very little observations of live adults or new redds in the tributary sites.

Winchester Creek: The smolt trap was deployed all week with high flows that kept the drum spinning at 3-3.5 rpm for much of the week. Unfortunately the catch was rather unimpressive considering how well the trap appeared to fish. A few coho smolts and coho fry were captured along with several lamprey ammocoetes.