

North Coast (Derek Wiley, Assistant Project Leader):

EF Trask:

It was another good week at the adult ladder, as 39 wild winter steelhead were captured since our last update. The biggest push came on Sunday as 22 new fish entered the trap. Despite the persistence of wet weather we were able to fish the screw trap for the entirety of the week (finally!). Catch still remains light, but we did have our first double digit coho smolt day on Tuesday. Good recaps the last couple of days suggests we are trapping smolts well despite moderately high flows. Chinook fry (35-70 fish) and some coho fry (5-30 fish) are rounding out the catch.

NF Nehalem:

Winter steelhead continue to trickle into the NF Nehalem River, as 12 wild winter steelhead and 3 hatchery winter steelhead were captured at Waterhouse Falls and 3 wild winter steelhead were captured at Fall Cr Falls. Our hatchery winter steelhead return to Waterhouse Falls this year now stands at 563 fish, significantly more than our previous highest catch (396 fish, 2014). After a project high of 397 wild winter steelhead were captured last year at Waterhouse Falls, only 154 wild winter steelhead have been captured so far this season. However, we should see wild fish entering the basin through late May to add to this total. Our preliminary wild winter steelhead estimate is currently 453 spawners, about 62% of last year's final estimate (732 spawners).

Both the upper and lower screw traps fished for the entirety of the week, with an increase in coho smolt catch occurring in recent days. Chinook fry and some coho fry are also being captured. We will be building our rock weir at the upper trap soon to funnel more water (and fish) into the trap, but rains this week have kept flows a little too high for installation. A river level drop would help at the lower trap too, as high flows and too much water tend to reduce trap efficiency at this site.

N Scappoose (Alex Neerman, Crew Leader):

River levels continue to drop slowly after a few weeks of steady rain, and as a result we have been slowly adjusting the trap each day to get it closer and closer to the optimum spot for catching fish. Fish numbers are still low with a handful of Coho fry, Cutthroat, and Ammocoetes caught throughout the week. Fish numbers have been increasing though, and appear to be on the rise as the trap is now in a much better spot now that flows have subsided.

Chum Reintroduction (Brian Alfonse, Assistant Project Leader):

Thanks to some milder weather, we were able to run all of our traps continuously throughout the week. However, catch totals for salmonids remained < 5 fish/day at all trapping sites except for Stewart Creek. At this site we averaged 76 Coho Salmon fry (27% TE) and 5 Chum Salmon fry (40% TE) per day. The crew has been busy making adjustments to our trapping positions and adding weir panels upstream of our trap sites in order to hopefully increase our trapping efficiencies.

At our Perkins Creek chum reintroduction site, we removed incubation trays from the remote site incubators and counted dead eggs. Of the 56,947 eyed eggs that were out-planted in January, 54,013 survived to the fry stage and emigrated from the RSIs. This produced an eyed-egg-to-fry survival rate of 94.8%.

	Chum Fry	Coho Fry	Smolt	Chinook Fry	Steelhead			Cutthroat					Trout Fry
					<90	90-119	≥120	<90	90-119	120-159	160-249	≥250	
Weekly Catch as of : March 23, 2016													
Clatskanie River (screw trap)		7	11				1	1					
Conyers Creek (screw trap)		1	4			1	2		3		3		
Stewart Creek (fry trap)	38	535							3				
Beaver Creek (screw trap)		4	3									2	
Season Catch Totals													
Clatskanie River (screw trap)		35	31				1	1		2			
Conyers Creek (screw trap)		116	14			1	5	2	9	2	5		1
Stewart Creek (fry trap)	62	998	1			1		1	3				
Beaver Creek (screw trap)		5	3									2	

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

West Fork Smith:

It was another steady week at the adult trap with an additional 19 adult steelhead tagged and released (12 females and seven males). This gives us a total of 264 adults tagged for the season (137 females and 127 males). We were able to get into our mainstem spawning surveys sites this past week although high water persisted most likely affecting our ability to see live adults. Redd counts continue to increase with good numbers recorded on both the mainstem and tributary sites. We have enough data at this point to run some **very** preliminary spawner estimates. At this point we have a wild steelhead spawner estimate of 290 adults with a trap efficiency of 88%. This preliminary estimate appears to be in line with the project average of 430 adult wild spawners.

The juvenile smolt trap fished for most of the week being pulled to the bank one day for high water. The catch was low for all species of salmonids this past week. We anticipate the catch to increase with warmer water temperatures over the next several weeks.

Winchester Creek:

The constant rain showers are keeping the smolt trap turning well although catch has remained low for all species of salmonids. We seem to be catching more ammocoetes and adult Pacific lamprey than anything else at the moment.

Mid Coast (Adrian Gonzalez, Crew Leader):

This week was a move in the right direction in terms of establishing a more “normal” smolt trapping routine. However, once again heavy rains Monday caused some problems at a few trap sites.

Siletz-Mill fished well, until Tuesday night when a log jammed the trap, 7 hours after it was checked. There was a few morts but luckily there was enough debris to allow for a calm area, letting some of the fish swim away from the trap. Wes installed a new panel on the wall there and filled some gaps with rocks. We had a good push of smolts Wednesday night and then the temperature dropped and there hasn't been many fish on the move since. The PIT tag antenna is still working great and we continue to see VIE and PIT tagged fish at the trap. No adult fish have made their way into the adult trap since last week.

Yaquina-Mill is finally starting to see more smolt action and we've started to put in the other side of the panel wall there, now that the flows have begun to drop. This project won't be as easy as in years past, due to a large boulder that has taken up residency where the wall would normally be. Saturday, Chris plans to take a look at the situation and use his expertise to find a solution. We had one adult Steelhead there this week.

Cascade Creek is fishing well, although after last week's big push of new smolts, they seem to be slowing down for the time being, in part due to cooling water temps. Like Siletz-Mill the adult trap hasn't seen much action this week and Bill is staying on top of clearing it out of sand and bed load. Tenmile Creek flows have dropped enough this week that it is safe for Bill to start installing panels for the "Great Panel Wall" and has the near bank side finished. Without the panel wall in the fishing and trap efficiency is quite low, mainly seeing a few Coho fry and chinook fry in the low double digits. We have caught a few smolts, but recapping them is another story. That will be the big project over the next few weeks, weather permitting.

East fork (EF) and Upper Main (UM) Lobster Creek are chugging along. EF is showing itself to be a pain in the rump this year. My gripes from the other updates still hold true, the current at EF wants to shoot to the port side of the trap cutting around a large chunk of bedrock making it hard to direct the flows into the trap. EF also had a surprise jump in flows this week, floating another large tree limb into the trap, stopping it. Richard got it running again Wednesday. UM handles the high flows really well, but we still haven't seen a lot of smolt movement out there. I'm starting to wonder if the smolts didn't fare to well in the low water that was this summer.