

North Coast (Derek Wiley, Assistant Project Leader):

EF Trask:

Dropping flows and clearing water this week slowed fish catch down at the adult trap, as only 3 wild winter steelhead were captured for the week. We were again able to fish the screw trap for an entire week, although catch remains relatively light. Chinook fry (20 - 200 fish/daily) are still more abundant than coho fry (5-160 fish/daily) and only a handful of coho smolts are being observed each day. A few steelhead and cutthroat trout of various sizes are also starting to show in the catch.

NF Nehalem:

Adult catch for the week included 10 wild winter steelhead and 3 hatchery winter steelhead at Waterhouse Falls and 4 wild winter steelhead at Fall Cr Falls. Spawning surveys throughout the basin show an increase in redd density, particularly in mainstem reaches. Catch at the screw traps is beginning to pick up, with coho smolt catch increasing into this week into the 30 fish/day range. Not surprisingly, Chinook fry continue to outnumber coho fry at both traps.

N Scappoose (Ron Constable, Asst. Project Leader):

Well, I hope this does not shock anybody, but all was quiet at our adult trap. Our steelhead tally stands at 13. The breakdown on that is 6 females (one was a hatchery fish) and 7 males. It is getting late in the season for steelhead, but it is still possible to catch a few more.

We caught a kelt in the screw trap this week. It was released downstream. The trap seems to be fishing well, as evidenced by our 50% (12 marked, 6 recaptured) recapture rate on larger (160-249mm) cutthroat, but we have just not seen many fish so far, other than ammocoetes. Flows are dropping quickly and we are transitioning from trapping in the near flood conditions of only three weeks ago.

Chum Reintroduction (Brian Alfonse, Assistant Project Leader):

Streams started to drop this week on the Lower Columbia as we enjoyed some warmer weather and a much needed break from the rain. Total catch at our trap sites remained below average for this time of year but we did see more fish than last week at most of our traps. We will continue to operate our Remote Site incubator at Perkins Creek for a couple more weeks to allow any fish that may still be holding in the incubation barrel a chance to swim out volitionally.

Clatskanie River: Coho smolt numbers remained low this week at Clatskanie but were up from last week with an average of 1.6 smolts per day with a trap efficiency (TE) of 15%. Very few Coho fry were caught this week (n=3) and we still have not caught any Chinook. Next week the crew plans to make some modifications to the weir panels upstream of the trap to completely block off the side channel where fish may be eluding our trap.

Stewart Creek: The fry trap at Stewart Creek operated smoothly throughout the week and continues to be our most productive trap site. Average daily catch for Coho fry was 88 fry and trap efficiency was at 41%. Chum fry numbers dropped slightly this week (7 fry per day, 35% TE) as we have now past our peak migration week from last year.

Beaver Creek: Our most abundant fish caught at Beaver Creek has been adult large scale suckers, of which we have caught a total of 18. This week we did see an increase in our numbers of Coho smolts with a weekly total of 11 smolts and a trap efficiency of 51%.

Conyers Creek: The Conyers Creek screw trap was repositioned last Wednesday, which increase the cone rotations from 3 to 5 revolutions per minute. After this adjustment we have seen an increase in our weekly catch of Coho fry (10 fry per day, 15% TE) and cutthroat trout (n= 17, 41% TE). As flows drop we will be placing a motor on this trap in order to keep it operating in this small stream.

	Chum	Coho		Chinook	Steelhead			Cutthroat					Trout
	Fry	Fry	Smolt	Fry	<90	90-119	≥120	<90	90-119	120-159	160-249	≥250	Fry
Weekly Catch as of : March 30, 2016													
Clatskanie River (screw trap)			13								1		
Conyers Creek (screw trap)		68	10			2		4	4	5	1	1	
Stewart Creek (fry trap)	48	618	2		1	1		7	1				
Beaver Creek (screw trap)			11			1				2			
Season Catch Totals													
Clatskanie River (screw trap)		35	44			1	1		2	1			
Conyers Creek (screw trap)		184	24		1	7	2	13	6	10	1	2	
Stewart Creek (fry trap)	110	1616	3		2	1	1	10	1				
Beaver Creek (screw trap)		5	14			1				2	2		

Mid-South Coast (Stephen Staiger, Experimental Biology Aide)

West Fork Smith:

It was beautiful week in the WF Smith basin! The adult trap had an additional 15 adult steelhead tagged and released (10 females and five males). This gives us a total of 279 adults tagged for the season (147 females and 132 males). Rains have slowed down so we were able to complete more spawning surveys sites this past week and the water clarity has been good so we are seeing more fish in the mainstems and tributaries. Redd counts continue to increase with good numbers recorded on both the mainstem and tributary sites.

The juvenile smolt trap fished all week and we are catching good numbers of coho smolts and chinook fry with additional salmonids (cutthroat and steelhead). Trap efficiently has been good with good numbers of recaps. The WF is dropping quickly and we will have to make sure to drop the legs of the smolt trap to continue fishing efficiently.

Winchester Creek:

The smolt trap is turning well although catch has remained low for all species of salmonids. There have been more ammocoetes and adult lamprey as well as good number of cottids.

Mid Coast (Adrian Gonzalez, Crew Leader):

I hope everyone is rolling up their sleeves while trap checking and working on their tans! The rain looks like it will be gone for a while, (sounding like a complainer) which brings about new trapping woes. Despite what the future may hold, most of the traps are fishing well.

Siletz-Mill has been on a steady drop of about 2cm per day, which means it is time to start putting up plastic to catch as much water as possible and filling holes that smolts love to find. The smolt numbers have started to come up and the trap hasn't been fishing as efficiently as I'd like. We will spend the next few days trying to remedy that. The adult trap hasn't had a new steelhead this week and I'd be surprised to see one in there, with this weather. Yaquina-Mill fry numbers have started to come up this week, but there has been little smolt movement. The trap is as buttoned up as can be (without installing the ramp) with the panel wall fully operational. Early in the week we caught 2 of 2 smolts and then the water temp dropped and no more smolt action. I suspect the smolt numbers will start to rise here soon, as there is a large group gathering in the channel above the trap. At the adult trap we passed 1 chrome female steelhead.

Cascade Creek is fishing in a great spot and is recapping smolts and cutthroat like no other. The smolt numbers have come up this week, as well as the cutthroat. The debris load has dropped, which makes for a smoother trap check. Bill will be starting the plastic process this weekend to delay motorizing the trap for a few more weeks. The "Great Panel Wall" is well under way, with one side complete and Bill chipping away at the south side. With the wall going up, so has our recap rate of coho smolts. We are seeing more and more steelhead and coho/chinook fry each day.

East Fork Lobster had another trap stoppage (luckily Richard was on site to watch it happen). He spent some time clearing out the trap hole of any other trap jamming rocks, and has since been running fine. The fry and smolt numbers have come up, as have the recaps. Upper Main Lobster is fishing well, and has also seen an increase in the fry/smolt numbers this week.