

### **N Scappoose (Ron Constable, Assistant Project Leader):**

To say things are slow this spring on N Scappoose Creek is like saying the Sixers are having a below average year (only 46 games back, at last check). With warming temperatures we are hoping to see some migrating smolts, but that may be hampered by quickly dropping flows.

We did catch one more steelhead in the adult trap, a nice female that gave us a perfect gender balance of 7 males and 7 females. In the smolt trap we have caught 3 coho smolts (yes, that is a season total) and 1 steelhead smolt. We have also caught a handful of lamprey ammocoetes and about 3 dozen coho fry. Based on a solid 50% recapture rate of larger cutthroat we think the trap is fishing well; there is just not that much to fish for.

There is one thing migrating toward our trap: a large boulder. This baby is about 500 pounds and used to be about 20 feet from our optimal trapping spot but it is now only about 5 feet away. It could potentially deposit itself in our trapping hole, which would be very problematic. We will attempt to (very cautiously) encourage this thing to move out of the way a bit – it only needs to shift about 3 feet toward the bank – with the help of a very large come-a-long.

### **Chum Reintroduction (Brian Alfonse, Assistant Project Leader):**

Bring on the heat! Warmer dryer weather throughout the week has led to a precipitous drop in stream flows. For some of our trapping sites on the Lower Columbia this was a good trend for others this drop in flows caused the cone to hit the bottom, which required more adjustment in the position of these traps. Overall catch numbers have been lower than in past years but we did see an increase in Coho smolts this week. The remote site incubator at Perkins Creek is nearing at its end as crews removed the PVC substrate at in the bottom of the incubator barrels this week and observed no remaining Chum. Next week we plan on disconnecting the intakes and draining the barrels completely.

Clatskanie River: Substantial work was done at the Clatskanie trap site this week including: moving the weir panels in order to block off more of the flow going to the side channel, moving the trap upstream, and working on the rock were upstream to funnel more flow into the cone. This increased the cone revolutions from 2.5 per minute to a more respectable 7.0. These efforts seem to be paying off since we saw an increase in Coho, steelhead, and cutthroat trout smolts this week. Average catch for Coho smolts was 3.5 per day this week compared to 1.6 last week.

Stewart Creek: The fry trap at Stewart Creek operated smoothly throughout the week and continues to be our most productive trap site. However fry numbers are starting to drop and this trap usually sees very few smolts despite its high trap efficiency. Average daily catch for Coho fry was 45 and trap efficiency was at 45%. Chum fry numbers continue to drop with a weekly total of 5 fry and 3 recaptures.

Beaver Creek: With adult sucker numbers dropping at Beaver Creek we are now catching more adult pacific lamprey (n=20), brook lamprey (n=30), and sculpin (n=30). Also, did I mention we caught a couple pumpkin seed sunfish this week? Although, our most surprising fish caught in

this trap were two Chinook fry, one of which we recaptured today. Coho smolts were slightly up from last week with an average of 3.5 per day at a trap efficiency of 25%.

Conyers Creek: The Conyers Creek screw trap was repositioned again this week, due to low flows, and our crew is still working on getting the trap motorized. These low flows caused our trap to be stopped for one day but crews were able to get it back up and running at around 2 RPMs. Catch for Coho fry was down this week to 5.8 fish per day but catch of Coho smolts (1.6/day), steelhead (2/day), and cutthroat trout (1.9/ day) were all up from last week.

|  | Chum |  | Coho |       | Chinook | Steelhead |        |      | Cutthroat |        |         |         | Trout |     |
|--|------|--|------|-------|---------|-----------|--------|------|-----------|--------|---------|---------|-------|-----|
|  | Fry  |  | Fry  | Smolt | Fry     | <90       | 90-119 | ≥120 | <90       | 90-119 | 120-159 | 160-249 | ≥250  | Fry |
| <b>Weekly Catch as of : March 30, 2016</b> |      |  |      |       |         |           |        |      |           |        |         |         |       |     |
| 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       |       |     |
| <b>Season Catch Totals</b>                 |      |  |      |       |         |           |        |      |           |        |         |         |       |     |
| 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 (Pat Burns, Assistant Project Leader)

West Fork Smith: The adult trap remains active with an additional 25 adult steelhead (16 females and 9 males) tagged and released. This gives us a season total to date of 311 tagged adults (170 females and 141 males). Spawning surveys continue in the basin with a noticeable increase in steelhead redd activity. The majority of the activity has been recorded on the mainstem sites. We have run another preliminary estimate that indicates a wild spawner return of 357 adult steelhead with a trap efficiency of 87%. The smolt trap has started to see an increase in coho smolt catch. We averaged 85 coho smolts/day for the week but expect that number to increase with the warmer stream temperatures.

Winchester Creek: The smolt trap continues to fish well although the catch for all species remains low. The trap will be motorized today with the anticipation of low stream flows for the rest of the season.

### Mid Coast (Adrian Gonzalez, Crew Leader):

The Siletz-Mill trap has really improved with the addition of Wes's plastic job and trap manipulations! The trap was fishing as poorly as one recap and has improved every day, seeing 18 of 25 Thursday! This is a trend we hope to keep for the rest of the season. Wes also installed the ramp

out at the Yaquina-Mill site and we are finally consistently catching smolts out there and seeing a solid recap rate, although the numbers are still relatively low.

Cascade Creek saw a big jump in fish numbers this week which started off gradually, but with Thursday's warm weather spiked to 168 smolts, recapping 21 of 25, Bill really dialed this trap in! There was also two adult steelhead in the smolt trap, thrashing about. Both were steelhead, one an ad only and the other a nice wild male. This week Bill has been going to town on the panel wall out at Tenmile and is near complete. With each panel the fish traps more and more efficiently! Like the other traps we had a big spike in smolts there. The trap is starting to see its first pacific lamprey and there are a few redds above the trap, pretty neat!

This week Richard installed the ramps out at East Fork and Upper Main Lobster creek. Thursday's nice weather seemed to awaken the fish there too. Richard saw an increase in smolt and fry numbers. The ramp is helping with the recap rates as well, and catching some good sized cutthroats.

#### **North Coast (Derek Wiley, Assistant Project Leader):**

##### EF Trask:

Trapping remained steady this week, with 14 new wild winter steelhead captured at the adult trap. The mainstem survey from the screw trap to dam was also active, with 33 steelhead redds and 12 live steelhead observed. Very little activity was observed in LCM tributary surveys, as these reaches are very low right now with the persistence of dry weather. Catch at the screw trap continues to be dominated by fry, with coho smolt catch still remaining in the single digits. This is not surprising, as last year we did not see significant coho smolt outmigration until mid-April.

##### NF Nehalem:

Despite lowering river levels and clear water, it was a great adult trapping week on the NF Nehalem. For the week we trapped 33 wild winter steelhead and 6 hatchery winter steelhead at Waterhouse Falls and 5 wild winter steelhead at Fall Cr Falls. Many new redds were observed in surveys throughout the basin this week, particularly in lower mainstem reaches where over 50 new redds were marked. Coho smolt catch at the screw traps has picked up in recent days with increasing water temperature, as we saw our first 100+fish/day at the lower screw trap on Thursday. Very few fry were captured at the traps in recent days.