

Chum Reintroduction (Brian Alfonse, Assistant Project Leader):

A long stretch of dry warm weather over the past couple weeks has drawn our streams on the Lower Columbia down close to historical minimum flows. These low flows caused several of our screw traps to start hitting the streambed and additional work was needed to keep traps operational. Light showers are forecasted over the next couple days, which should give us some relief and at least keep streams from dropping any further. At our remote site incubator on Perkins Creek, crews pulled the intake pipes out of the water and drained all the barrels. Only a couple Chum salmon were found in the bottom of the barrels, all of which were still alive but had severe scoliosis.

Clatskanie River: Black plastic was placed on the weir panels upstream of the Clatskanie trap in order to completely block the flow into a side channel that goes around the trap. This increased the cone revolutions from 4.75 per minute to 6.0. Total weekly catch for Coho smolts (n=29), steelhead (n=4) and cutthroat trout (n=8) were similar to last week and lower than average for this time of year.

Stewart Creek: Coho fry numbers continue to decline with an average catch per day of < 3 fry. Coho smolts were up from last week but still remain very low (n=5). Chum fry catch was also low as the run is now essential completed.

Beaver Creek: This trap needed some additional work this week as flows caused the cone to scrape the streambed leading to three days where the trap did not run completely through the night. Crews built a rock weir and excavated the hole under the cone in order to get it operating gain. Coho smolt catch was <3 per day with a trap efficiency of 21%.

Conyers Creek: Several boulders were removed from underneath the cone and the sand bag weir was also adjusted in order to keep the Conyers trap operational. Coho smolt catch was slightly up from last week (4.4/day, TE: 31%) and steelhead were slightly down (<2/day, TE: 30%)

	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 : April 13, 2016													
Clatskanie River (screw trap)			29		1	3		2		5	1		15
Conyers Creek (screw trap)		5	31		13	7		5	9	3			
Stewart Creek (fry trap)	4	23	8					1					
Beaver Creek (screw trap)			20			3				1			
Season Catch Totals													
Clatskanie River (screw trap)		38	101		1	8	2	2	6	9	3		15
Conyers Creek (screw trap)		237	65		16	18	2	24	20	15	1		4
Stewart Creek (fry trap)	119	1,954	14		1	1	1	11	3				
Beaver Creek (screw trap)		5	58	2		5				7	2		

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

West Fork Smith River: Adult activity slowed down this past week with only eight adult steelhead tagged and released upstream (six females and two males). Our season total to date now stands at 325 adults (181 females and 144 males). This would be our third highest number of tagged steelhead for this location (range 87-401). Spawning ground surveys continue in the basin with most of the live fish and redd activity concentrated on the mainstem surveys. We have a preliminary wild spawner estimate of 372 adult steelhead with a trap efficiency now at 85%. This estimate is in line with the project average of 430 wild adult spawners.

The juvenile smolt trap fished all week with moderate numbers of coho smolts captured. We have finally started to see steelhead smolts in the catch after going more than two months with only 12 captured. Now if we can only recapture those wily steelhead smolts.

Winchester Creek: The smolt trap has been motorized although we have not seen much of an increase in catch as of yet. With the forecasted rain over the next few days it is our hope that more out migrants will be coming out of the basin.

Mid Coast (Adrian Gonzalez, Crew Leader):

Everything is chugging along well on the Mid-Coast. Wednesday night it called for rain and it delivered, at some traps more than others.

Siletz-Mill Creek recaps have been staying in a good range, but inconsistent. We've had 8 of 25 days and days of 20 of 25, I'm starting to get the feeling that the smolts are having shindigs in the pool above the self-release site, and drunkenly floating into the trap at their leisure. Regardless the trap efficiency has improved from the end of March, so I'm happy. Overall, the smolt and fry numbers have been staying steady throughout the past 3 weeks. Chris did mention that the PIT tag antenna had a low efficiency for March, figuring out why will be our next side project (most likely the high flows played a substantial role). Yaquina-Mill Creek fry have been dropping precipitously and the smolts have yet to really start moving, I expect that to change as we near the end of the month.

Bill finished the panel wall at Tenmile Creek just in time to capture all the rain, he and I spent some time Thursday bagging rocks and placing them in front of the panels (this is the annual throw your back out event of the spring, luckily Bill is as strong as an ox and I use small rocks). He has the trap set up real nice and the smolt numbers and recaps have been steadily increasing. The fry numbers have come up this past week, but we're having a hard time recapping them (can't count in bellies). Cascade Creek is all plasticized and with this week's little bit of rain, can still run on the power of the creek, which is great for us. We should be able to ride the increase in flows for at least another week before we must motorize the trap. The smolt numbers peaked last week, but are still in the high double digits. The fry numbers started low and have remained low.

East Fork and Upper Main Lobster have ceased having trap stoppages as of late and have been fishing well. Richard had to plug up some suspect holes at UM, which unsurprisingly increased the recaps for smolts. EF smolt numbers have been higher than UM overall, but UM has been catching the fry in much larger quantities. Wednesday and Thursdays rain really increased the cfs (from 6.7 to 47) so Richard pulled the ramps out, which will decrease the chance of a trap stoppage and potential unnecessary fish kill.

North Coast (Derek Wiley, Assistant Project Leader):

EF Trask:

Winter steelhead continue to push into the basin, with 14 wild steelhead passed this week at the adult trap and 1 hatchery fish euthanized and used for stream enrichment. To date we have trapped 312 wild winter steelhead, about 20 fish less than last year's season total. Only 7 repeat spawning steelhead have been captured this year (only includes tagged recoveries), significantly lower than the average observed since we began tagging all wild steelhead captured at the adult traps (24 tagged repeaters). A low, warm water spring and early summer coupled with poor ocean conditions likely reduced survival of adults after spawning last spring. The weather has stayed nice for screw trapping, but catch remains very light for this time of year with fry numbers decreasing and smolt catch yet to ramp up. We should start to see increased movement in the next week with warmer weather forecasted.

NF Nehalem:

It was another good week on the NF Nehalem for trapping winter steelhead, as 16 wild steelhead were captured at Waterhouse Falls and 17 wild steelhead captured at Fall Cr Falls. Spawning activity increased significantly throughout the basin this past week, with many new redds and live fish observed on surveys. As usual, most redds and fish were observed in mainstem reaches, but some activity was also observed in tributary reaches as well. Coho smolt catch at the screw traps has now increased to over 100 fish/day at each trap and steelhead smolt catch has also increased in the last week. Very few fry are being captured at this time.

Derek presented to the Lower Nehalem Watershed Council on Thursday evening, showing *Journey's End*, a video capturing underwater behavior and spawning of salmon and Pacific lamprey on the North Coast and *Salmonid Life Cycle Monitoring in the NF Nehalem River, Oregon (2015)*, a documentary on the NF Nehalem Life Cycle Monitoring project with a focus on the 2015 fall adult trapping season. The viewing was well received, even by North Coast LCM crew members who were extremely worried there would be an extended blooper roll of each of them from footage captured throughout the season. Future viewings will also occur in Pacific City for the Nestucca-Neskowin Watershed Council on May 24 and Tillamook Bay Watershed Council on May 31.

N Scappoose (Ron Constable, Assistant Project Leader):

We did not see any action at the adult trap at Bonnie Falls this week, leaving our steelhead total at 14 for the year. There are only a few weeks of steelhead trapping left, but a late rally is always possible. A bit of spring cleaning was done around the trap site.

The smolt trap is not exactly picking up either. We are still recapturing large cutthroat at a good rate, but we have not seen very many fish. We have 8 coho smolts so far. We should see our early May peak for coho and steelhead smolt start up soon. We were able to move a huge boulder that was threatening our trap and trapping location. It was pulled about 3 feet toward the bank and is now a part of our rock wall, funneling flow and fish into the trap (see photo, it's the large one closest to the starboard pontoon). A leaning tree was straightened in the process of moving the boulder.

