

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

West Fork Smith:

There were no adults captured at the site this week leaving us with a total of 325 adult steelhead tagged to date. We typically decommission the adult trap at the end of April which remains the plan unless we see some sort of increase over the next week and a half. Spawning surveys continued this past week but were mainly conducted on the tributary sites where low numbers of redds were recorded. A preliminary estimate indicates a wild spawner return of 370 adult steelhead which is tracking below the project average of 430 adults.

The smolt trap continues to fish well. After spouting gloom and doom to Erik about the low number of coho smolts caught I compared this year's catch to last year's catch at this time and low and behold it is neither gloom nor doom. We should be entering the peak of the coho smolt out-migration over the next couple of weeks at our trap site.

Winchester Creek: The trap has been motorized and is fishing and catching fair numbers of out-migrating coho smolts as well as a few cutthroat trout.

Mid Coast (Adrian Gonzalez, Crew Leader):

Siletz-Mill had a big spike in fish numbers this week, Monday and Tuesday both had 240+ smolts and recap rates of 15 and 23 respectively. The trap was also catching cutthroat in high numbers. This trend quickly ceased and the recap rates dropped to around 6, so this weekend we will be installing the trap ramp and tightening up any holes that go under the panels. I'd like to see some consistency at this site someday. Yaquina-Mill has continued to be pretty slow, but smolt numbers have started to come up a little this week. The fish tend to get on the move once the reservoir starts warming up, which is currently underway. The last adult fish we've seen at either trap was earlier this month at Siletz-Mill.

Cascade Creek is still turning on its own power and with the rain in the forecast, we hope to put off motorizing the trap till next week. The smolt numbers have started to drop at the site, but it's still fishing at around 86%, so no complaints there. Tenmile Creek is starting to see an increase in the number of smolts and steelhead; Bill and I went ahead and installed the ramp. Without the ramp the recap rates are extremely low, and the water levels are low enough to safely fish the trap with it installed. The steelhead love to swim in front of the trap, taunting it and then decide to swim around it (well not anymore!).

Both Lobster Creek traps have seen a decrease in the number of fry and smolts leaving. Richard was able to reinstall the ramps after last weeks "high" water event and get the recap rate back up. We are fairly confident there is just a lull in fish movement at the moment.

North Coast (Derek Wiley, Assistant Project Leader):

EF Trask:

It was another solid week of adult trapping on the EF Trask, as 27 wild winter steelhead, 1 hatchery winter steelhead, and 1 sea-run cutthroat trout were captured at the adult ladder. Catch at the screw trap still remains light for this time of year, as we have yet to have a strong push of outmigrating coho smolts despite high trap efficiency. Hopefully, rain tonight and through the weekend will get a few more fish moving.

The Tillamook crew lost a staff member this week, as Alec Underwood travelled back east to pursue some promising opportunities in Montana. Alec's passion for fisheries and wildlife and strong work ethic made him an asset to the project and we wish him the best in his future endeavors. Before leaving on Wednesday, Alec donated a wood-burned wild winter steelhead carving he made of his favorite trapped fish of the season (see attached picture). The 935mm buck avoided Alec's fly this winter, but definitely made a lasting impression on him that will bring him back this way on a future fishing trip in hopes of finding his own "fish of the season".



NF Nehalem:

Low water was not a deterrent this week for adult steelhead, as 15 wild winter steelhead were captured at Waterhouse Falls and 1 wild winter steelhead was captured at Fall Cr Falls. Rain this weekend should provide an increased incentive for the tail end of the winter steelhead run to push upstream to the spawning grounds. Significant spawning activity continues to occur in mainstem reaches, as many new redds were marked

over the last few days. However, very little activity has been seen in tributary reaches as these streams are extremely low and clear at this time. Catch at the screw traps picked up this week, with coho smolt daily catch increasing to a high of over 300 smolts at the lower and around 200 smolts at the upper. Steelhead smolt catch also increased, with a high of 35 smolts caught at the lower trap on Monday. Only a handful of fry were caught each day at the traps.

N Scappoose (Ron Constable, Assistant Project Leader):

It was a lonely week for steelhead at the adult trap again. Our total remains at 14, just under a fish per kilometer of spawning habitat above the trap. The low steelhead number will likely track well with steelhead numbers overall in the Lower Columbia.

Towards the end of the week we had a slight pick-up in fish numbers at the smolt trap. We had about a dozen coho smolts, with a recapture rate close to 50%. We are not seeing many steelhead but there continue to be decent number of cutthroat. The cutts were extra pretty this week. Some rain is forecast for the weekend, and with it comes some hope that the out-migration of coho will begin.

Chum Reintroduction (Brian Alfonse, Assistant Project Leader):

Trapping on the Lower Columbia tributaries was a little more consistent this week thanks to some of the trap modifications we made last week and also in part to some rain we got at the beginning of the week. Smolt numbers substantially increased this week at several trapping locations and consisted predominately of Coho and steelhead. Since our remote site incubator work is now complete for the season, the crew has been focusing more of their time on reading Chum scales that were collected last fall.

Clatskanie River: With the trap running at around 8 revolutions per minute (RPM's) and nearly the entire flow of the river being directed into the trap, our crew was starting to wonder if there was any fish left in the Clatskanie River. Those worries subsided this week as we finally started to catch more smolts. The average catch for Coho smolts this week was 14 smolts per day with a trap efficiency (TE) of 11% and average catch per day for Steelhead was 5 (TE= 11%). In addition to our salmonid catch we also saw an increase in our catch of adult pacific lamprey with a weekly total of 23.

Stewart Creek: Things were really slow at Stewart this week with only one new Chum fry and no new Coho fry or smolts. We could still see some Coho smolts at this trap but with Coho smolt being lower than in previous years at other trap sites there's a good chance that we won't see any more this year at Stewart Creek.

Beaver Creek: The Beaver Creek trap has been consistently operating throughout the week and has been catching a wide variety of native and non-native fish species despite only operating at < 2 RPM's. Adult pacific lamprey was the most numerous fish caught at this trap with a weekly

total of 65 and other common species include: brook lamprey (n=48), sculpin unknown species (n=12), and adult suckers (n=10). Total catch of salmonids increased this week with a daily average of 7 Coho smolts (TE=20%) and 2.3 steelhead smolts per day.

Conyers Creek: The Conyers Creek screw trap proved to be particularly stubborn this week as low flows and issues with the trap motor system led to four days of inefficient trap operations. Fortunately, we were able to get the motor mounted and the trap operating at 4 RPM's after our crew worked on it today. So, hopefully next week we'll have more fish numbers to report at this site.

	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)			100				36			5	16	3	13
Conyers Creek (screw trap)		1	13				5	1	1	2	1	1	2
Stewart Creek (fry trap)	1												
Beaver Creek (screw trap)			52				16			1	1		3
Season Catch Totals													
Clatskanie River (screw trap)		38	201			1	44	2	2	11	25	6	28
Conyers Creek (screw trap)		238	78			6	23	3	25	22	16	2	6
Stewart Creek (fry trap)	121	1,954	14			1	1	1	11	3			
Beaver Creek (screw trap)		5	110	2			21			1	8	2	3