

Mid Coast (Adrian Gonzalez, Crew Leader):

Siletz-Mill had a steady pace of Coho smolts going into the weekend with the bump in flows from the rain. The recap rate also came up to a steady 65%. Wednesday the Coho smolt numbers dropped to below a hundred, but the temperatures in the creek dropped to 7 degrees Celsius, so I think they may have frozen in the creek (I know I did). We are seeing a few Steelhead smolts moving downstream and recapturing Cutthroat (120-159) at about 40%. Coho fry numbers have remained really low. Yaquina-Mill has remained slow for both Coho smolt and fry numbers, despite Chinook fry moving out of the reservoir. I discovered a large hole in the plastic between one of the pontoons and panel wall, which I promptly fixed. Looking at the data from previous years our numbers are unseasonably low, so I hope I caught the problem before the Coho smolts really started to migrate downstream.

Cascade Creek Coho smolt numbers have come down considerably, but we are still recapping at a rate of 90%, I'm fairly certain it's a seasonal lull. The Coho fry numbers have come up, not surprising considering there are less hungry mouths locked in the trap with them. The Cutthroat are still coming out in good numbers and the recap rate is comparable to Coho smolts. The little bit of rain has afforded us some more time of stream powered screw trapping, but Bill has strung up the wire for the unavoidable day we'll need to motorize. If this weather pattern keeps up we may be able to hold off till the middle of May! With the introduction of the ramp at Tenmile Creek, the recaps of Steelhead smolts and Coho have increased, we've even had a few downstream adult migrants find their way into the trap. One even swam out of the cone when Bill tried to pull it out.

Upper Main and East Fork (EF) Lobster Creek Coho numbers fell this week after the fry numbers skyrocketed Sunday. We had another trap stoppage early in the week at EF, once again Richard was on hand to fix the problem (sand stone and Humphrey traps don't mix). EF has been catching good numbers of Steelhead < 119mm, as well as Cutthroat < 159mm. UM has been catching a few Cutts in the 120-159 range. With the ramps in, the traps really increase their efficiency, however this weather causes us to pull the ramps because of high velocity hitting the screen (good for Cascade Cr. but a pain at the Lobsters.)

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

We had a big day at the adult trap last Friday, as the small rise in river level due to the rain on Thursday evening encouraged 25 wild winter steelhead to swim into the trap. Fortunately, staff were prepared for the big day as these fish were observed holding below the dam on Thursday evening. Only two more new fish were captured the rest of the week, however at least one dozen fish continue to hold below the dam waiting for the next rise in river level. Thirteen new steelhead redds were observed in the EF Trask River upstream of the dam on two spawning surveys conducted Monday.

Catch at the screw trap continues to be light, with a mixture of coho and steelhead smolts and various-sized cutthroat dominating the catch. Warm weather this week should get some more fish moving, and we are keeping our fingers crossed that we will see a strong push of out-migrants in May to make up for the lackluster catch in April. Total season juvenile catch is shown below.

Juvenile out-migrant population estimates for the EF Trask River basin through 4/24/16. Numbers in parentheses indicate extrapolated catch due to insufficient recaptures.

	Species	Size Class	Caught	Marked	Recap	Estimate	95% CI	Efficiency		Fork Length	
								Weighted	Overall	Peak	Season
EF Trask	Coho	Fry	980	766	40	24,038	9,610	4.95%	5.22%	40.12	39.47
	Coho	Smolt	199	197	82	503	98	41.72%	41.62%	108.52	100.78
	Chinook	Fry	2,405	1,401	56	69,493	18,040	3.96%	4.00%	42.72	43.15
	Chinook	Fingerling	2	2	2	(2)			100.00%		63.00
	Steelhead	60-89mm	7	7	0	(9)			0.00%		79.29
	Steelhead	90-119mm	5	5	0	(7)			0.00%		100.40
	Steelhead	Smolt	87	87	3	(87)			3.45%		183.65
	Cutthroat	60-89mm	2	2	0	(2)			0.00%		82.00
	Cutthroat	90-119mm	26	25	2	(27)			8.00%		104.15
	Cutthroat	120-159mm	78	77	7	(80)			9.09%		137.71
	Cutthroat	160-249mm	12	12	1	(12)			8.33%		175.67
Cutthroat	250mm				(2)					385.00	

NF Nehalem:

Catch at the adult traps slowed down this week, with only three wild winter steelhead caught at Waterhouse Falls and four wild winter steelhead caught at Fall Cr Falls since our last update. We still continue to see significant spawning activity in mainstem reaches, but expect redd observations to drop off in coming weeks with less fish moving into the basin. Catch at the screw traps dropped off this week, as cold temperatures at night likely slowed outmigration. Warm weather should get more fish moving over the next week.

This week Wes Burton finished up his third season working in Nehalem on the LCM project. Wes will be returning for his fourth season next October, but not before he tackles the 2,659 mile long Pacific Crest Trail this spring and summer. Expect a picture or two over the next few months, as Wes will be sending occasional updates to the North Coast crew as he makes his way north from Mexico. We wish Wes the best in his travels and look forward to hearing all about his journey when he returns in the fall.

Juvenile out-migrant estimates for the NF Nehalem River basin through 4/24/16. Numbers in parentheses indicate extrapolated catch due to insufficient recaptures.

	Species	Size Class	Caught	Marked	Recap	Estimate	95% CI	Efficiency		Fork Length	
								Weighted	Overall	Peak	Season
Total Basin	Coho	Fry	96	87	6	(134)			6.90%		40.93
	Coho	Smolt	3,706	839	309	9,735	1,064	38.98%	36.83%	104.24	102.55
	Chinook	Fry	1,185	861	58	76,725	121,308	2.47%	6.74%	42.40	44.53
	Chinook	Fingerling	60	55	8	(60)			14.55%		62.90
	Steelhead	60-89mm	9	8	0	(13)			0.00%		78.33
	Steelhead	90-119mm	17	16	2	(17)			12.50%		100.59
	Steelhead	Smolt	278	264	34	2,132	653	13.32%	12.88%	173.68	174.06
	Cutthroat	60-89mm	2	1	0	(4)			0.00%		81.00
	Cutthroat	90-119mm	35	35	4	(37)			11.43%		107.09
	Cutthroat	120-159mm	106	105	8	(108)			7.62%		136.95
	Cutthroat	160-249mm	39	39	6	(39)			15.38%		177.18
	Cutthroat	250mm				(3)					311.67

N Scappoose (Ron Constable, Assistant Project Leader):

The adult trap has not seen any steelhead in a while, and it may be time to start thinking about closing our operations down for the season. We have only caught 10 total steelhead (since trapping started in the winter of 1999-2000) later in the year than April 1st. Only one of these has come in May – and that was 13 years ago. With such a small number of steelhead though, we feel obligated to try and catch any that we can.

The screw trap has picked up. We caught 84 coho smolts this week, over quadruple the number in the previous weeks combined. Eleven steelhead smolts were also captured this week. The trap is running at a high efficiency rate – 58% for coho, 30% for steelhead, and 32% for the bigger cutties. Some people would describe that as old school trapping.

We have also caught a fair number of adult lamprey and a hatchery (ad clipped) chinook smolt – where did that thing come from?

Chum Reintroduction (Brian Alfonse, Assistant Project Leader):

Cooler weather prevailed this week with some scattered showers and thunderstorms. This made for ideal trapping conditions and allowed us to operate all of our juvenile traps consistently throughout the week. Smolt numbers have really started climbing at all of our screw trap locations. No Coho fry were caught at any of our trap sites this week as the run now appears to over. Total catch of Coho fry was down substantially at all of our trap sites compared to previous years. This was especially true in the Clatskanie River where our previous lowest catch of Coho fry was 249 in 2013, compared to our total of 38 fry this year.

Clatskanie River: Coho smolt catch was up this week at Clatskanie with an average daily catch of 64 smolts and a trap efficiency (TE) of 17%. Steelhead catch was similar to last week with an average of seven (TE=2%) smolts per day. Trout fry catch has also increased at Clatskanie and we are now seeing numbers similar to what we usually catch at the end of May.

Stewart Creek: It was another slow week at the Stewart trap with a total catch of three fish, including one Chum fry.

Beaver Creek: Total catch for Coho smolts increased again this week at Beaver Creek with a daily average of 18 smolts and a trap efficiency of 35%. Steelhead smolt numbers were consistent with last week with an average of two per day (TE=13%). We were also able to catch five more Chinook fry this week and were able to recapture some as well (TE=67%). This is surprising since we still have not managed to catch a Chinook in our Clatskanie trap yet.

Conyers Creek: With some help from higher flows and the motor now working, the Conyers Creek trap operated effectively throughout the week. Coho smolt (8/day, TE=30%) and Steelhead (2/day, TE=50%) catch were both up from last week and should continue this trend as we approach the peak migration for these species.

	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 27, 2016													
Clatskanie River (screw trap)			445				48			2	26	3	69
Conyers Creek (screw trap)			54		4	15			3	8	6		
Stewart Creek (fry trap)	1		1						1				
Beaver Creek (screw trap)			128	5			15				1		7
Season Catch Totals													
Clatskanie River (screw trap)		38	646			1	92	2	2	13	51	9	97
Conyers Creek (screw trap)		238	132			10	38	3	28	30	22	2	6
Stewart Creek (fry trap)	122	1,954	15			1	1	1	12	3			
Beaver Creek (screw trap)		5	238	7			36			1	9	2	10

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

West Fork Smith: It appears that the steelhead run is winding down with only five adults passed over the last two weeks. Our most recent count stands at 333 adult steelhead tagged (187 females and 146 males). We will continue to operate the adult trap for another week before making a decision to decommission it for the season. Spawning ground surveys continue throughout the basin but the majority of activity observed has been on the mainstem surveys. A preliminary estimate indicates 386 wild spawners to the basin this year with a trap efficiency of 84%. This estimate is slightly below the project average of 430 wild spawners. We have noticed an increase in Pacific lamprey spawning activity this year with live/dead adults and redds observed on the mainstem surveys.

The smolt trap continues to fish although the catch remains low for all salmonids up to this point. The last few days have seen an increase in coho smolts to approximately 125 smolts/day. We are still waiting for those numbers to increase to 200-300 smolts/day.

Winchester Creek: The trap has been fishing great but not catching all that great. Last week was a pretty slow week with only 16 coho smolts captured for the week. Even the catch of the ubiquitous cottid's were relatively low. We will see if warmer temperatures this weekend get more smolts moving out of the system.