

North Coast (Derek Wiley, Assistant Project Leader):

“Unfortunately, it doesn’t appear that (*i.e.* a big rain event) will happen anytime soon as weather predictions several days ago of an upcoming wetter weather pattern have now turned into a forecast of another extended dry period.” The aforementioned quote from my update last week was evidently just as good as a rain dance as two days later we received nearly 3” of rain and are now bracing for the deluge of water forecasted this weekend. We had a good push of fish this past week with the first decent rise in river level here on the north coast and expect another big push this weekend for as long as we are able to fish the traps.

NF Nehalem (through 10/28):

Since our last update we have trapped 142 wild coho, 140 hatchery coho, 45 wild Chinook, 7 hatchery Chinook, 12 sea-run cutthroat trout, and 1 sockeye at Waterhouse Falls and 118 wild coho, 2 hatchery coho, 7 wild Chinook, and 3 sea-run cutthroat trout at Fall Cr Falls. Most of these fish were trapped on Monday after the heavy rain last Sunday. With the extremely wet weather predicted over the next few days we anticipate being very busy this weekend.

Total season catch of all species trapped at the Waterhouse Falls and Fall Cr Falls adult traps is shown below:

Waterhouse Falls	Coho		Steelhead		Fall Chinook		Chum	Sockeye	Pink	Sea-run Cutthroat
	Wild	Hatchery	Wild	Hatchery	Wild	Hatchery	Wild	Wild	Wild	
Females	88	96	0	0	18	1	0	0	1	17
Males	155	191	0	0	50	6	0	1	0	
Jacks	28	16	0	0	7	1	0	1	0	
TOTAL	271	303	0	0	75	8	0	2	1	17

Fall Cr Falls	Coho		Steelhead		Fall Chinook		Chum	Sockeye	Pink	Sea-run Cutthroat
	Wild	Hatchery	Wild	Hatchery	Wild	Hatchery	Wild	Wild	Wild	
Females	31	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Males	83	6	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	
Jacks	9	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL	123	8	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	3

*Trap catch is not additive as fish captured at Fall Cr Falls may have been previously captured at Waterhouse Falls

EF Trask:

Since our last update we have trapped 40 wild coho, 6 wild Chinook, 2 hatchery Chinook, and 2 sea-run cutthroat trout. LCM surveys downstream of the trap still show water levels are too low for fish to enter the tributaries and some adults holding in deeper mainstem holes. A few coho were observed on redds in the mainstem as well. OASIS surveys this week in the SF Trask revealed a big push of Chinook onto the spawning grounds. With heavy rain predicted this weekend, we should see a big push of fish to the trap and into our survey reaches.

Total season catch of all species trapped at the EF Trask adult trap is shown below:

EF Trask	Coho		Steelhead				Fall Chinook		Sea-run
	Wild	Hatchery	Wild STS	Wild STW	Hatch STS	Hatch STW	Wild	Hatchery	Cutthroat
Females	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5
Males	30	0	0	0	1	0	6	1	
Jacks	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL	41	0	0	0	1	0	6	2	5

N Scappoose (Ron Constable, Assistant Project Leader):

Things were quiet again this week on North Scappoose Creek. OASIS surveyors did observe a few coho lower down in the system mid-week and this, combined with the rain expected this weekend, should hopefully result in a few fish in the trap. We are curious to see if how the release pen will function.

Chum Reintroduction (Brian Alfonse, Assistant Project Leader):

Stream flow remained low this week despite getting some rain over the past weekend. On the Lewis and Clark River counts of Chinook and coho salmon were down from last week. However, live coho salmon counts were slightly up this week on Big Creek, including three coho salmon that were found in the historic main channel section. We also observed our first coho salmon of the season on Stewart Creek and Little Bear Creek, but still have not seen anything on Ferris or Bear Creek. No chum salmon have been observed on our surveys, but with heavy rains forecasted over the weekend, we expect to see some next week. The first chum salmon arrived at Big Creek Hatchery on October 29th, seven days earlier than we saw any arrive last year. It is likely that there may be enough at the hatchery to begin spawning them next week.

Weekly Count : October 29, 2015	Reach	Live							Carcasses						
		Chum	Chinook hatchery	Chinook wild	Coho hatchery	Coho wild	Steelhead	Unknown spp.	Chum	Chinook hatchery	Chinook wild	Coho hatchery	Coho wild	Steelhead	Unknown spp.
Lewis & Clark River	1,2,1,3,2,4		1	1	1	7		2			4	2	4		
Big Creek	1 & 2 SC				14	1		4		11		4			
Bear Creek	2 & 3														
Little Bear Creek	1					8		4				1			
Ferris Creek	1														
Stewart Creek	M1,SF1, &NF1					3									
Total count for season															
Lewis & Clark River	1,2,1,3,2,4		36	134	5	29		17		11	26	4	9		4
Big Creek	1 & 2 SC		4	6	24	1		11		47	2	28	3		7
Bear Creek	2 & 3														
Little Bear Creek	1					8		4				1			
Ferris Creek	1														
Stewart Creek	M1,SF1, &NF1					3									
* Wild- any fish that has all of its fins intact															
* Hatchery- any fish with either an adipose fin clip or a left pelvic fin clip															

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

West Fork Smith: No activity to report this week. Stream levels remain very low throughout the basin. Two chinook were seen at the entrance to the fish ladder at the falls, but nothing has been seen above. We will see if the forecasted rain over the weekend is enough to bring adult coho into the west fork trap.

Winchester Creek: We had our first adult salmon in the trap this week unfortunately it was a chinook (nothing against chinook). With the highest tides of the year this week it was a good opportunity to observe the trap site looking for potential areas adults may use to bypass the trap at high flows. A few gaps were observed and fixed with new steel pickets and PVC sleeves. We may get some coho movement with this weekend's rain but the peak of the run is still several weeks out.

Mid Coast (Chris Lorion, Assistant Project Leader):

The adult trapping season got underway at the mid-coast LCM sites this week, with water levels rising just enough for fish to access our sites. At the Siletz-Mill Creek trap, we passed 7 coho salmon and 2 Chinook salmon, and sent 6 hatchery summer steelhead back down the ladder to re-enter the fishery. At Yaquina-Mill Creek, 5 coho jacks managed to make their way up the creek to the trap, despite very low flows. It will be a couple more months before we get a handle on the total jack return, but it was great to see an early sign of life from the smolt class that went out this past spring. We didn't have any fish at Cascade Creek this week, but we did finish installing new trap bars that will make it easier to clean debris out of the trap while still retaining coho jacks. With a strong storm on the way, we expect to have a busy weekend at all of our traps. Looks like my Halloween costume will be waders and a rain jacket.