

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

West Fork Smith:

Rain and high water for much of the week. The weir panels have been submerged as a result of the rising levels, but as far as we can tell they are still there. A few surveys have been conducted on tributaries and moderate numbers of adults have been present. The next few days appear to be wet so we will have to wait until next week to get things cleaned up and fishing again.

Winchester Creek:

The rain wasn't as heavy in this area and we were able to keep the adult trap fishing. We seem to catch one fish a day with a total of eight coho tagged for the season (two females, five males, and one jack). With the forecast of heavy rain for the next couple days in conjunction with high tides we may be forced to open the live box due our inability to get into trap without swimming.

Mid Coast (Chris Lorion, Assistant Project Leader):

Extremely wet and windy weather forced us to shut down our traps for several days this week. They are all back running now, and there have been some fish moving through. At Siletz-Mill Creek, we've passed 40 adult coho this week, bringing the season total to 211. Despite the Siletz River getting well above flood stage, the PIT tag antenna array on lower Mill Creek seems to have weathered the storm, and at least one antenna was functioning throughout the week. At Yaquina-Mill Creek, we passed 28 more adult coho and 16 coho jacks this week, and have now passed 262 adult coho and 107 jacks this season. Chinook continue to show up at the Yaquina-Mill Creek trap as well, and the season total now stands at a remarkable 135 fish. At Cascade, coho numbers picked way up this week, and we also caught lots of cutthroat trout. For the season, we have now passed a total of 114 adult coho and 53 coho jacks(!) at Cascade, along with 85 cutthroat trout. The coho jack total is the highest we have ever seen at this trap, but this is only the second year that bar spacing on the trap has allowed us to capture all the jacks. During the extremely rapid rise in flows last Sunday night and early Monday morning, the new trap bars that were installed in the Cascade trap this fall were damaged. Although fish could bypass the bars, the water pressure at the head gate was high enough that it is unlikely that any fish were able to pass through the trap without being counted. In fact, several fish passed on Sunday were unable to leave the trap due to the high head pressure. Finally, as we continue to read scales taken from coho at the traps, we have seen some remarkably small adult coho, including several males measuring 435-450 mm fork length.

North Coast (Derek Wiley, Assistant Project Leader):

EF Trask:

It has been a wild ride on the north coast since mid-November, as the Trask River has topped flood stage on three separate occasions. The last two occurred this past week, with 14.59" of rain falling at the trap site in four days alone. Numerous road closures due to flooding and landslides have been reported, resulting in the rare state office closure observed Wednesday (12/9) in Tillamook and Clatsop

counties. Ironically, as I type this update, lightning is illuminating the sky outside of my office and thunder, lasting upwards of five or six seconds, is booming in the distance. Crazy weather for sure. Flows have dropped quickly since Wednesday, but with more rain in the forecast it will at least be another day or two before we can get back into spawning surveys. The adult trap has been closed since Sunday evening, but we should be able to start fishing it again by Friday (12/11). Fourteen wild coho, 3 sea-run cutthroat trout, and 1 wild winter steelhead were trapped last weekend prior to the trap closure.

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

EF Trask	Coho		Steelhead				Fall Chinook		Sea-run Cutthroat
	Wild	Hatchery	Wild STS	Wild STW	Hatch STS	Hatch STW	Wild	Hatchery	
Females	154	2	2	0	5	0	32	1	67
Males	195	2	3	1	7	0	98	5	
Jacks	33	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	
TOTAL	382	4	5	1	12	0	135	7	67

NF Nehalem:

Pretty much the same story here as on the EF Trask, with 14.43” of rain falling since Sunday. Heavy rains caused flooding and forced us to shut both adult traps for most of the week. For the second time this year the NF Nehalem rose over the trap at Waterhouse Falls, something that had not happened since 2006. After flooding several weeks ago, staff spent the day cleaning trap grating and hauling gravel to fill in scoured areas around the entry to the Waterhouse Falls trap. To the dismay of the crew, all of this gravel washed out Tuesday night with recent flooding and will have to be replaced. Spawning surveys are still a no go with the high water, but the smallest reaches may be surveyable Friday (12/11) depending on road accessibility. At this time, driving routes from Tillamook to Nehalem Hatchery (*i.e.* Miami Foley Rd. and Hwy 101) are still closed due to landslides. We may be able to fish the Waterhouse Falls adult trap as early as Friday, but the Fall Cr Falls trap is unlikely to be fishing again until Saturday depending on the intensity of another storm predicted to hit the coast that day. Prior to closing the traps last Sunday evening we captured 22 wild coho, 1 hatchery coho, 7 wild Chinook, 1 wild winter steelhead, 14 hatchery steelhead, and 6 sea-run cutthroat trout at Waterhouse Falls and 11 wild coho and 2 sea-run cutthroat trout at Fall Creek Falls.



N Scappoose (Ron Constable, Assistant Project Leader):

It was a wet, windy, and wild week on N Scappoose Creek. Like most LCM traps we had very high flows this week and N Scappoose Creek was at the flood stage for several days. The high water caused some substantial damage to the trap and ladder. Debris was deposited in many of the steps of the ladder and at least one large log is lodged in the lower section. The safety railing on top of the trap (normally about 6 feet above the surface of N Scappoose) was completely ripped out and may be down in the Columbia by now. The trap box was partially filled with sediment. It is going to take us a few days to dig out of this one. Hopefully our release pen survived, if not I am going to cry.

The hillslope across the highway from our trap site is also beginning to slump into the road. Before the bulk of the rain we did catch four more coho, bringing our total to 28; 15 males, 8 females, and 5 jacks.

Chum Reintroduction (Brian Alfonse, Assistant Project Leader):

Another heavy storm brought substantial rain to the Lower Columbia over the weekend and the early part of this week. Precipitation totals in Astoria were over 6" for Saturday through Tuesday, including over 3" on Monday alone. This rain caused widespread flooding and multiple landslides that blocked major roads in the area. The St. Helens office was officially closed on Wednesday due to these hazardous conditions. All

spawning surveys were called off this week since the streams were inaccessible and not surveyable under these conditions. So, instead our crew was busy assembling our two Remote Site Incubators (RSI's) that are scheduled to be operating by the beginning of January. These RSI's will be placed in Perkins Creek and Stewart Creek to rear outplanted chum eggs from Big Creek hatchery.