

Mid Coast (Chris Lorion, Assistant Project Leader):

This week we waited for streams to become surveyable, getting in as soon as possible as streamflows slowly decreased. Last week was another extremely wet week has the local rivers back above flood stage and our traps shut down. We were able to run the traps for most of the week and squeeze in some surveys. Coho numbers continue to be pretty modest at the traps and on surveys. At Siletz-Mill Creek, we passed 10 adult coho this week to bring the season total to 221 adults tagged at the trap. Fish have been very hard to come by on surveys, but among live fish we've observed 66% have been tagged. We have found a grand total of five coho carcasses so far this season at Siletz-Mill. At Yaquina-Mill Creek, the coho run is winding down quickly and we only had two new adult spawners this week. The first couple of winter steelhead of the season have shown up in the past two weeks, though, including a repeat spawner on her second visit to Mill Creek. At Cascade Creek, we had a heap of cutthroat with a sprinkling of coho this week. Season totals there now stand at 127 adult coho, 58 coho jacks, and 119 cutthroat trout. At the Lobster Creek sites, we were able to get into the spawning surveys for the first time in two weeks and saw a total of about 50 coho spawners on the two forks combined.

North Coast (Derek Wiley, Assistant Project Leader):

EF Trask:

High water forced us to close the EF Trask adult trap from Thursday evening through Sunday morning (12/17-12/20), but we were able to fish the trap for the remainder of the week. Coho continue to trickle into the EF Trask basin, with 16 new fish captured this week and 25 the week before. Five hatchery steelhead and 2 sea-run cutthroat trout were also captured for the week. No OASIS surveys in the EF or SF Trask basins have been conducted since our last update, as flows did not drop enough for safe or effective surveying. However, a promising weather forecast for next week gives us hope that all surveys will finally be back on rotation in a few days. LCM tributary surveys were completed today (12/24), with another new batch of coho moving into two of the three tributaries. The majority of fish were actively spawning. The EF Trask LCM survey below the dam still remains too high to survey, but we should be able to walk this reach by early next week.

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	170	2	2	2	6	2	32	1	78
Males	217	2	3	4	7	10	98	5	
Jacks	36	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	
TOTAL	423	4	5	6	13	12	135	7	78

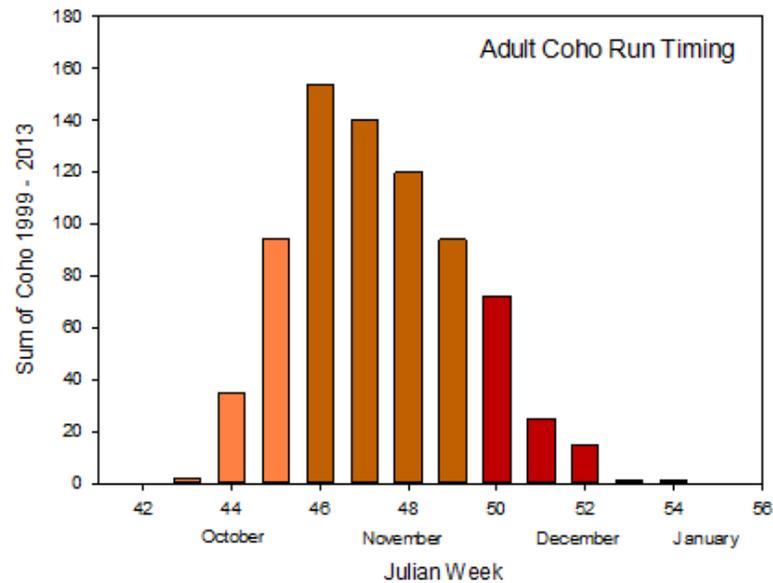
NF Nehalem:

High water forced us to close both adult traps from Thursday evening through Sunday morning (12/17-12/20), but we were able to fish the traps for at least half days for the remainder of the week. Fortunately, this precluded the need for the entire crew to break out their best dance moves. For the week we captured 2 wild coho, 2 wild steelhead, and 32 hatchery steelhead at Waterhouse Falls and 6 wild coho, 1 hatchery steelhead, and 1 sea-run cutthroat trout at Fall Cr Falls. Trap catch indicates we are now quickly transitioning into steelhead season. Only a few surveys in our upper basin were completed this week due to high water, with no fish activity observed. With drier weather predicted for the next week or so, we will be making our way around the basin another time or two to pick up the last of this year's carcasses. Last week there was a small window in which spawning surveys could be conducted and staff scrambled around the basin to survey as many reaches as possible. Very few live coho or Chinook were observed on spawning surveys and only a handful of carcasses were found this week. Not surprisingly, hatchery steelhead were observed spawning in several reaches around the basin.

N Scappoose (Ron Constable, Assistant Project Leader):

In the past two weeks most of our efforts went towards mopping up after high water. Flows have been consistently at or near flood stage in N Scappoose for about 3 weeks. The area has also be subject to lots of wind damage, sending nice, fresh loads of debris into the creek. High flows destroyed a safety railing on the trap and have been depositing debris in the fish ladder. The ladder was cleaned and the railing was replaced (photo), but it still needs a few finishing touches.

We are hoping to see a few more coho, as the return has been very weak this year. Time is running short; we typically don't see coho later than winter solstice (pretty graph). We estimated 1,500 smolts out-migrated in the spring of 2013, so even with poor marine survival we would hope to see 60-70 adults return (Yes, North Coast crew, this is for the entire season and not just a day). So far we have only seen 14 males, 8 females, and 4 jacks. There were reports of coho lower down on N Scappoose last week. Hopefully some of those will make it up to the trap but flows have been so high and fast it is hard to imagine anything swimming upstream.



Chum Reintroduction (Brian Alfonse, Assistant Project Leader):

With the chum salmon run wrapped up for the season our crew has switched its focus to constructing and installing our two remote site incubators (RSI). This week we finished installing the intake pipes and incubation barrels at our Perkins Creek site. Next week we will be installing our Stewart Creek RSI unit.

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

West Fork Smith:

What has been a very wet couple of weeks continues at the time of this writing. Stream levels remained high for much of the last two weeks with the weir being submerged for all but one day. The mainstem survey sites remain high and turbid but the tributaries surveys are being kept in rotation. Surprisingly we are seeing only modest numbers of coho spawners at this time. We have run a preliminary estimate that shows a spawner population of 584 adult coho. Trap efficiency has been holding steady at a respectable 23%. We will wait until flows stabilize in the basin to see what type of return we will have for the year.

Winchester Creek:

Flows have remained too high at the trap site to get the pickets back in place and fishing. We are hoping to get the trap back fishing sometime this weekend. We were able to get into the spawning survey again this week and was surprised/disappointed to see only two adults and one jack. Perhaps this is a year when the adults show up late to the system.