

2016 OUT-MIGRATION REPORT, FAUNTLEROY CREEK

Volunteer monitors Dennis Hinton and Pete Draughon with Steev Ward

SUMMARY

Volunteer monitors documented a total of 19 coho smolts that survived their time in Fauntleroy Creek to migrate out to saltwater habitat in Fauntleroy Cove. All but five of this number were found in the upper trap where flow exits Fauntleroy Park. By casual observation, smolt size appeared to be comparable to past years. Volunteers found 120 release fry that had washed into the upper trap.

Year	Monitoring Period	Live Smolts Upper	Live Smolts Lower	Dead Smolts	Smolts to Salt	Smolt Size Range (mm)	Live Fry Upper	Live Fry Lower	Dead Fry	Eggs to Schools*	Released Fry
2016	3/15 - 5/27	14	5	1	19	---	?	?	?	2,900	1,795
2015	3/27 - 5/31	2	33	0	35	---	100		20	2,700	1,700
2014	3/15 - 5/31	8	11	0	19	---	84	0	1	3,450	2,409
2013	3/15 - 5/31	65	76	12	141	---		534	0	2,800	1,987
2012	3/17 - 6/7	145	85	2	157	90 -105		924	56	3,100	2,615
2011	3/25 - 5/30	147	36	0	36	---		a few	0	2,900	2,027
2010	4/1 - 5/22		24	0	24	110 - 140		81	2	2,500	2,298
2009	4/1 - 5/31		18	1	18	97 -110		1	0		1,936
2008	4/2 - 5/31		17	0	17	100 -135		85	0		1,790
2007	4/7 - 5/19		24	0	24	115 -128		20	0		2,276
2006	4/9 - 5/18		22	1	22	105 -155		121	0		2,033
2005	3/16 - 5/27		10	0	10	100 -135		34	3		1,138
2004	3/3 - 6/10		11	0	11	97 -123		569	3		1,534
2003	4/2 - 6/16		37	0	37			637	84		1,254

*Does not include any eggs left by spawners

METHODOLOGY

The two traps are similar: a wooden box fitted with netting and anchored below a weir such that all water flows through, softly trapping everything headed downstream. One was positioned as the creek flows out of Fauntleroy Park (where schoolchildren release their fry upstream) and the other was positioned just upstream of the fish ladder, about a half block before the creek empties into central Puget Sound. The upper trap was in view of anyone visiting Fenton Glen, at the east end of the Fauntleroy Church parking lot. For the first time, we saw evidence of its being tampered with. Daily checking of the traps quickly revealed the tampering and we made speedy repairs. With state permission, we transported smolts from the upper trap downstream to ensure their safety. We released all smolts to continue their journey and also released fry downstream of where they were caught. To avoid trauma, we did not handle the smolts to get exact measurements.

COMMENTS

The number of smolts this year matched or was similar to totals in three prior years (2008, 2009, 2014) Compared with counts for 2012 and 2013, however, this year's count was disappointing. Unlike prior years when we started seeing smolts right away, [redacted] days passed before our first smolt, suggesting that installation on March 15 was soon enough for an accurate count, even with an early spring.

A fallen tree may have impaired fish passage for about two weeks in mid May, although we don't know to what extent. Also, our juvenile salmon may have been affected by emergency work in November to unblock the culvert at 45th Ave. SW; the crew was to install a temporary barrier to hold fish upstream until the work was completed.

Attachments: Daily records of data