

# 2023 OUT-MIGRATION REPORT, FAUNTLEROY CREEK

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## SUMMARY

Monitors documented 41 coho smolts that survived their year in Fautleroy Creek to migrate to nearshore habitat in Fautleroy Cove in central Puget Sound. Monitoring documented salmonids making use of the entire creek system, including a pond that resulted from partial blockage of the creek culvert under 45th Ave. SW. Smolt size was typical and all appeared healthy. Monitors also documented 238 live fry and 10 dead.

Year	Monitoring Period	Live Smolts Upper	Live Smolts Lower	Live Smolts Other <sup>4</sup>	Dead Smolts	Smolts to Salt	Smolt Size (mm)	Live Fry Upper	Live Fry Lower	Dead Fry
2023	3/15 - 5/25	11	17	13	0	41	Typical	238		10
2022	3/15 - 5/26	2	9		0	11	Typical	407		0
2021	3/17 - 5/22	15	34		1	49	Typical	71	17	0
2020	2/29 - 5/26	22	55		1	77	Typical	87	85	0
2019	3/15 - 5/26	4	18		0	22	Typical	23	5	0
2018	3/10 - 5/31	26	19		0	45	Typical	98	4	0
2017	3/15 - 5/28	18	14		1	32	Typical	237		0
2016	3/10 - 5/27	14	5		1	19	Typical	60	0	20
2015	3/27 - 5/31	2	33		0	35	Typical	100		20
2014	3/15 - 5/31	8	11		0	19	Typical	84	0	1
2013	3/15 - 5/31	65	76		12	141	Typical		534	0
2012	3/17 - 6/7	145	85		2	230 <sup>3</sup>	90 -105		924	56
2011	3/25 - 5/30	147	36		0	183 <sup>3</sup>	---		a few	0
2010	4/1 - 5/22		24		0	24	110 - 140		81	2
2009	4/1 - 5/31		18		1	18	97 -110		1	0
2008	4/2 - 5/31		17		0	17	100 -135		85	0
2007	4/7 - 5/19		24		0	24	115 -128		20	0
2006	4/9 - 5/18		22		1	22	105 -155		121	0
2005	3/16 - 5/27		10		0	10	100 -135		34	3
2004	3/3 - 6/10		11		0	11	97 -123		569	3
2003	4/2 - 6/16		37		0	37			637	84

<sup>1</sup>Does not include eggs left by spawners    <sup>2</sup>Participation reduced by pandemic    <sup>3</sup>Corrected 2018

<sup>4</sup>Includes smolts sighted in tidepool on beach and caught in blockage pond at 45th

## **METHODOLOGY**

Because of deterioration, we built two new traps this year. Both had a frame fitted with netting and were anchored below a weir so all water flowed through, softly trapping everything headed downstream. Netting over each trap protected trapped fish from birds and raccoons.

One trap was located on the mainstem as the creek flows out of Fauntleroy Park and the other was due upstream of the fish ladder, about a half block from the creek mouth. Monitoring began the day traps were installation and continued until 5 days after trapping the last smolt (mid May).

Because we had 254 spawners in the lower creek in fall 2022, the fry caught in our traps during March and April could have been home hatch. Some of those caught after April 27 could have been a mix of home hatch and released fry.

Volunteers checked both traps twice daily. As in past years, we had state permission to transport smolts from the upper trap to below the lower trap to ensure their safe out-migration. We released all smolts and fry to continue their downstream journey. To avoid trauma, we did not handle the smolts to get exact measurements. Monitors documented each day's activity on a central white board, which Phil Sweetland transcribed at the end (attached tables).

## **COMMENTS**

Monitors sighted a smolt in a tidepool on the beach on March 15 and decided to count it. The first entrapment was March 25 (about two weeks earlier than last year) and the last was May 20 - about the same as last year. The heaviest activity was in April (earlier than last year).

Having several monitors again this year spread the load, improved our knowledge base, and increased our capacity to continue this important study.



Date	Smolts							Fry		
	Live				Dead		Total	To Salt	Alive	Dead
	Upper	Lower	45th Culvert	Other	Upper	Lower				
	No.	No.	No	No	0	0				
18-Apr										
19-Apr		1					27	27	1	
20-Apr									5	
21-Apr		1					28	28		
22-Apr										
23-Apr										
24-Apr										
25-Apr		1					29	29	2	
26-Apr	1	1					31	31		
27-Apr	1	1					33	33	2	
28-Apr		1					34	34	2	
29-Apr										
30-Apr									3	1
1-May									1	
2-May		3					37	37	2	
3-May		1					38	38	1	
4-May									4	
5-May									2	
6-May									2	2
7-May		1					39	38	8	
8-May									6	
9-May									11	
10-May									2	
11-May									6	
12-May									7	
13-May									6	
14-May									5	
15-May									8	2
16-May	1						40	40	6	
17-May										
18-May									7	
19-May									11	
20-May		1					41	41	17	
21-May									27	
22-May									4	
23-May									6	
24-May									12	
25-May									32	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>10</b>

# 2023 Smolt Count

Total Smolt Count including dead

