

2024 OUT-MIGRATION REPORT, FAUNTLEROY CREEK

Volunteer Monitors: Dennis Hinton, Tom Trulin, Jesse Todhunter

Dianna Spence, Chaz Hastings, Karen Thomas, Gordon Thomas, Mark Sears

SUMMARY

This year, volunteer monitors documented 30 coho smolts that survived their year in Fauntleroy Creek to migrate to nearshore habitat in Fauntleroy Cove in central Puget Sound. Monitoring documented salmonids exiting both the upper and lower creek. Smolt size was typical and all appeared healthy. Monitors also documented 222 live fry and 7 dead fry.

Year	Monitoring Period	Live Smolts Upper	Live Smolts Lower	Live Smolts Other ²	Dead Smolts	Smolts to Salt	Smolt Size (mm)	Live Fry Upper	Live Fry Lower	Dead Fry
2024	3/18 - 5/15	8	22		0	30	Typical	222		7
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 ¹	90 -105		924	56
2011	3/25 - 5/30	147	36		0	183 ¹	---		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

¹Corrected 2018 ²Includes smolts sighted in tidepool on beach + those caught in pond created by partial culvert blockage at 45th

METHODOLOGY

Eagle Scout candidate Ben Vornbrock took the lead in designing, building, installing, and removing new traps to capture all smolts leaving this small urban creek. His crew of fellow Scouts (Troop 284) and family members assisted with installation.

They positioned the upper trap in the mainstem so that all flow from Fauntleroy Park passed through it. They positioned the lower trap due upstream of the fish ladder (about a half block from the creek mouth) so that all flow from middle and lower reaches went through it. After verifying that traps were working properly, official monitoring began on March 18 and continued until May 15 - two weeks after seeing the last smolt.

Because we had 34 spawners in the lower creek in fall 2023, fry caught in our lower trap before the first school release (March 29) were likely home hatch from that spawning. Fry caught at both locations after the first release could have been a mix of home hatch and school fry.

Volunteers checked both traps twice daily and made additional visits on rainy days to clear the traps of debris. Monitors released all smolts and fry to continue downstream. As in past years, we took advantage of state permission to transport smolts from the upper trap to below the lower trap to spare them having to transit an increasingly derelict culvert. Also 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 volunteer Phil Sweetland transcribed after the study (attached tables).

COMMENTS

This study introduced new volunteers to salmon research, improved our knowledge base, and increased our capacity to continue this important study.

Our well-designed and well-built traps were easy for all volunteers to check and should serve us for many years.

2024 OUT-MIGRATION DETAIL

Date	Smolt						Total	To Salt	Chaz	Den	Dianna	Jesse	Karen	Tom
	Live				Dead									
	Upper		Lower		Upper	Lower								
	No.	Sum	No.	Sum	0	0								
18-Mar	1	1		0			1	1						7:50 AM
19-Mar		1		0			1	1						
20-Mar	1	2	1	1			3	3						8:25 AM
21-Mar		2		1			3	3						
22-Mar		2		1			3	3						
23-Mar		2		1			3	3						
24-Mar	1	3		1			4	4						8:50 AM
25-Mar		3	1	2			5	5		4:10 PM				
26-Mar	1	4		2			6	6		4:00 PM				
27-Mar	1	5		2			7	7					12:30 PM	
28-Mar		5		2			7	7						
29-Mar		5		2			7	7						
30-Mar		5	1	3			8	8			5:19 PM			
31-Mar	1	6		3			9	9						8:30 AM
1-Apr		6	1	4			10	10						8:20 AM
2-Apr		6		4			10	10						
3-Apr		6		4			10	10						
4-Apr	1	7		4			11	11				8:15 AM		
5-Apr		7		4			11	11						
6-Apr		7		4			11	11						
7-Apr		7		4			11	11						
8-Apr		7		4			11	11						
9-Apr		7		4			11	11						
10-Apr		7	1	5			12	12		4:00 AM				
11-Apr		7	1	6			13	13		4:00 PM				
12-Apr		7		6			13	13						
13-Apr		7		6			13	13						
14-Apr		7		6			13	13						
15-Apr		7	1	7			14	14						8:15 AM
16-Apr		7	1	8			15	15		4:40 PM				
17-Apr		7	1	9			16	16						3:30 PM
18-Apr		7		9			16	16						
19-Apr		7	1	10			17	17						3:40 PM
20-Apr		7	3	13			20	20		8:20 AM				
21-Apr		7	2	15			22	22						8:30 AM
22-Apr		7		15			22	22						
23-Apr		7		15			22	22						
24-Apr		7		15			22	22						
25-Apr		7	1	16			23	23	0.6875					
26-Apr	1	8	3	19			27	27		4:00 PM		9:00 AM		
27-Apr		8		19			27	27						
28-Apr		8	1	20			28	28						8:30 AM
29-Apr		8		20			28	28						
30-Apr		8	2	22			30	30		3:30 PM		9:15 AM		
1-May		8		22			30	30						
2-May		8		22			30	30						
3-May		8		22			30	30						
4-May		8		22			30	30						
5-May		8		22			30	30						
6-May		8		22			30	30						
7-May		8		22			30	30						
8-May		8		22			30	30						
9-May		8		22			30	30						
10-May		8		22			30	30						
11-May		8		22			30	30						
12-May		8		22			30	30						
13-May		8		22			30	30						
14-May		8		22			30	30						
15-May		8		22			30	30						

Installed upper 3/13/2024 Scout Troop 284
Pulled 5/15/2024

Fry - Alive 222
Fry - Dead 7

2024 SMOLT COUNT BY DAY

	0	1	2	3
18-Mar				
19-Mar				
20-Mar				
21-Mar				
22-Mar				
23-Mar				
24-Mar				
25-Mar				
26-Mar				
27-Mar				
28-Mar				
29-Mar				
30-Mar				
31-Mar				
1-Apr				
2-Apr				
3-Apr				
4-Apr				
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15-May				