

2009 OUT-MIGRATION REPORT

Fauntleroy Creek

Steev Ward with Dennis Hinton and Jack Lawless, volunteer monitors

SUMMARY

We documented a total of 18 live coho smolts in the trap this year, below average for the six years of this study. The range of total body length was typical. The number of fry in the trap was way down from last year. The fact that we caught one before any were released suggested that "Hillary," the one spawner spotted last fall, succeeded in finding a mate.

Year	Monitoring Period	Live Smolts	Smolt Size Range	Dead Smolts	Live Fry	Dead Fry	Released Fry
2009	4/1 to 5/31	18	97 mm - 110 mm	1	1	0	1,936
2008	4/2 to 5/31	17	100 mm - 135 mm	0	85	0	1,790
2007	4/7 to 5/19	24	115 mm - 128 mm	0	20	0	2,276
2006	4/9 to 5/18	22	105 mm - 155 mm	1	121	0	2,033
2005	3/16 to 5/27	10	100 mm - 135 mm	0	34	3	1,138
2004	3/3 to 6/10	11	97 mm - 123 mm	0	569	3	1,534
2003	4/2 to 6/16	37	(used different method)	0	637	84	1,254

We did not find any other aquatic species in the trap. The one dead smolt had been chewed on; this predation could have happened upstream of the trap.

METHODOLOGY

Our trap is a wooden box fitted with netting. When anchored with rebar below a weir due upstream of the fish ladder, it softly traps everything flowing over the weir, from leafy debris to fish. We checked it almost daily during the monitoring period. We released all fish - including the fry - to continue their journey downstream. Measurements are standardized to total length: body including tail fin.

OBSERVATIONS

We started catching smolts as soon as we put in the trap. Thus, we could have missed ones that left the creek before April 1.

DAILY DATA

Date	# Smolts	Size	# Fry
4/1	1 in the ladder		
4/13	1		
4/15	3	105 mm 110 mm 115 mm	1
4/17	2	110 mm 110 mm	
4/19	1		

Date	# Smolts	Size	# Fry
4/21	4		
4/22	1	97 mm	
4/24	1	105 mm	
4/26	3	105 mm 110 mm 110 mm	
4/29	1	dead	
5/5	Trap overflowed from heavy rain and debris.		

RELEASES

As shown in the following table, no releases occurred before late April, when fry appear big enough to have a chance to survive in the wild. Tank upgrades (especially larger filters) funded by the Fauntleroy Watershed Council greatly reduced problems reported by teachers. Our volunteers assisted West Seattle and Roxhill schools, plus the Fauntleroy Children's Center, over difficulties.

Volunteer Jack Lawless again raised fry for groups that did not bring their own. Two preschool groups and White Center Heights Elementary took advantage of this service, for a total of five releases.

DATE	SCHOOL	# KIDS	# FRY
4/24	Alki	55	192
4/24	Fauntleroy Children's Center	20	200
4/30	Little Pilgrim	29	55
5/1	Meet-up group	15	35
5/7	West Seattle	28	150
5/7	KapKa	38	136
5/8	Gatewood	50	216
5/11	Arbor Heights	48	70
5/12	Roxhill	50	65
5/14	Cooper	45	157
5/15	White Center Heights	27	65
5/22	White Center Heights	35	100
5/28	Sanislo	48	180
Rest of Jack's fish			245
TOTALS		488	1,936