

2006 OUT-MIGRATION REPORT

Fauntleroy Creek

Tom Linde, principal volunteer monitor

SUMMARY

The creek produced 22 live coho smolts this year, the highest number in three years. For the third year, total body length was slightly larger than the prior year, especially on the high end of the range.

Year	Monitoring Period	Live Smolts	Smolt Size Range	Dead Smolts	Live Fry	Dead Fry	Released Fry
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 observed only a few "home hatch" coho fry from the nine redds marked during last fall's spawning. Their number could have been severely diminished by torrential winter rains, with accompanying exceptional scour of the streambed.

We did not find any cutthroat trout or other species in the trap.

METHODOLOGY

Our trap is a wooden box fitted with netting. When anchored with rebar below a weir in 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 live fry - to continue their journey downstream. Measurements are standardized to total length: body including tail fin.

OUTWARD-BOUND JUVENILES

All fry found in the trap this year were live. They represented only 7 percent of fish released this spring. Although we observed some fry being released too soon, given their small size, we did not find any direct correlation between release dates and fry washed into the trap.

Three factors might have contributed to having few fry washed downstream to the trap:

- Pools and protection created by large woody debris now installed throughout the creek system, from Fauntleroy Park to the fish ladder.
- Early die-off reported by several Salmon in the Classroom schools, which gave surviving fish more room to grow in their tank.
- More teacher confidence, aided by volunteer technical assistance, that they could hold fish long enough to have a chance to survive in the wild.

CONCERN

We were not successful in installing a viable smolt trap upstream to gauge the number and size of smolts coming out of Fauntleroy Park. We will try again next year to direct all flow through a trap that is accessible to monitors and hidden enough not to invite vandalism.

Also, the apparent discovery of the smolt trap by river otter is a concern, which we will have to address in trap design.

2006 SMOLT TRAP DATA

Date	Weather	Live Smolt	Dead Smolt	Live Fry	Dead Fry	Released Fry	Comments
4/9/2006	Moderate	2				325	2 healthy smolt 105 & 110 mm. Release was actually 3/27, prior to installation of trap.
4/10/2006	Moderate	1		2		578	110mm smolt. Fry 40mm & 47mm h2t. Releases by Sanislo, Cooper, Alki on 4/5-4/7
4/11/2006							
4/12/2006	Moderate	1		4			standard smolt & small fry
4/13/2006							
4/14/2006							
4/15/2006	Stormy	2		2			125mm & 130mm
4/16/2006	Moderate	3		2			115mm, 130mm, 140mm. Fry 45mm, 52mm
4/17/2006							
4/18/2006	Moderate	1		13			140mm. Fry various 30-50mm
4/19/2006			1				
4/20/2006							
4/21/2006	Moderate	2		6			120mm & 140mm . Fry various standard
4/22/2006							
4/23/2006				8			
4/24/2006	Moderate	1		7		30	130mm. Release Alki Preschool
4/25/2006						150	KapKa release
4/26/2006				4		50	Montessori release
4/27/2006	Moderate	3		2			140mm, 155mm, 125mm
4/28/2006						150	Fairmont Park release
4/29/2006				4			
4/30/2006	Warm	2		6			135mm, 155mm
5/1/2006				8			
5/2/2006	Moderate	2		4			140mm, 150mm
5/3/2006				5			
5/4/2006							
5/5/2006	Warm	1		5		100	Gatewood release; students report 2 river otters in culvert/ladder.
5/6/2006				8			Noticed some indications that river otters had been at the trap.
5/7/2006							
5/8/2006	Moderate	1		6		100	Roxhill release
5/9/2006							
5/10/2006				9		50	Guadalupe release
5/11/2006							
5/12/2006				11		100	Arbor Heights release
5/13/2006				5			
5/14/2006							
5/15/2006				3			
5/16/2006				5			
5/17/2006				9			
5/18/2006							Trap noticeably moved but still in place.
Later						400	Denny and J. Lawless releases
Totals		22	1	121	0	2,033	

All releases were in Fautleroy Park.