

2008 OUT-MIGRATION REPORT

Fautleroy Creek

Steev Ward and Jack Lawless, volunteer monitors

SUMMARY

We documented a total of 17 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 up from last year but near average for years when we did not have mass numbers leaving the creek prematurely.

Year	Monitoring Period	Live Smolts	Smolt Size Range	Dead Smolts	Live Fry	Dead Fry	Released Fry
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. Neither did we see any evidence of predation at the trap.

Despite a scouring rain within weeks of spawning, we had a home hatch of perhaps a few dozen fry; we did not do a thorough survey.

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 live fry - to continue their journey downstream. Measurements are standardized to total length: body including tail fin.

OBSERVATIONS

Two experienced observers reported a first for this study: a school of seven smolts just above the trap on April 26. Heretofore, we were not aware of smolts schooling; because they land one or two at a time in the trap, we had assumed a solo habit.

Shortly after that sighting, the trap overflowed because of built-up debris in the net (we subsequently extended the walls of the trap to prevent another such occurrence). We recorded a total of three smolts in the trap after this episode. If those smolts were part of the school, that leaves four that may have overflowed the trap. Those four would bring our total smolts to 21 for the study period.

Also, we started catching smolts as soon as we put in the trap. Thus, we could have missed ones that left the creek before April 2.

DAILY DATA

Date	# Smolts	Size	# Fry	Size
4/2	2	135mm 120mm	9	44-45mm
4/3	3	100mm 110mm 115mm	5	
4/5	1	110mm	13	40-47mm
4/6	1			
4/10	0			
4/11	0			
4/12	1	135mm		
4/13	0		3	
4/17	1			
4/19	3			
4/26	2			

Date	# Smolts	Size	# Fry	Size
4/27	0			
4/28	2			
5/5	1	105mm		
5/9	0		2	
5/11	0		3	to 50mm
5/15	0		12	to 52mm
5/17	0			
5/18	1	58mm		
5/21	0		4	to 58mm
5/24	0			
5/25	0		9	to 62mm
5/28	0		11	to 65mm
5/30	0		5	to 70mm
5/31	0		8	to 70mm

RELEASES

As shown in the following table, only two schools released before late April, when fry appear big enough to have a chance to survive in the wild. Our volunteers assisted Schmitz Park, Cooper, and Arbor Heights with their tanks in an effort to keep their fish alive. The first two released early because of continued die-off; the latter had relatively few fish to release.

Volunteer Jack Lawless again raised fry for groups that did not bring their own. Two preschool groups and the Cub Scouts took advantage of this service, as did international students from a program at Antioch University.

Date	Group	# Fry	# Students
4/11	Schmitz Park Elementary	125	50
4/11	Cooper Elementary	180	35
4/24	Little Pilgrim preschool	100	29
4/25	Preschool meet-up group	60	15
4/25	Fauntleroy Children's Center	180	19
4/30	KapKa Cooperative Primary	185	37
5/1	Gatewood Elementary	200	40
5/13	Antioch University	30	5
5/8	West Seattle Elementary	120	45
5/9	Arbor Heights Elementary 1	65	53
5/9	Roxhill Elementary	225	15
5/16	Alki Elementary	80	28
5/16	Arbor Heights Elementary 2	10	50
5/28	Cub Scouts	50	23
	Jack Lawless	180	---
	Total	1,790	444