

Spring 2008 Oregon Chub Sampling Summary

We recently completed our spring Oregon chub surveys. Our primary goal was to obtain abundance estimates for naturally occurring and introduced chub populations in the Santiam, Mid-Willamette, McKenzie, Middle Fork Willamette, and Coast Fork Willamette drainages. Population estimates were obtained at 23 locations in the Santiam, Mid-Willamette, McKenzie and Middle Fork Willamette drainages. High river levels from a record snow pack hindered sampling efforts in the Coast Fork Willamette and consequently no population estimates were obtained in this drainage. Population estimates will be obtained for the remainder of the sites (n=8) in September 2008. A U.S. Forest Service (USFS) crew obtained population estimates at three of the sites in the Middle Fork Willamette drainage that are located on USFS properties (Wicopee Pond, Buckhead Creek, and Shady Dell Pond).

The majority of the populations sampled (11 of 23) showed no significant change in abundance from 2007 to 2008, including one site in the Santiam drainage (Santiam Gray Slough), one site in the Mid-Willamette drainage (Gray Creek Swamp), two sites in the McKenzie drainage (Shetzline Pond, Big Island), and seven sites the Middle Fork Willamette drainage (Buckhead Creek, Elijah Bristow Berry, Elijah Bristow Northeast Slough, East Fork Minnow Creek Pond, Fall Creek Spillway Pond, Haws Pond, Shady Dell Pond). Significant increases in Oregon chub abundance were noted at seven locations including two sites in the Santiam drainage (Foster Pullout Pond, South Stayton Pond), three sites in the Mid-Willamette drainage (Ankeny Willow Marsh, Finley Cheadle Pond, and Finley Display Pond), and two sites in the Middle Fork Willamette drainage (Hospital Pond, Wicopee Pond). Six of these seven increasing populations are introduced populations. Significant declines in Oregon chub abundance were noted at four locations including two sites in the Santiam drainage (Geren Island, Santiam Public Works Pond), one site in the McKenzie drainage (Russell Pond), and one site in the Middle Fork Willamette drainage (Dexter Alcove "The Pit"). See table on following page for details.

Additional findings and activities:

- In addition to the population estimates, the continued presence of small populations of Oregon chub was confirmed at two locations. Two fish were collected at Jasper Slough in the Middle Fork Willamette basin and eight fish were collected at Green's Bridge in the Santiam basin.
- Seventy-five chub were collected for aging in April 2008 from Hospital Pond (as a part of the ongoing ODFW / US Army Corps studies). Recording temperature monitors were deployed at various locations throughout this pond.
- Oregon chub were observed for the first time at one of the Buckhead Creek Enhancement Ponds. This pond had been sampled annually and fish presence had never been detected. Oregon chub likely colonized the pond during high water events in the spring of 2008.
- Twenty-one chub were introduced into St. Paul Ponds from the Big Island population.
- The introduction of fish from Coast Fork Willamette sites to Sprick Pond, which was scheduled for May, was delayed until fall because of high water.
- ODFW was contacted by several private landowners in the Calapooia and McKenzie River drainages after they read a front page newspaper article about Oregon chub in the Eugene area newspaper "The Register Guard." Three sites were visited and sampled to determine whether they would be suitable candidates for the introduction of chub. One site in the McKenzie basin looks particularly promising.

2008 Oregon Chub Population Estimates and Presence/Absence Sampling

Numbers in bold represent the number of fish captured; no population estimate was obtained.

Population Estimates:		Oregon Chub								
Location	Subbasin	2008 Estimate	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	Non-native Fish	2007 Estimate	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI		
Big Island	McKenzie	200	133	298	No	192	139	265		
Russell Pond	McKenzie	651	483	876	No	1,397	1,003	1,940		
Shetzline Pond	McKenzie	130	70	232	No	207	139	307		
Buckhead Creek	M.F. Willamette	1,258	885	1,781	No	2,026	1,510	2,770		
Dexter Alcove "PIT"	M.F. Willamette	684	583	803	No*	1,132	960	1,335		
E. Bristow Berry Slough	M.F. Willamette	5,459	4,606	6,468	No	6,582	5,621	7,706		
E. Bristow Northeast Slough	M.F. Willamette	230	133	386	No*	348	219	545		
E.F. Minnow Pond	M.F. Willamette	2,156	1,805	2,576	No	1,769	1,329	2,350		
Fall Creek Spillway Ponds	M.F. Willamette	3,052	2,784	3,346	No	2,742	2,433	3,091		
Haws Pond	M.F. Willamette	277	203	376	No	382	138	752		
Hospital Pond	M.F. Willamette	3,682	2,970	4,563	No	1,524	1,114	2,080		
Shady Dell Pond	M.F. Willamette	7,249	5,910	8,887	No	7,253	6,270	8,389		
Wicopee Pond	M.F. Willamette	5,431	4,275	6,894	No	3,130	2,585	3,788		
Ankeny Willow Marsh	Mid Willamette	36,455	34,337	38,703	No	26,418	22,548	30,947		
Cheadle Pond	Mid Willamette	3,519	2,831	4,372	No	1,736	1,509	1,998		
Display Pond	Mid Willamette	832	700	988	No	227	186	278		
Gray Creek Swamp	Mid Willamette	2,141	1,673	2,738	Yes	1,399	1,118	1,751		
Foster Pullout Pond	Santiam	2,636	2,393	2,903	No	981	862	1,116		
Geren Island North Channel	Santiam	207	117	354	Yes	512	360	725		
Pioneer Park Slough	Santiam	317	175	554	No*	418	275	630		
S. Stayton Pond	Santiam	1,705	1,472	1,973	No	562	411	767		
Santiam Gray Slough	Santiam	655	325	1,229	Yes	560	300	1,000		
Santiam Public Works Pond	Santiam	68	35	124	Yes	266	201	351		

Presence / Absence:		Number of chub		Non-native Fish	Comments
Location		2008	2007		
Busek Ponds	Calapooia	0	-	Yes	Potential introduction site
Barnhard Slough	M.F. Willamette	0	4	No	
East Ferrin Pond	M.F. Willamette	0	0	Yes	
Jasper Slough	M.F. Willamette	1	1	No*	
Oakridge Slough	M.F. Willamette	0	0	No	
Wallace Slough	M.F. Willamette	0	0	No*	
Ellison Pond	McKenzie	0	-	No	Potential introduction site
Johnson Pond	McKenzie	0	-	Yes	Potential introduction site
Shetzline Enhancement Pond	McKenzie	0	0	No	
Bull Run Creek	Mid Willamette	0	0	No*	
Green's Bridge	Santiam	8	1	Yes	

* Non-native fish were observed during prior sampling

Other:

On 4/21/08 75 chub from Hospital Pond were collected for aging.

On 4/23/08 21 chub were moved to from Big Island to St. Paul Ponds.