

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Spring 2022 Root River Weir Summary

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The Root River Steelhead Facility (RRSF) was in operation for six processing dates during the spring 2022 migration, and we captured 1,638 steelhead between March 14 and April 25. Our biological sampling goals were met, and fish health inspections were conducted. This spring's return of 1,638 steelhead was the highest spring return seen at RRSF since 2000.

The number of fish captured at RRSF is a subset of the 2022 steelhead run in the Root River. We do not stop every fish in the river, as they can move upstream past the facility before it is operational in early spring. Some fish can bypass the facility during the sampling season when the river is at high flows. Therefore, any comparison to past years' processing numbers will not provide a meaningful measure of the overall return of steelhead back to the Root River.

The spring 2022 RRSF steelhead effort is summarized below.

CAPTURED	SPAWNED	EGGS TAKEN	PASSED UPSTREAM
1,638	1,314 total (549 Chambers, 468 Ganaraska and 297 Unspecified)	1,089,187 Chambers 980,974 Ganaraska 770,939 Unspecified	1,408

The unspecified strain of steelhead will be stocked into rivers other than other brood rivers (the Root River and the Kewaunee River).

Throughout the spring season, steelhead were sampled as part of an ongoing multi-agency, lake-wide study on natural reproduction and movement. Stocked steelhead have been implanted with small, coded wire tags prior to release, and tags were recovered from 219 fish at RRSF. Analysis of the tags will provide fish managers with more information on movement patterns of steelhead in the lake, growth rates and the occurrence of "straying," when a mature fish returns to a stream other than the one where it was originally stocked.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) would like to acknowledge the support of Salmon Unlimited in keeping the Root River Steelhead Facility operational. Special thanks also go to the volunteers from Salmon Unlimited for the daily opening and closing of the facility's viewing window.

For additional Lake Michigan fisheries information, please visit our website:
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lakemichigan>

For fishing information, please visit
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lakemichigan/OutdoorReport.html>

We plan to resume operations at the weir in the fall.