

# WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## Spring 2021 Root River Weir Summary

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The Root River Steelhead Facility (RRSF) was in operation for five processing dates during the spring 2021 migration, and we captured 596 steelhead between March 22 and April 19. Our biological sampling goals were met, and fish health inspections were conducted.

The number of fish captured at RRSF is a subset of the 2021 steelhead run in the Root River. We do not stop every fish in the river, as they are able to move upstream past the facility before it is operational in early spring, and some fish are able to bypass the facility during the sampling season when the river is at high flows. Therefore, any comparison to past year's processing numbers will not provide a meaningful measure of the overall return of steelhead back to the Root River. In 2021, high flows on the Root River for much of the early spring as a result of snow melt and heavy rain delayed start up of the facility, and it is probable that steelhead were moving upstream before the facility was running.

The spring 2021 RRSF steelhead effort is summarized below.

CAPTURED	SPAWNED	EGGS TAKEN	PASSED UPSTREAM
596	236 total (111 Chambers, 120 Ganaraska and 5 Unspecified)	209,783 Chambers 223,961 Ganaraska 9,723 Unspecified	429

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 167 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.

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 in compliance with all current health and safety guidelines.