



Spring 2018 Root River Weir Summary

The Root River Steelhead Facility (RRSF) was in operation for five processing dates during the spring 2018 migration, and we captured 1,046 steelhead between March 19th and April 16th. The 2018 steelhead return was the 5th highest since the spring of 2000 and was approximately 34% above the 10 year average return. 2018 marked the ninth highest return in 24 years of processing steelhead at RRSF.

The number of fish captured at RRSF is a subset of the 2018 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 conjunction with the Besadny Anadromous Fisheries Facility in Kewaunee, we met our egg collection quotas for Chambers Creek and Ganaraska strains of steelhead. Our biological sampling goals were fulfilled, and fish health sampling was conducted for both strains. Fish sacrificed for health checks were donated to the Racine County Food Bank for local distribution.

The spring 2018 RRSF steelhead effort is summarized below.

Captured	Spawned	Eggs Taken	Passed Upstream
1,052	519 total (313 Chambers and 206 Ganaraska)	648,000 Chambers 622,000 Ganaraska	990

Wisconsin 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 daily opening and closing of the viewing window at the facility.

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 will resume operations at the weir in the fall.

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