



## Spring 2019 Root River Weir Summary

The Root River Steelhead Facility (RRSF) was in operation for five processing dates during the spring 2019 migration, and we captured 742 steelhead between March 25<sup>th</sup> and April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Although the 2019 steelhead return was lower than the previous year, it falls within 1% of the 10-year average return.

The number of fish captured at RRSF is a subset of the 2019 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 2019, high flows on the Root River for much of the early spring as a result of heavy rain delayed the start up of the facility, and it is probable that steelhead were moving upstream before the facility was running.

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 2019 RRSF steelhead effort is summarized below.

Captured	Spawned	Eggs Taken	Passed Upstream
742	445 total (243 Chambers and 202 Ganaraska)	632,758 Chambers 559,925 Ganaraska	651

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/lakemichigan/OutdoorReport.html>

We will resume operations at the weir in the fall.

Prepared by: Laura Schmidt, Fisheries Biologist, WDNR Lake Michigan Fisheries, Milwaukee