



Spring 2012 Root River Weir Summary

The Root River Steelhead Facility (RRSF) was in operation for three processing dates during the spring 2012 migration. We captured and processed 232 steelhead between March 12 and April 2. This was the lowest spring return to RRSF since the facility opened in the fall of 1994.

The number of fish captured at RRSF is a small subset of the 2012 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. Fish sacrificed for health checks were donated to the Racine County Food Bank for local distribution.

The Spring 2012 RRSF steelhead effort is summarized below.

Captured	Spawned	Eggs Taken	Passed Upstream
232	156 total (66 Chambers and 90 Ganaraska)	187,000 Chambers 177,000 Ganaraska	113

Wisconsin DNR would like to acknowledge the support of Salmon Unlimited in keeping the Root River Steelhead Facility operational. Special thanks also go out to Paul Lohman for daily opening and closing of the viewing window at the facility.

For additional Lake Michigan fisheries information, please visit our website: dnr.wi.gov/fish/lakemich
For fishing information, please call our 24-hour hotline at (414) 382-7920.

We will resume operations at the weir in the fall.

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