

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Fall 2023 Root River Weir Summary

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The Root River Steelhead Facility in Racine County was in operation for thirteen processing days during the fall 2023 migration. Between Sept. 25 and Nov. 13, 4,450 fish were captured and processed. Biological sampling goals were met, and fish health inspections were conducted on coho salmon. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR)'s fall 2023 Root River effort is summarized below.

	CAPTURED	SPAWNED	EGGS TAKEN	PASSED UPSTREAM
Chinook Salmon	2,409	0	0	2,342
Coho Salmon	2,010	611	492,542	1,939
Steelhead	17	0	0	9
Brown Trout	13	0	0	13
Pink Salmon	1	0	0	1
Totals	4,450	611	492,542	4,304

Steelhead were sampled throughout the fall season as part of an ongoing multi-agency, lake-wide study on natural reproduction and movement. Stocked steelhead were implanted with small coded wire tags before release, and tags were recovered from eight fish at the Root River Steelhead Facility. Analysis of the tags will provide fish managers with more information on the movement patterns of steelhead, growth rates and the occurrence of "straying," which is when a mature fish returns to a different stream than the one it was originally stocked in.

The Root River Open House was held on Saturday, Oct. 14. Despite rainy weather, 382 people attended. DNR Fisheries staff gave tours of the facility and conducted fish processing and spawning demonstrations. Volunteers from Salmon Unlimited of Wisconsin welcomed visitors and displayed a Lake Michigan fishing boat. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided activities for kids, and the Root River Council was there to promote the Root River and their work. Thank you to all who participated and helped make the day a success!

The DNR would like to acknowledge the support of Salmon Unlimited in keeping the Root River Steelhead Facility operational. In addition, a special thank you to the volunteers for the daily opening and closing of the viewing window at the facility.

Operations at the weir will resume in spring 2024.

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

For fishing information, please visit
dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lakemichigan/OutdoorReport.