



## Fall 2013 Root River Weir Summary

The Root River Steelhead Facility (RRSF) was in operation for 12 processing days during the Fall 2013 fish migration. We were able to capture and process 3,788 fish between September 16 and November 4. Due to extremely low flows in the Root River, the facility was run sporadically until September 30 and was actively capturing fish for a total of 46 days during the fall season. Our egg-take and biological sampling goals were met, and coho health inspections were conducted. The Fall 2013 Root River effort is summarized below.

	Captured	Spawned	Eggs taken	Passed Upstream
Chinook	1,948	0	0	1,070
Coho	1,666	538	583,000*	1,281
Rainbow	7	0	0	7
Brown	167	0	0	166
Totals	3,788	538	583,000	2,524

\*Additional coho eggs were obtained at the Besadny Anadromous Fish Facility in Kewaunee to meet our quota.

The number of fish captured at RRSF is a subset of the Fall 2013 migration in the Root River. Low flows in the river all season hampered the Chinook return to the facility. Late in the season some much needed rain fell, allowing for a strong coho return. Our egg collection goals were met relatively early in November, therefore when we shut down for the season, there were still significant numbers of coho in the river downstream of the facility.

Throughout the fall season, Chinooks were sampled as part of an ongoing multi-agency, lakewide study on natural reproduction. Stocked Chinooks were implanted with small coded wire tags prior to release, and tags were recovered from 486 fish at RRSF. Analysis of the tags will provide fish managers with more information on movement patterns of Chinooks 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.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Open House was held at RRSF on Saturday, October 12, and despite storms in the afternoon, 775 people attended the event. DNR staff gave tours of the facility and led discussions on aquatic invasive species and boating safety. Volunteers from Salmon Unlimited of Wisconsin served as greeters to welcome visitors, demonstrated salmon cooking techniques, displayed a Lake Michigan fishing boat, and instructed kids on how to cast a fishing rod and tie fishing knots. Additional volunteers from Southeast Wisconsin and Gary Berger Chapters of Trout Unlimited and the Kenosha Sportfishing and Conservation Association demonstrated fly tying and fly casting. Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust and Root-Pike WIN provided a booth with information on water quality. Thank you to all those who participated and helped make the day a success!

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 the volunteers for opening and closing the viewing window at the facility each day during the season.

We will resume operations at the weir in the spring. For the latest Lake Michigan sport and commercial fishing information, please visit our website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lakemichigan>.

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