



## Fall 2014 Root River Weir Summary

The Root River Steelhead Facility (RRSF) was in operation for 12 processing days during the Fall 2014 fish migration. We were able to capture and process 3,814 fish between September 15 and November 3. Our egg-take and biological sampling goals were met, and coho health inspections were conducted. The Fall 2014 Root River effort is summarized below.

	Captured	Spawned	Eggs taken	Passed Upstream
Chinook	2,223	0	0	1,646
Coho	1,388	1,127	1,131,108	1,295
Rainbow	11	0	0	11
Brown	192	0	0	174
Totals	3,814	1,127	1,131,108	3,126

The number of fish captured at RRSF is a subset of the Fall 2014 migration in the Root River. With a later fall processing season Chinooks are able to migrate upriver past the facility before we start capturing fish, resulting in lower numbers handled at the facility. Therefore, any comparison to past year's processing numbers will not provide a meaningful measure of the overall return of salmonids back to the Root River.

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 527 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 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Open House was held at RRSF on Saturday, October 11, and approximately 800 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, provided food, 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 demonstrated fly tying and fly casting. 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 Bob Weidman and Mike Hanke 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>.

Prepared by: Cheryl Masterson, WDNR Southern Lake Michigan Fisheries Work Unit, Milwaukee