



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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To: All Interested Groups/DNR Staff

From: Cheryl Peterson – WDNR Lake Michigan Work Unit, Milwaukee

Subject: Spring 2009 Root River Weir Summary

The Root River Steelhead Facility (RRSF) was in operation for 4 processing dates during the spring 2009 migration. We were able to capture and process 1,024 steelhead between March 23 and April 15. This was the strongest steelhead return to RRSF since 2004.

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 2009 RRSF steelhead effort is summarized below.

Captured	Spawned	Eggs Taken	Passed Upstream
1,024	474 total (192 Chambers and 282 Ganaraska)	323,520 Chambers 513,808 Ganaraska	902

Due to the constraints placed on the hatchery systems by Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS), the Skamania contribution to the Lake Michigan steelhead program has been halted. There will be no stocking of this strain beyond 2008 unless we can find another source of Skamania eggs. The overall lakewide steelhead quotas will be made up of additional Chambers Creek and Ganaraska strains. We continue to ask for your cooperation and vigilance, especially in the area of boat, trailer and gear disinfection and bait transport issues as you travel from Lake Michigan to inland waters.

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 Mary Lee Hetland and Craig Bender for opening and closing 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.