



Spring 2016 Root River Weir Summary

The Root River Steelhead Facility (RRSF) was in operation for five processing dates during the spring 2016 migration, and we captured 1,353 steelhead between March 16 and April 7. The 2016 steelhead return was the highest since the spring of 2000 and was more than double the 10 year average return. 2016 marked the sixth highest return in 22 years of processing steelhead at RRSF.

The number of fish captured at RRSF is a subset of the 2016 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 for both strains. Fish sacrificed for health checks were donated to the Racine County Food Bank for local distribution.

The spring 2016 RRSF steelhead effort is summarized below.

Captured	Spawned	Eggs Taken	Passed Upstream
1,353	971 total (444 Chambers and 527 Ganaraska)	873,984 Chambers 1,044,418 Ganaraska	1,293

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 from Salmon Unlimited for daily opening and closing of the viewing window at the facility.

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

For fishing information, please visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lakemichigan/OutdoorReport.html>

We will resume operations at the weir in the fall.

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