



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Fall 2010 Root River Weir Summary

The Root River Steelhead Facility (RRSF) was in operation for 8 processing dates during the Fall 2010 fish migration. We were able to capture and process 3,334 fish between September 30 and November 16. Stream flows were extremely low for most of the operating season, which likely reduced the return of fish to the facility. However, our egg-take and biological sampling goals were met, and fish health inspections were conducted. The Fall 2010 Root River effort is summarized below.

	Captured	Spawnd	Eggs taken	Passed Upstream
Chinook	1,508	0	0	1,067
Coho	1,682	756	890,000*	1,355
Rainbow	65	0	0	65
Brown	79	0	0	78
Totals	3,334	756	890,000	2,565

*An additional 531,000 coho eggs were obtained at the Kewaunee facility for a total of 1.42 million.

Historically, RRSF began operating in late summer when the Skamania strain of steelhead appeared in the river. Skamania brood stock were collected at the weir and overwintered at the Kettle Moraine Springs Hatchery until they were ready to spawn the following January/February. Since current disease protocol prohibits the transfer of live adult fish from the weir to the hatcheries, we no longer collect Skamania at RRSF. Therefore, we only need to run the facility when coho start to show up in significant numbers, usually in October. With a later fall processing season, chinooks and steelhead are able to migrate upriver past the facility before we start capturing fish, resulting in lower numbers handled at the facility.

The 2nd Annual Open House was held at RRSF on Saturday, October 9, and over 900 people attended the event. DNR staff gave tours of the facility and conducted spawning demonstrations, as well as led discussions on aquatic invasive species. Volunteers from Salmon Unlimited of Wisconsin served as greeters to direct visitors and hand out informational brochures. Salmon Unlimited also 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 Trout Unlimited demonstrated fly tying and fly casting. Thank you to all those who participated and helped make the day a success! If you were not able to make it to this year's event, check out a video that was shot last year, <http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/lakemich/RootRiverOpenHouse.html>.

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 Paul Lohman and Mary Lee Hetland for opening and closing the viewing window at the facility.

We will resume operations at the weir in the spring. Please visit our website at dnr.wi.gov/fish/lakemich for the latest Lake Michigan sport and commercial fishing information.

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