



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jim Doyle, Governor
Matthew J. Frank, Secretary
Gloria L. McCutcheon, Regional Director

600 E. Greenfield Ave.
WATER Institute
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53204
Telephone 414-382-7929
FAX 414-382-1705
TTY Access via relay - 711

November 24, 2009

To: All Interested Groups/WDNR Staff

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

Subject: Fall 2009 Root River Weir Summary

The Root River Steelhead Facility (RRSF) was in operation for 9 processing dates during the fall 2009 fish migration. We were able to capture and process 3,250 fish between October 13 and November 12. Stream flows were relatively high for most of the operating season, and some fish were likely able to bypass the facility. However, our biological sampling goals were met, and fish health sampling was conducted. The Fall 2009 Root River effort is summarized below.

	Captured	Spawnd	Eggs taken	Passed Upstream
Chinook	1,716	0	0	1,695
Coho	1,338	897	1,033,000*	1,131
Rainbow	99	0	0	99
Brown	97	0	0	95
Totals	3,250	897	1,033,000	3,020

*An additional 309,000 coho eggs were obtained at the Kewaunee facility for a total of 1.3 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 mid-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.

An Open House was held at RRSF on Saturday, October 17. Approximately 750 people attended the event. DNR staff gave tours of the facility and conducted spawning demonstrations, as well as led discussions on boating safety and 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!

We will resume operations at the weir in the spring. Please visit our website at dnr.wi.gov/fish/lakemich.