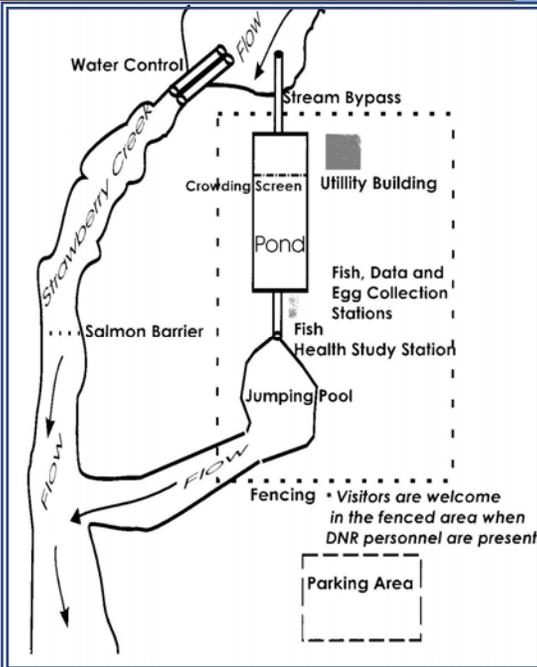


When to Visit



Chinook harvest occurs from late September through early November with the peak of the run occurring in early October.

Facility Map



Visiting Strawberry Creek

To schedule a tour for your group or for more information about Strawberry Creek, please contact Mike Baumgartner at 920-388-1025.



Directions: Take Hwy. 42-57 north to Sturgeon Bay. Just before crossing Sturgeon Bay, turn right (south) on Cty. Hwy. U. Follow Cty. Hwy. U for approximately one mile. Turn left (east) on Strawberry Lane. Follow Strawberry Lane for approximately one mile, the facility is on the right (south) side of the road.



Strawberry Creek Chinook Facility
Phone: 920-388-1025
Website: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/hatcheries/strawberrycreek.html>
E-mail: michael.baumgartner@wisconsin.gov

Strawberry Creek Chinook Facility



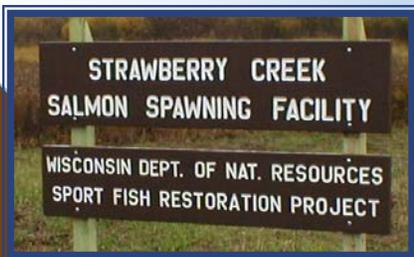
Producing Chinook Salmon for the Lake Michigan Fishery since 1969



History of Strawberry Creek

The WDNR Chinook salmon program began in the spring of 1969 when approximately 65,000 fingerlings were stocked in Strawberry Creek to boost the predator fish population and control an exploding invasive alewife population. Strawberry Creek was the first stocking and egg collection site for Chinook in Wisconsin and continues to be Wisconsin's primary source of Chinook salmon eggs for Lake Michigan.

During the program's initiation year, approximately 65,000 fingerlings were stocked in Strawberry Creek. Each year thereafter, an average of 200,000 fingerlings have been released at this Door County site. A fish trap or weir was constructed on Strawberry Creek and Chinook eggs have been collected from sexually mature fish that returned to the creek since the fall of 1972.



What We Do

In late September, during the peak of the eight week salmon spawning run, DNR staff collect eggs two times per week.



The Chinook return to Strawberry Creek from Lake Michigan to spawn. They are crowded to one end of the collection pond where they fill a framed net and are hoisted into a tank to be anesthetized with carbon dioxide. The fish are then weighed, measured, sexed, and checked for fin clips. Eggs are collected from females that are ready to spawn. The eggs and milt (sperm) are mixed together; when water is added, fertilization occurs. The eggs are then rinsed and placed in containers to be transported to the hatcheries.

Why We Do It

In the late 1940's, an invasive fish known as an alewife gained access to the waters of Lake Michigan through the Welland Canal. By 1967, it was estimated that up to 85% of all Lake Michigan fish were alewives. Fish biologists selected Pacific salmon as a possible predator. In 1966 coho salmon were stocked in Lake Michigan followed by Chinook salmon. Due to stocking of these fish, alewife numbers have been significantly reduced from their record levels.



Today, the primary objective of the WDNR salmon stocking program for Lake Michigan is to provide a diverse sport fishery for anglers. Since most tributary streams lack the potential to support sustainable natural reproduction, salmon must be collected each year and spawned.