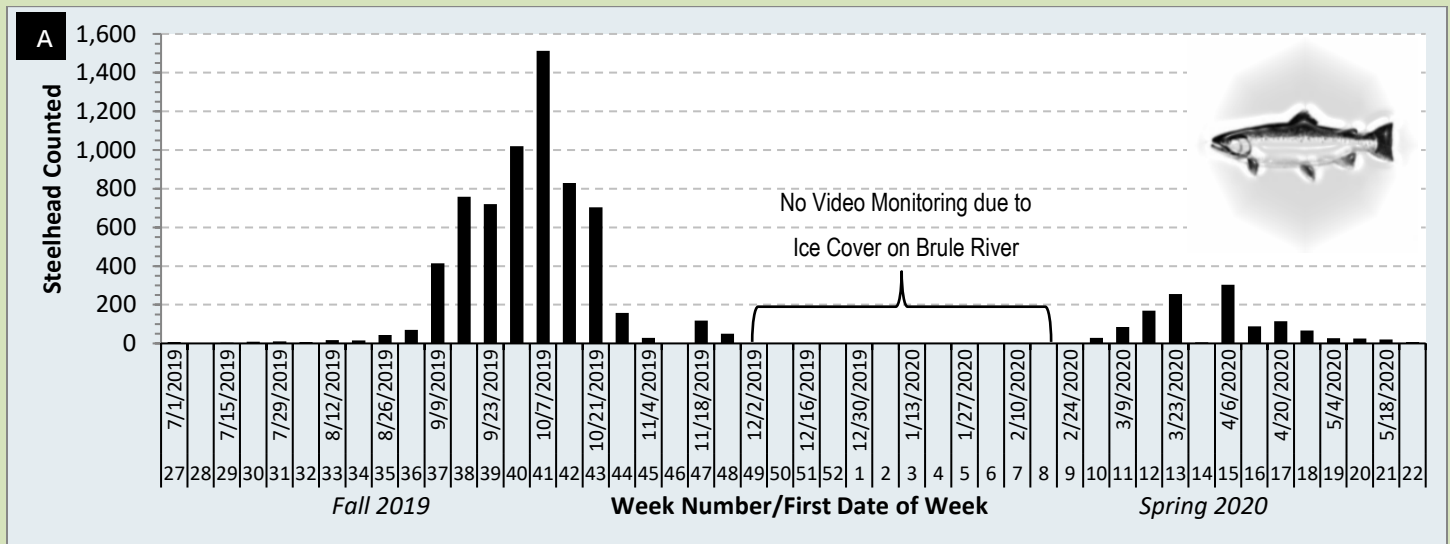


2019 – 2020 BOIS BRULE RIVER STEELHEAD RUN

Fall 2019 Count	Spring 2020 Count*	Total Wild Steelhead Run Count
6,497	1,194	7,691

* Excludes 7 fin-clipped rainbow trout, likely from Minnesota DNR north shore streams stocking program

The Steelhead run was monitored with digital video equipment at the fishway window during fall 2019 and spring 2020. Chart A shows Steelhead phenology (i.e., upstream migration timing). As typical, most steelhead arrived in the fall and overwintered in the river; low water temperatures and ice cover slowed the migration until spring. The fall migration peaked during the second week of October. The spring peak in early April occurred slightly after the season opener and nearly a month after an early ice-out on February 28. The data gap in Week 14 was mainly attributable to fish not being observed by the video equipment during heavy debris accumulation at the window. The fishway maintenance schedule was altered by State-mandated work restrictions relative to the onset of COVID-19 in late-March.



This year's 7,691 Steelhead are shown in Chart B relative to counts since video monitoring began in 1990. The 30-year average is 6,178. The population continues to be balanced, self-sustaining, and supportive of an action-oriented fishery with harvest opportunities. 77% of all Steelhead in the 2019-2020 run ranged from 20 to 25 inches long, weighed from three to five pounds, and were four to five years old. The early-maturing, three-year-old "jacks" comprised 8% of the run, were 12 to 17 inches long, and weighed from one to two pounds. Six percent of the run was of the minimum legal length limit of 26 inches, with weights from six to nine pounds. This naturally reproducing, spring-spawning population typically fluctuates between 3,500 and 8,500 fish in response to diverse riverine and lake environments.

