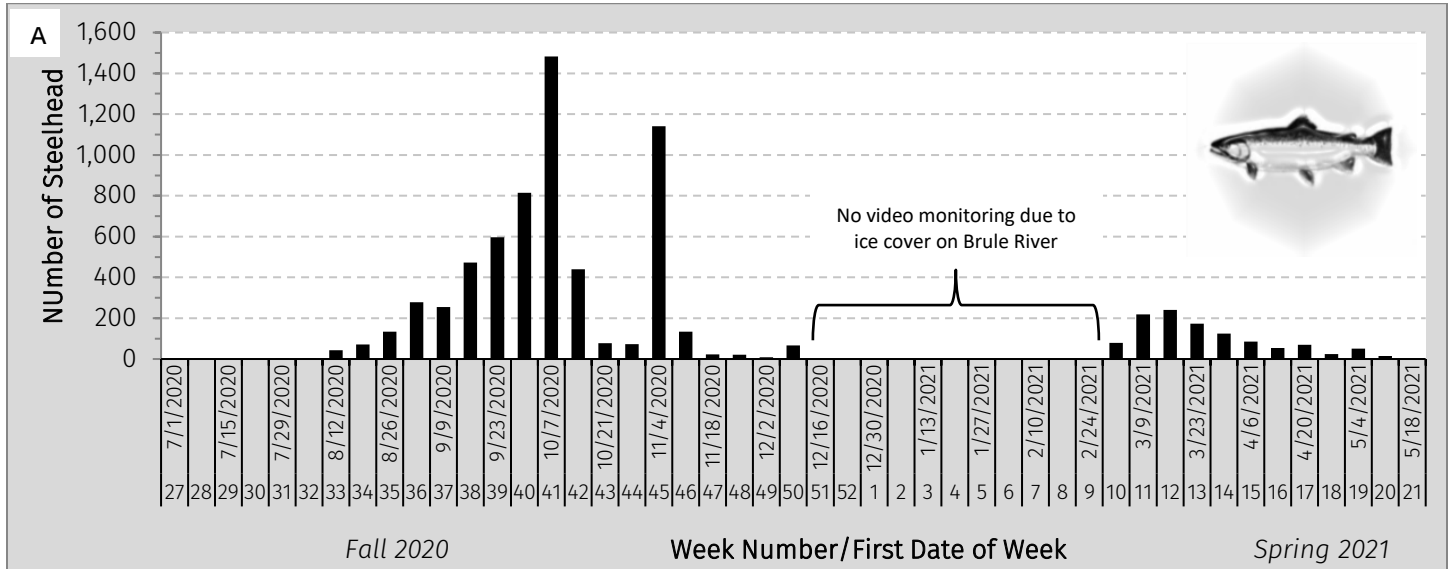




2020 - 2021 BOIS BRULE RIVER STEELHEAD RUN

Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Total Wild Steelhead Run
6,144	1,111	7,255

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) monitored the steelhead run with digital video equipment at the fishway window during fall 2020 and spring 2021. [Chart A](#) shows steelhead phenology (i.e., upstream migration timing). As typical, most steelhead arrived in the fall and overwintered in the river. The fall migration peaked during the second week of October, markedly diminished with the cold snap in mid to late-October and then strongly resumed in early November. The spring peak occurred during the third week of March, slightly before the season opener and a couple of weeks after ice-out. The spring run continued steadily through March and April, then gradually tapered off as water temperatures warmed during the transition to summer.



This year's 7,255 steelhead are shown in [Chart B](#) relative to counts since video monitoring began in 1990. The 31-year average is 6,179. The population continues to be balanced, self-sustaining and supportive of an action-oriented fishery with harvest opportunities. Eighty-three percent of all steelhead in the 2020-2021 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," nearly 6% of the run, were 12 to 17 inches long and weighed between one to two pounds. Nine 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 Superior environments.

