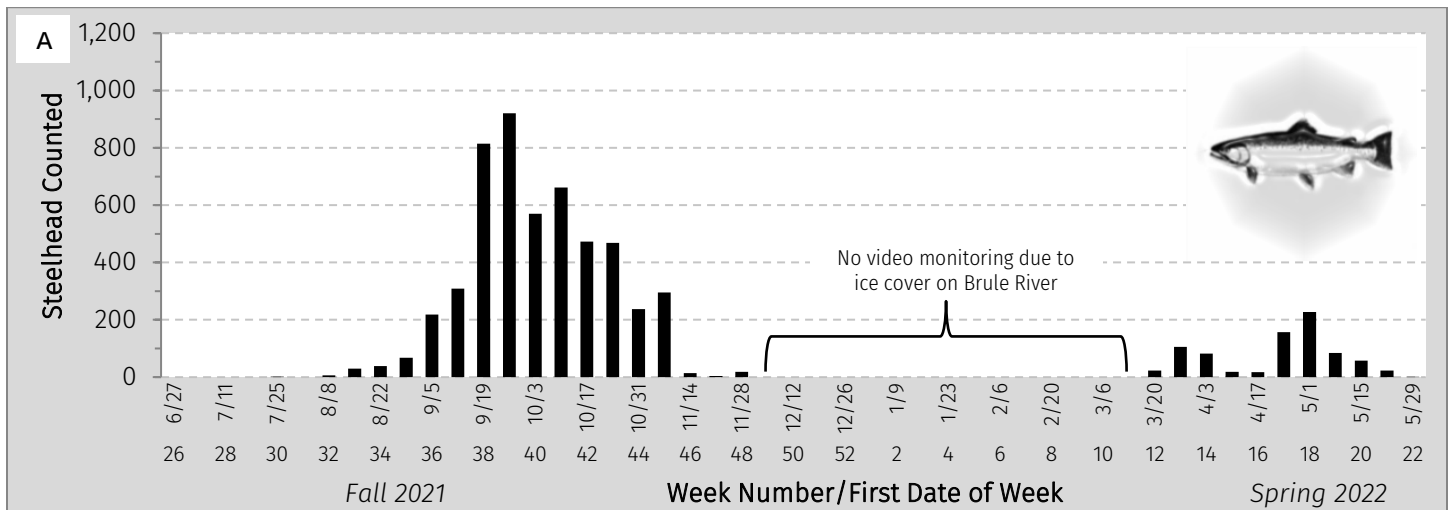




2021 - 2022 BOIS BRULE RIVER STEELHEAD RUN

Fall 2021	Spring 2022	Total Wild Steelhead Run
5,144	796	5,940

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) monitored the steelhead run with digital video equipment at the fishway window during fall 2021 and spring 2022. [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 in late September and diminished steadily into mid-November as water temperatures seasonally decreased. The spring peak occurred during the first week of May, much later than the more typical peaks of late March and early April. However, numerous steelhead moved during the river's initial warm-up in weeks 13 and 14 after the early season fishing opener on March 26. Cold air temperatures and higher-than-normal, turbid stream flows were the predominant environmental conditions during spring 2022.



This year's 5,940 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. Seventy-two percent of all steelhead in the 2021-2022 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 8% of the run, were 12 to 17 inches long and weighed between one to two pounds. Fourteen 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 variable riverine and Lake Superior environments.

