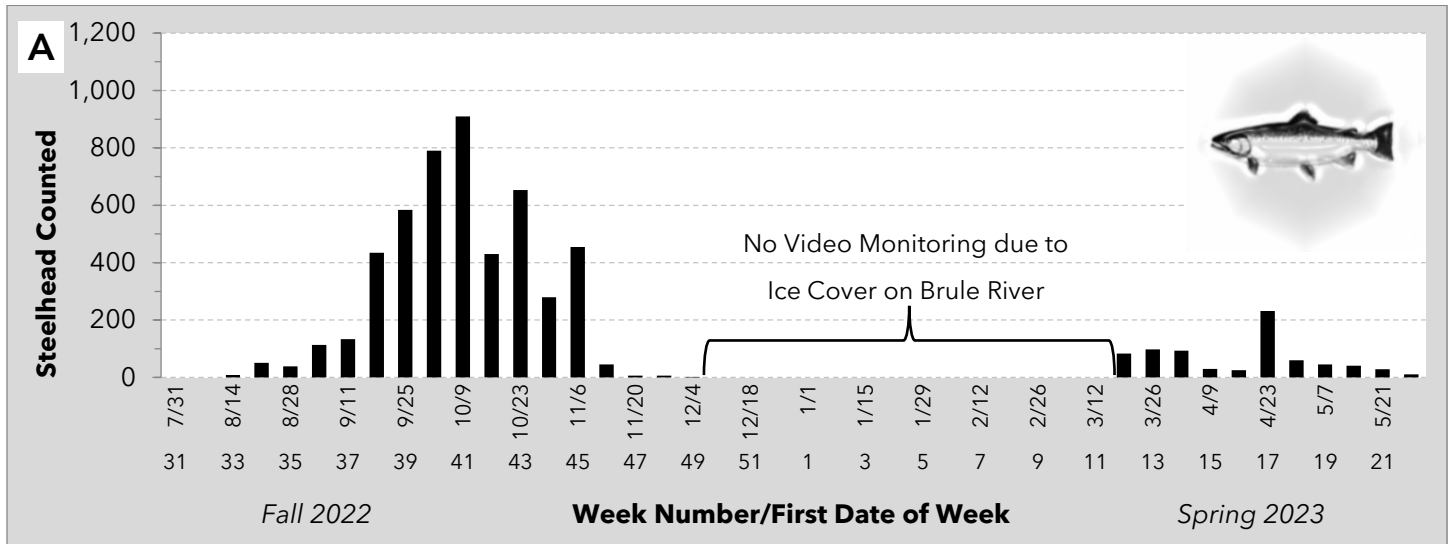


2022 - 2023 BOIS BRULE RIVER STEELHEAD RUN

Fall 2022 Count	Spring 2023 Count	Total Wild Steelhead Run Count
4,941	746	5,687

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) monitored the steelhead run with digital video equipment at the fishway window during fall 2022 and spring 2023. [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 early October. Fluctuating environmental conditions, such as temperature and rainfall, influenced the weekly steelhead numbers in the five weeks following the peak during week 41. A typical number of steelhead moved during the river's initial warm-up in weeks 13 and 14 after the early season fishing opener on March 26. The spring peak occurred during late April, a few weeks later than typical peaks in late March and early April. Higher-than-normal, turbid stream flows were the predominant environmental conditions as snow melted relatively rapidly following record winter snowfall.



This year's 5,687 steelhead are displayed in [Chart B](#), relative to counts since video monitoring began in 1990. The 32-year average is 6,190. The population continues to be balanced, self-sustaining and supportive of an action-oriented fishery with harvest opportunities. Approximately 56% of all steelhead in the 2022-2023 run ranged from 20 to 25 inches long, weighed three to five pounds and were four to five years old. The early-maturing, three-year-old "jacks," approximately nine percent of the run, were 12 to 17 inches long and weighed from one to two pounds. Thirty percent of the run was comprised of fish over 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 environments in the Bois Brule River and Lake Superior.

