

**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**Great Lakes Trout And Salmon Stamp**  
**Revenue And Expenditures Report**  
**FISCAL YEARS 2018-2021**



DNR staff loading steelhead into hatchery trucks to be returned to the Kewaunee River after being processed for spawning at the Besadny Anadromous Fish Facility. / Photo credit: Wisconsin DNR



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# Program Background

## CREATION OF THE TROUT AND SALMON STAMP PROGRAM

In the early 1980s, the loss of federal funding for non-native trout and salmon stocking prompted the creation of Wisconsin's Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp Program. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) faced the prospect of large reductions in the Great Lakes stocking program, including the elimination of Coho Salmon stocking. Concerned Great Lakes anglers initiated and promoted the legislation that created the Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp (commonly referred to as the Salmon Stamp).

Since 1982, anglers fishing for salmon or trout in Wisconsin's Great Lakes have been required to purchase a Salmon Stamp in addition to a fishing license. Revenues from the sale of Salmon Stamps help support the DNR trout and salmon rearing and stocking program for the Great Lakes.

## GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF GREAT LAKES TROUT AND SALMON STAMP REVENUES

Wisconsin statutes stipulate, "The department shall expend the receipts from the sale of Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamps to supplement and enhance the existing trout and salmon rearing and stocking program for outlying waters and to administer this section."

The expenditures are (1) species limited to salmon and trout only, (2) geographically limited to the Wisconsin waters of Lakes Michigan and Superior and their tributaries, and (3) program limited to the rearing and stocking program.

Projects funded by stamp monies must meet these three requirements or be related to the administration of these monies.

### SPECIES REQUIREMENT

The use of Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp revenues is only for projects pertaining to *salmonine* species. These species include Pacific salmon (Coho, Chinook), trout (Rainbow [steelhead], Brown) and chars (Brook Trout, Splake and Lake Trout). The use of stamp money excludes projects specifically directed toward warm or cool water fishes such as *Percids*, *Esocids* and *Centrarchids*.

### GEOGRAPHICAL REQUIREMENT

Projects that use stamp revenues must focus geographically on the Great Lakes watershed. Specifically, the geographical scope of these projects may include tributaries accessible to Great Lakes salmon and trout and Lakes Michigan and Superior themselves. Projects that pertain to trout waters other than the Great Lakes (e.g., Great Lakes tributaries inaccessible

to Great Lakes salmon and trout, inland trout streams and lakes) may not use Salmon Stamp funds.

## **PROGRAM REQUIREMENT**

Projects funded with Salmon Stamp money must also relate specifically to the Great Lakes stocking program. Activities within the stocking program may be categorized as evaluation and research or propagation activities (including facility developments).

Examples of evaluation and research activities include lake-wide creel surveys, species and strain evaluations (tagging and marking studies), development of management plans (annual stocking plans, species plans, long-term plans) and annual propagation planning.

Propagation activities include hatchery operation costs (electricity, labor, fish food, waders, etc.), acquisition of fertilized eggs, egg incubation, fish rearing and transportation of fish to stocking sites. Propagation activities also include purchasing, maintaining and repairing the physical facilities that support the stocking program. Those facilities include raceways, rearing ponds, hatchery grounds, generators, pumps, water supply systems, vehicles, aerators, automatic fish feeders, land, engineering plans and incubators.



DNR staff pushing fish from the outdoor holding ponds into the Besadny Anadromous Fish Facility for processing. / Photo credit: Wisconsin DNR

# Revenue Summaries

## SOURCES OF REVENUE FOR THE SALMON STAMP ACCOUNT

The Salmon Stamp account pays for a portion of the total Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Program (Table 1). As summarized in Table 2, fishing license fees and other sources also support the program.

**Table 1.** During 2018-2021, Great Lakes trout and salmon activities were also funded by the Segregated Fish and Wildlife Account fund and Sport Fish Restoration Act. The first row is taken directly from Table 3.

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Salmon Stamp	\$1,902,384.01	\$1,561,386.56	\$1,922,404.56	\$1,235,742.27
Segregated Fish & Wildlife Account and Sport Fish Res. Act Funds	\$2,321,765.45	\$2,276,295.33	\$2,410,830.30	\$3,318,692.08
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$4,224,149.46	\$3,837,681.89	\$4,333,234.86	\$4,554,434.35

**Table 2.** License-year sales of patron cards, licenses and stamps supporting the Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Program for 2018-2021. License reporting categories have changed over reporting years. For this report, categories of license sales for Patron Cards include regular resident Patron Cards, junior, purple heart and recruiter card sales. Two-Day Licenses include two-day Great Lakes fishing licenses and two-day Great Lakes fishing licenses issued on charter boats. Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamps contain recorded sales from that category only.

YEAR	PATRON CARDS	TWO-DAY LICENSES	GREAT LAKES TROUT AND SALMON STAMPS
2018	52,633	36,174	127,760
2019	52,591	34,454	124,611
2020	55,811	33,043	145,541
2021	61,264	39,067	150,431

All receipts from the sale of Salmon Stamps are placed in the DNR Fish & Wildlife Segregated Account and reserved for eligible Salmon Stamp activities. These funds are referred to as the Salmon Stamp account. Interest earned on these funds accrues to the Fish & Wildlife Segregated Account. Some revenues from the sales of Patron Licenses, two-day sport fishing licenses and collector stamps also contribute to the account.

The license price to the consumer includes the base price of the license plus a fee that goes to the vendor. The vendor's fee is 75 cents for the two-day license and the Patron Card; it is 25 cents for the Salmon Stamp. Revenue and expenditure figures in this report exclude the vendor's fees.

Funding for the Salmon Stamp account has changed over time from its initial price of \$3 in 1982. In 1984, the Wisconsin State Legislature approved a \$6 one-day fishing license for the Great Lakes. This inexpensive license allowed anglers to spend one day fishing for trout and



salmon on the Great Lakes without being required to buy an annual Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp. One-half of the revenues from the license supported Great Lakes salmon and trout projects and helped to prevent a sharp reduction in funding for the salmon and trout program.

In 1988, the Legislature changed the one-day license to include inland fishing. Revenues from the new one-day license were split among Great Lakes salmon projects, inland trout habitat projects and general fisheries work. In 1992, the Legislature replaced the one-day license with a \$7.25 two-day license, valid for the Great Lakes only, and in 1997, the two-day license fee increased to \$9.25.

One-half of those revenues are placed in the Salmon Stamp account. Also, in 1992 the Salmon Stamp fee was increased from \$3 to \$7. In 2004, the Salmon Stamp fee increased to \$10, and the two-day license fee increased to \$14.

In recent years, the allocation from each Patron License has exceeded \$3, totaling \$169,037 in the fiscal year 2016 and \$171,620 in the fiscal year 2017. Patron license revenue not deposited to dedicated stamp accounts is deposited to the larger fish and wildlife account and spent for various conservation purposes. Collectors can purchase souvenir Salmon Stamps from previous years. All revenues from these sales contribute to the Salmon Stamp account.



DNR Fisheries Biologist Laura Schmidt holds a Lake Trout caught during the annual survey on Lake Michigan, onboard the RV Coregonus. / Photo credit: Wisconsin DNR

## FINANCIAL REPORT

The revenue and expenditures for 2018-2021 are detailed in Table 3. Revenues in the 'Other' category include miscellaneous fees and revenues, carryover from Appropriation 443, salmon stamp collector revenue and revenue corrections of \$-57.06 for 2018. Expenditures for individual projects include supplies and limited-term employee (LTE) wages. Work done in project categories is described briefly in the body of this report. The Salmon Stamp supports the salaries of 3.5 permanent staff positions.

**Table 3.** Salmon Stamp account revenues and expenditures in fiscal years 2018-2021.

	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Beginning Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$2,540,874.47</b>	<b>\$2,357,385.79</b>	<b>\$2,416,835.65</b>	<b>\$2,250,137.14</b>
<b>Revenues</b>	<b>\$1,718,895.33</b>	<b>\$1,620,836.42</b>	<b>\$1,755,706.05</b>	<b>\$1,996,803.70</b>
Stamp Sales	\$1,290,478.97	\$1,228,490.80	\$1,349,003.90	\$1,530,615.50
Two-Day License Sales	\$253,692.42	\$216,200.25	\$220,436.60	\$265,858.20
Patron License Sales	\$174,141.00	\$175,317.00	\$185,602.00	\$200,240.00
Other	\$582.94	\$828.37	\$663.55	\$90.00
<b>Total Available Funds</b>	<b>\$4,259,769.80</b>	<b>\$3,978,222.21</b>	<b>\$4,172,541.70</b>	<b>\$4,246,940.84</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,902,384.01</b>	<b>\$1,561,386.56</b>	<b>\$1,922,404.56</b>	<b>\$1,235,742.27</b>
<u>Evaluation and Research Projects</u>				
Creel Surveys	\$71,253.89	\$227,691.98	\$120,858.84	\$53,541.34
Data Analysis and Reporting	\$9,608.29	\$26,913.17	\$19,877.85	\$4,507.30
Sea Lamprey Barriers	\$5,758.52	\$11,498.35	\$15,356.46	\$7,624.71
Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Assessments and Egg Collection	\$29,022.69	\$54,449.89	\$39,811.63	\$19,589.01
Lake Trout Surveys and Research	\$49,994.99	\$94,553.27	\$60,204.56	\$31,345.37
Trout and Salmon Research	\$22,512.00	-	-	-
<u>Propagation</u>				
Trout (Brown Trout, Lake Trout, Rainbow Trout, Splake)	\$560,469.19	\$318,286.21	\$495,719.30	\$433,139.28
Salmon (Chinook, Coho)	\$311,474.35	\$143,593.47	\$234,506.79	\$176,480.67
<u>Propagation: Hatchery Operations &amp; Maintenance</u>				
General Hatchery Operations and Maintenance	\$571,221.46	\$395,454.48	\$455,295.98	\$116,980.72
Hatchery Capital Development	\$9,710.60	\$13,445.74	\$164,262.01	\$76,799.00
<u>Other</u>				
Permanent Salaries	\$144,400.00	\$144,400.00	\$148,000.00	\$195,755.87
Fringe	\$116,958.03	\$131,100.00	\$168,511.14	\$119,979.00
<b>Closing Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$2,357,385.79</b>	<b>\$2,416,835.65</b>	<b>\$2,250,137.14</b>	<b>\$3,011,198.57</b>



# Evaluation And Research Projects

Findings of evaluation and research activities are included in annual reports posted on the DNR's [Lake Michigan](#) and [Lake Superior](#) webpages. Stocking data are available in the [online fish stocking database](#).

## CREEL SURVEYS

*Contacts: Laura Schmidt, Fisheries Biologist, Milwaukee; Dray Carl, Fisheries Biologist, Bayfield*

Angler creel surveys are conducted at major ports on Lake Superior and Lake Michigan to monitor sport harvest of salmon and trout, and harvest information on other sport caught fishes. Data are collected on angler effort, catch and harvest when creel clerks randomly survey anglers at boat landings throughout the year.

When combined with information about commercial and charter harvests, the creel data helps estimate population size, evaluate and develop stocking strategies, and decide how to best manage the Lake Superior and Lake Michigan fisheries. Activities funded under this project include moored boat surveys conducted in Green Bay to collect registration numbers, count moored fishing boats on Green Bay and collect biological information on harvested fish during fishing contests in northern Green Bay and Lake Michigan. Additionally, a Lower Brule River Creel Survey was [completed](#). Staff time was also spent to create a standardized, relational database and converted the creel analysis and scheduling to updated R versions for the Lake Superior Creel Survey.

## DATA ANALYSIS AND REPORTING

*Contact: Laura Schmidt, Fisheries Biologist, Milwaukee*

This project fund supports trout and salmon data analyses and analyses conducted to inform management recommendations. These analyses support the popular and important Lake Michigan trout and salmon fishery, including the administration and management of the charter licensing and reporting program. Trout and salmon data are analyzed to assess appropriate management actions (e.g., stocking rates, stocking locations, stocking techniques), conduct predator-prey analyses, and prepare data summaries and reports.

## SEA LAMPREY BARRIERS

*Contact: Paul Piszczek, Fisheries Biologist, Superior*

The [Bois Brule River](#) sea lamprey barrier is one of three concrete barriers (others are on the Middle and Iron rivers) that control Sea Lamprey by blocking upstream migration to spawning areas and therefore limit Sea Lamprey reproduction and recruitment. However, the Bois Brule River barrier is the only barrier to have a companion concrete fish ladder (with adjustable gates) and concrete Sea Lamprey trap.

The fish ladder facilitates upstream passage of recreationally important Lake Superior migratory salmonid species such as steelhead, Brown Trout and Coho Salmon. The fish ladder and lamprey trap are operated, inspected and maintained throughout the year, although inspections are only periodically made from December through March due to snow and ice cover. The Bois Brule River barrier's fish ladder is convertible from step-pool to vertical-slot configuration during spring and fall to accommodate salmonid passage and Sea Lamprey trapping seasons.

The DNR converts the fish ladder, whereas the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) conducts trapping operations, including sorting bycatch. The agencies maintain an ongoing partnership toward improving Sea Lamprey trapping and fish passage efficiency through various design changes within the fish ladder. The agencies also discuss repairs needed for all barriers, the Bois Brule River fish ladder, and the Bois Brule River Sea Lamprey trap. The upstream end of the fish ladder is adjoined by a viewing chamber, an observation window, and video recording equipment to monitor lake-run salmon and trout. The window and video equipment are inspected and maintained regularly throughout the fish migration seasons, primarily in spring and fall.

The DNR reviews video records after the conclusions of the migration seasons, identifies, measures, and counts fish, then produces semi-annual reports of relative abundances and size structures of salmonid populations. Each of the three barriers are accessible via gravel roads, which are inspected, maintained and repaired, if necessary, throughout the year.

## **GREAT LAKES TROUT AND SALMON ASSESSMENTS AND EGG COLLECTION**

*Contacts: Laura Schmidt, Fisheries Biologist, Milwaukee; Nick Legler, NR Region Team Supervisor, Sturgeon Bay; Tammie Paoli, Fisheries Biologist, Peshtigo; Brad Ray, NR Region Team Supervisor, Bayfield*

Trout and salmon are major components of Wisconsin's Lake Michigan sport fishery, supporting charter fishing and other fishing-related industries. Proper management of these species in Lake Michigan and Lake Superior requires biological information on the performance of these species, including data on age, growth, survival, return rate to the brood rivers, return to creel and condition of returning fish, and monitoring habitat changes.

The Root River is the main brood river in southern Lake Michigan waters, stocked with two salmon and two trout species. The DNR uses different combinations of markings to identify the species' year class and strain. Egg collection and obtaining biological data are key aspects of this program that supports the enhancement and management of a tremendous salmonid sport fishery in the Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan.

For this project category, the following tasks and activities were completed. The Root River Steelhead Facility was used to capture Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon and steelhead for broodstock and obtain biological data, such as length, weight, sex, maturity condition and fin clip from subsamples of returning fish. Root River creel survey operations were conducted. Chinook Salmon heads were collected and scanned for coded wire tags to determine the straying rates of stocked salmon. Surveys were conducted and data collected to study salmon movement rates, estimate natural reproduction and estimate biological parameters

to improve salmon stocking and management. Weirs at Strawberry Creek and Besadny Anadromous Fish Facility were monitored.

Additional components of this project include annual electroshocking surveys in the lower Menominee and Peshtigo Rivers to evaluate fall runs of salmonids with a focus on brown trout, collecting and analyzing biological data from the M&M Great Lakes Sportfishing Club's annual fishing derby, assisting in salmonid stocking into Green Bay and tributaries, such as recording water temperatures to better coordinate stocking location and timing, drilling holes in the ice to stock fish through, and assisting truck drivers onsite during stocking events, a cooperative project with the M&M Great Lakes Sportfishing Club to floy-tag brown trout stocked by that group, biological data collection at Besadny Anadromous Fish Facility during brown trout gamete collection, and data entry and analysis of the above projects.

On Lake Superior, activities for this project category include sampling nearshore and tributary salmon and trout populations and habitat, along with installing and maintaining two passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags receiver stations to monitor movement and habitat use of trout within tributaries.



DNR staff removes a section of the caudal fin on this Steelhead to identify it as having passed through the Besadny Anadromous Fisheries Facility. / Photo credit: Wisconsin DNR

## **LAKE TROUT SURVEYS AND RESEARCH**

### **LAKE SUPERIOR**

*Contacts: Dray Carl, Fisheries Biologist, Bayfield*

Lake Superior Lake Trout restoration and management addresses two critical factors regulating Lake Trout populations – harvest levels and sea lamprey-related fish mortality. The controls on harvest include constraints on commercial and sport fishing. Wild Lake Trout abundance has increased steadily due to these regulations.

In the Ashland-Bayfield area, approximately 34% of the Lake Trout harvested in 1985 were wild fish. By 2006, the percentage had risen to over 90%. Consequently, stocking in the Apostle Islands area was discontinued, and the population has been restored.

Lake Trout are still stocked in the Western Arm region of Lake Superior near Superior, Wisconsin to help maintain the sport fishery while the local stock continues toward full rehabilitation.

This project covers the cost associated with the spring, summer and fall Lake Trout assessments. It evaluates the long-term trends in the Lake Trout population, including distribution, abundance, growth and mortality rates. Data collected from these assessments and commercial and sport harvests are incorporated into computer models that help determine safe harvest levels for Lake Trout.

[For more information on the Lake Superior fishery, visit the webpage here.](#)

## **LAKE MICHIGAN**

*Contact: Laura Schmidt, DNR Fisheries Biologist, Milwaukee*

The Lake Michigan Lake Trout restoration and management program has two main components: 1) annual spring lake-wide assessment protocol (LWAP) done in conjunction with other state, federal and tribal agencies; and 2) fall spawning reef surveys.

The Wisconsin portion of LWAP is conducted to assess trends in the abundance of Lake Trout at the mid-lake reef complex (MLRC), trends in the prevalence of sea lamprey wounds and scars, Lake Trout strain performance and the presence of naturally reproduced (unmarked) Lake Trout.

Fall Lake Trout spawning reef surveys are conducted in the MLRC and nearshore near Milwaukee. The surveys assess the abundance and age composition of mature spawning Lake Trout, determine trends in the prevalence of sea lamprey wounds and scars, evaluate natural reproduction and collect eggs to measure thiamine concentration. Thiamine deficiency can negatively affect fish trout and salmon survival.

[For more information on the Lake Michigan fishery, visit the webpage here.](#)

## **TROUT AND SALMON RESEARCH**

*Contact: Cheryl Masterson, NR Region Team Supervisor, Milwaukee*

Natural reproduction is becoming more important in trout and salmon species. While Wisconsin streams support some natural reproduction documented by DNR surveys, the extent and amount of natural reproduction are unknown.

This project research examines Lake Michigan streams for the potential for natural reproduction of trout and salmon by evaluating the extent of natural reproduction of Great Lakes trout and salmon in Lake Michigan tributaries and the habitat factors relating to the presence/absence of natural reproduction. [Preliminary work on the natural reproduction](#)

[study can be found on the DNR's webpage here](#), and a paper by Wegleitner et al. (2021; citation below), was produced.

Wegleitner, Eric, Joshua Raabe, Daniel Dembkowski, Nicolas Legler, and Daniel Isermann. 2021. Wild juvenile salmonid abundance in Wisconsin tributaries indicates limited contributions to Lake Michigan fisheries. *Journal of Great Lakes Research*. 47(6): 1824–1853.

## **PROPAGATION, MANAGEMENT AND PROJECTS**

Table 4 details stocking numbers by species for Lake Michigan and Lake Superior. For all species except Chinook Salmon, fingerlings are stocked in the fall after about one year of hatchery rearing, and yearlings are stocked the following spring after 18 months of hatchery rearing. Chinook Salmon are stocked as spring fingerlings after only one winter of hatchery rearing. Rainbow Trout includes both steelhead and non-migratory strains.

**Table 4.** Production summary. Lake Trout stocked by the USFWS in Lake Michigan are not included in the table. Stocking numbers are for calendar years.

		LAKE MICHIGAN			LAKE SUPERIOR		
		Fingerlings	Yearlings	LM Total	Fingerlings	Yearlings	LS Total
<b>2018</b>	Lake Trout	-	-	-	-	78,012	78,012
	Brown Trout	61,640	329,315	390,955	-	165,850	165,850
	Chinook Salmon	844,554		844,554	-	-	-
	Coho Salmon	-	362,979	362,979	-	-	-
	Rainbow Trout	-	441,889	441,889	-	-	-
	Splake	-	-	-	-	69,803	69,803
<b>2019</b>	Lake Trout	-	-	-	19,028	97,169	116,197
	Brown Trout	40,100	368,170	408,270	-	207,094	207,094
	Chinook Salmon	828,507	-	828,507	-	-	-
	Coho Salmon	-	369,869	369,869	-	-	-
	Rainbow Trout	-	452,919	452,919	-	-	-
	Splake	-	-	-	-	66,323	66,323
<b>2020</b>	Lake Trout	-	-	-	-	90,782	90,782
	Brown Trout	96,897	353,217	450,114	-	181,231	181,231
	Brook Trout	50,077	-	50,077	-	-	-
	Chinook Salmon	1,204,076	-	1,204,076	-	-	-
	Coho Salmon	93,890	407,082	500,972	-	-	-
	Rainbow Trout	94,258	469,324	563,582	-	-	-
	Splake	-	-	-	20,289	72,761	93,050
<b>2021</b>	Lake Trout	-	-	-	-	88,521	88,521
	Brown Trout	40,000	411,229	451,229	-	184,610	184,610
	Brook Trout	50,021	-	50,021	-	-	-
	Chinook Salmon	1,202,183	-	1,202,183	-	-	-
	Coho Salmon	-	514,657	514,657	-	-	-
	Rainbow Trout	29,683	409,520	439,203	-	-	-
	Splake	-	-	-	-	60,957	60,957



## **TROUT (BROWN TROUT, LAKE TROUT, RAINBOW TROUT, SPLAKE)**

*Contacts: Dave Giebtbrock NR Program Manager, Madison; Jesse Landwehr, Operations Supervisor, Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery; Darren Miller, Operations Supervisor, Les Voight State Fish Hatchery; Andrew Hron, Operations Supervisor, Kettle Moraine; Harry (Bob) Hoodie, NR Region Team Supervisor, Asylum Bay; Steve Merson, NR Region Team Supervisor, Fitchburg; Tammie Paoli, Fisheries Biologist, Peshtigo; Aaron Schiller, Fisheries Biologist, Milwaukee; Dray Carl, Fisheries Biologist, Bayfield*

The Besadny Anadromous Fisheries Facility, the Root River Steelhead Facility and the Strawberry Creek Weir are key to Wisconsin's salmon and trout stocking programs. Salmon Stamp funds are used to collect broodstock and eggs for fertilization and maintain/operate these facilities. These funds cover production costs associated with trout rearing, distribution and weir operations. This includes work at hatcheries and rearing stations and is separate from basic hatchery operations and maintenance. In 2020, there were expenditures to purchase steelhead from a public-private partnership. A private grower was contracted to rear steelhead for stocking in Lake Michigan. The purchased fish did not meet the size at stocking requirements as outlined in the rearing contract. Attempts to find additional growers were not successful.

Typical expenses include fish food, electricity, pond and raceway maintenance and aerators to increase oxygen levels and reduce the ice cover. Funds are also used to inventory, load and deliver fish to designated sites, including disinfecting and maintaining equipment.

This project also included costs annually for the USFWS autotrailer to be transported from Lake Mills to the Wild Rose Hatchery to adipose clip (no coded wire tag, CWT) Seeforellen Brown Trout to be stocked into Lake Michigan, and for the USFWS autotrailer to be transported from the Wild Rose Hatchery to the Les Voight Hatchery to adipose clip (no CWT) Seeforellen Brown Trout to be stocked into Lake Superior. Additionally, these funds cover staff time and mileage for DNR staff to hand clip other fish that do not go through the autotrailer. Marking stocked fish allows the DNR to identify unique strains, continue the genetic lineage through propagation and evaluate stocking success. This project also includes the purchase of fuel required for the RV Coregonus and RV Hack Noyes to stock fish offshore in Green Bay and Lake Superior. Also included are weekly fall collections of Seeforellen broodstock in the Kewaunee, Sheboygan, Milwaukee and Root rivers.

## **SALMON (CHINOOK, COHO)**

*Contacts: Aaron Schiller, Fisheries Biologist, Milwaukee; Laura Schmidt, Fisheries Biologist, Milwaukee; Nick Legler, Fisheries Biologist, Sturgeon Bay*

This project covers production costs associated with salmon rearing, distribution, weir operations and cooperative net pens. This includes work at hatcheries and rearing stations and is separate from basic hatchery operations and maintenance.

Typical expenses include fish food, electricity, pond and raceway maintenance and aerators to increase oxygen levels and reduce the ice cover. Funds are also used to inventory, load and deliver fish to designated sites, including disinfecting and maintaining equipment.



DNR staff and volunteers processing salmon for data at the Strawberry Creek Salmon spawning facility in Sturgeon Bay. / Photo credit: Wisconsin DNR

## **HATCHERY OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE AND CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT**

*Contacts: Michael Aquino, NR Operations Supervisor, Fitchburg; David Giebtbrock, NR Program Manager, Madison; Darren Miller, NR Operations Supervisor, Bayfield; Andy Hron, NR Operations Supervisor, Adell; Jesse Landwehr, NR Operations Supervisor, Wild Rose*

Funds for hatchery operations and maintenance cover basic support services for hatchery operations that are not directly associated with fish rearing at Les Voigt, Kettle Moraine Springs, Wild Rose and Lake Mills state fish hatcheries, and the Besadny, Strawberry Creek and Root River weirs. Specific activities include conducting hatchery tours, outreach, educational events, general maintenance of facilities and grounds, operational expenses (i.e., telephone, electricity, supplies) and staff attendance at meetings with clubs and other organizations.

Capital development projects include additional project planning and design and new hatchery equipment for Kettle Moraine Springs State Fish Hatchery.

## OTHER

### LAKE MICHIGAN

Stamp funds support permanent employee salaries for fisheries technicians at the Great Lakes Research Facility for work on Lake Trout assessments, managing operations at the Root River Steelhead Facility, conducting surveys and evaluations, collecting data, and managing databases.

### LAKE SUPERIOR

For Lake Superior, stamp funds also support permanent employee salaries for a fisheries biologist and a fisheries technician on Lake Superior. The fisheries biologist conducts evaluations and research to support the fish stocking program for the Lake Superior watershed. The primary responsibilities of the fisheries technician are to conduct creel surveys and monitor the harvest of Lake Trout by commercial fishers.

## CONTACT LIST

For questions about the report, please contact the staff identified in the contact list. Staff and positions change over time, so for general inquiries or to connect with current staff, please call 1-888-WDNRINFO (1-888-936-7463) with your inquiry.

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