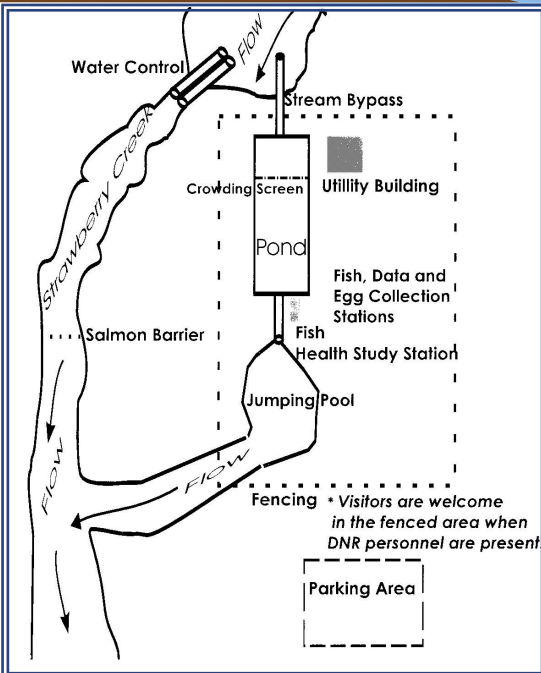


When to Visit



Chinook harvest typically occurs during the first three weeks of October on Mondays and Thursdays at Strawberry Creek

Facility Map



Visiting Strawberry

To schedule a tour for your group or for more information about Strawberry Creek, please contact fisheries biologist Logan Sikora at 920-559-9329.



Directions: Take Hwy. 42-57 north to Sturgeon Bay. Just before crossing Sturgeon Bay, turn right (south) on Cty. Hwy. U. Follow Cty. Hwy. U for approximately one mile. Turn left (east) on Strawberry Lane. Follow Strawberry Lane for approximately one mile, the facility is on the right (south) side of the road.



Strawberry Creek Chinook Facility

Phone: 920-559-9329 (Logan Sikora)
Websites: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/hatcheries/strawberrycreek.html>
<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lakemichigan/StrawberryCreekWeirReport.html>
E-mail: logan.sikora@wisconsin.gov

Strawberry Creek Chinook



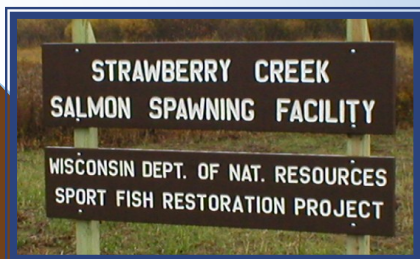
Producing Chinook Salmon for the Lake Michigan Fishery



History of Strawberry Creek

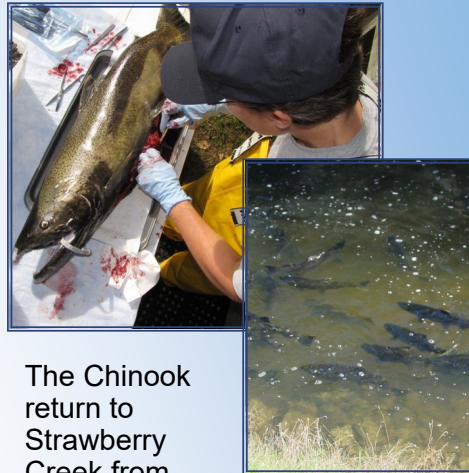
The WDNR Chinook salmon program began in the spring of 1969 when approximately 65,000 fingerlings were stocked in Strawberry Creek to boost the predator fish population and control an exploding invasive alewife population. Strawberry Creek was the first stocking and egg collection site for Chinook in Wisconsin and continues to be Wisconsin's primary source of Chinook salmon eggs for Lake Michigan.

During the program's initiation year, approximately 65,000 fingerlings were stocked in Strawberry Creek. Recently, about 120,000 Chinook salmon fingerlings have been released annually at this Door County site. A fish trap or weir was constructed on Strawberry Creek and Chinook eggs have been collected from sexually mature fish that returned to the creek since the fall of 1972.



What We Do

During early to mid October, during the peak of the salmon spawning run, DNR staff collect eggs two times per week.



The Chinook return to Strawberry Creek from Lake Michigan to spawn. They are crowded to one end of the collection pond where they fill a framed net and are hoisted into a tank to be anesthetized with carbon dioxide. The fish are then weighed, measured, sexed, and checked for fin clips. Eggs are collected from females that are ready to spawn. The eggs and milk (sperm) are mixed together; when water is added, fertilization occurs. The eggs are then rinsed and placed in containers to be transported to the hatcheries.

Why We Do It

In the late 1940's, an invasive fish known as an alewife gained access to the waters of Lake Michigan through the Welland Canal. By 1967, it was estimated that up to 85% of all Lake Michigan fish were alewives. Fish biologists selected Pacific salmon as a possible predator. In 1966 coho salmon were stocked in Lake Michigan followed by Chinook salmon. Due to predation by stocked and wild salmonids and impacts from invasive mussels, alewife numbers have been significantly reduced from their record levels. Stocking levels are closely evaluated and adjusted to help achieve balanced predator/prey populations and to maintain a strong and diverse fishery.



Today, the primary objective of the WDNR salmon stocking program for Lake Michigan is to provide a diverse sport fishery for anglers. Since most WI tributary streams lack the potential to support sustainable natural reproduction, salmon must be collected each year and spawned.