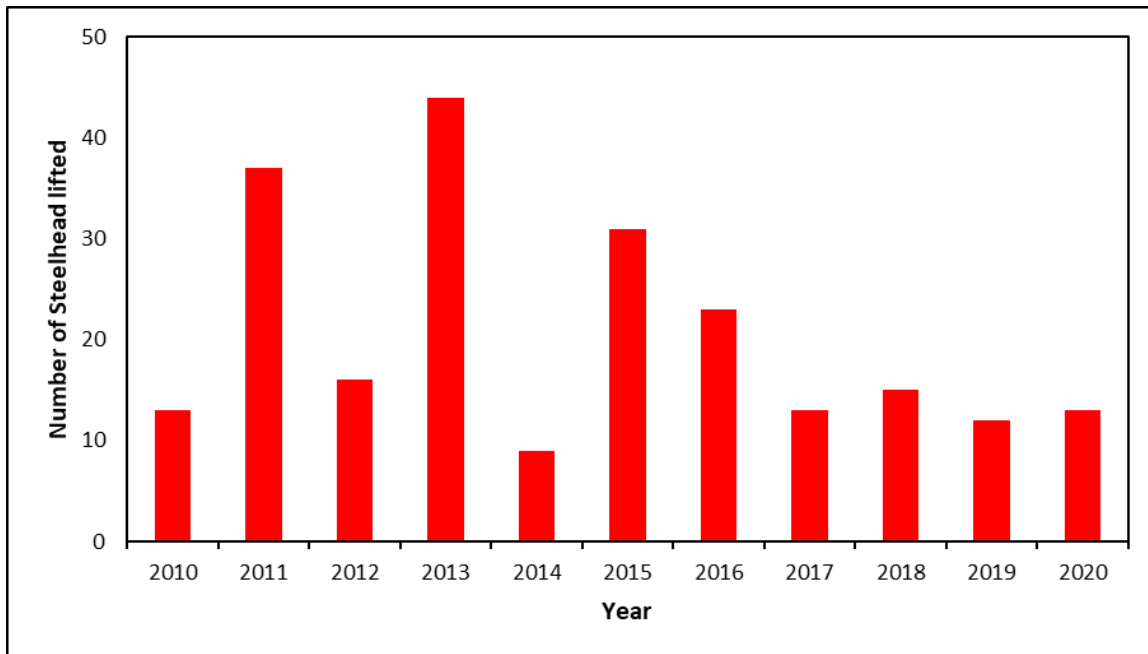


Winooski One Fish Lift Update: April 29, 2020

Total Steelhead Lifted: 13 Water Temperature: 37 degrees

Hello everyone. I hope folks are well and sheltering safely. Unfortunately, I'm stuck at home and unable to get my hands on any steelhead at the Winooski fish lift this spring. However, the fish lift is operating thanks to station operator Jon Clark. Jon reports 13 steelhead lifted so far. These fish have been released directly above the dam into a 1.3 mile stretch of river below the next dam - Gorge 18 Dam. Lifting the steelhead above the dam gives anglers the opportunity to fish for them in a section of river that is legally open to fishing. No fishing is allowed below Winooski One to protect spawning walleye and endangered lake sturgeon.

Water temperatures are just above ice! It is been a cold spring. We would expect water temperatures to be approaching 50 degrees by now. Perhaps the low temps have delayed some movement and we will get a push of fish soon. Jon will continue to keep track of things for us down there.



Summary of steelhead trout lifted at the Winooski River fish passage facility, 2010-2020.

Nine steelhead were lifted last fall in addition to the 58 salmon that returned to the Winooski River. One tagged steelhead was caught by an angler and reported to the Essex Junction fish and wildlife office. The 17-inch steelhead was caught in the LaPlatte River on April 21 and originally tagged on October 10, 2019 at the fish lift.

And speaking of tag returns...we have been monitoring the adult salmon that we radio tagged last fall at the lift. A total of 54 salmon were tagged and 14 fixed-station yagi antennas with automatic data loggers were deployed along the river from Bolton Dam to the mouth. Data from the loggers is downloaded once a week and additional fish location information is (or was) collected by mobile tracking by vehicle. Our last tracking field day was on March 17 which revealed 36 salmon still in the river with 25 between Bolton Dam and Essex 19 Dam. Lucky for us, our coconspirator Ted Castro-Santos from the Conte Anadromous

Fish Research Center (USGS) was given permission to drive up from his office in Massachusetts and tend loggers while Jazzy Hannon-Moonstone is under Corvid-19 “house arrest”.



Jazzy Hannon-Moonstone downloads data at one of the 14 stationary antenna sites.

Finally, after 16 years of smolt trapping on the Huntington River, we cancelled this years sampling due to Corvid-19. I wasn't sure how this spring was going to work because last year's Halloween flood re-arranged the trapping site so much I'm not sure we could have run the trap effectively.

That's the update! Enjoy this extra family time...go fishing!



Tony Curtis and daughter Harper with a nice Lake Champlain spring salmon.