

**CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT**  
 Report Date: May 5, 2008



This is a report generated by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection/ Inland Fisheries Division- Diadromous Program. For more information, contact Steve Gephard, 860/434-6043. For more information about fish runs on the Connecticut River call the USFWS Hotline at 413/548-9628 or visit the USFWS website at [www.fws.gov/r5cr](http://www.fws.gov/r5cr). For more information about Atlantic salmon, visit the Connecticut River Salmon Association at [www.ctriversalmon.org](http://www.ctriversalmon.org).

**CONNECTICUT RIVER LOCATIONS**

<b>FISHWAY (RIVER)</b>	<b>ATLANTIC SALMON</b>	<b>AMER. SHAD</b>	<b>ALEWIFE</b>	<b>BLUEBACK HERRING</b>	<b>GIZZARD SHAD</b>	<b>STRIPED BASS</b>	<b>SEA LAMPREY</b>	<b>SEA-RUN TROUT</b>	<b>AMER. EEL</b>
<b>Rainbow</b> (Farmington)	0	74	4	0	0	0	1,228*	1	0
<b>Leesville</b> (Salmon)	0	-	-	0	-	-	0***	1	0
<b>Moulson Pond</b> (Eightmile)	0	-	thousands	0	0	0	0***	0	-
<b>Mary Steube<sup>+</sup></b> (Mill Brook)	-	-	797						
<b>WestSpringfield</b> (Westfield- MA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Holyoke</b> (Connecticut- MA)	0/0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0
<b>Turners Falls</b> (Connecticut- MA)	0/0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
<b>Vernon</b> (Connecticut- VT)	0/0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
<b>Bellows Falls</b> (Connecticut- VT)	0/0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	0
<b>Wilder</b> (Connecticut- VT)	0/0	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0
<b>Other</b> (all sites)	1/0								
<b>TOTALS=</b> (last year's totals)	1/0 214/16	66 156,322	N.A. -----	0++ 21++	0 133	0 124	482 19,119	2 6	0 2,287

Fishways listed in gray font above are not yet opened for the season. In some cases, the fishways will be opened soon. In the case of the fishways on the Connecticut River, some fishways are not opened until significant numbers of fish pass through the fishway immediately downstream of them. If that never happens, the fishway may not be opened during the season.

\* The number before the slash indicates the total number of salmon seen at the fishway. The number after the slash is the number that were allowed to continue upstream of the dam. The others were captured for breeding.

\*\*Many of these species move at night. There is a video camera that records overnight passage when staff is not present. So this count is a combination of real-time counts and video counts. There is a considerable lag between the date a tape is recorded and when staff is able to count fish from the tape, so these numbers will not represent up-to-date counts until after the end of spring season.

\*\*\* The number of lampreys at these facilities is a drastic undercount due to the way the fishways are monitored. Population estimates for these streams will be provided by using end-of-the-season nest surveys.

+There is an electronic fish counter at this fishway. ++This total does not include the imprecise estimates at Moulson Pond Fishway.

NOTE: All fish that pass through the Turners Falls, Vernon, Bellows Falls, and Wilder fishways had to first go through the Holyoke Fishlift where they were counted. Therefore those fish are not included in the totals at the bottom.

## COMMENTS:

The river shot back up to 75,000 cfs by May 1 but today is back down to 35,000. The first lifts were made today at the Holyoke Dam but by mid-day, they had not seen any fish. This is not surprising since the water temperature there is still 8 C (46 F)! Shad are still being reported from the tributaries, which are warmer, but we certainly wouldn't expect to see them at Holyoke until the temperatures surpass 10/50 degrees. The run at Rainbow quieted down during the high cool water but with the forecast for warm days, hopefully the runs will re-start. Fish markets are reporting difficulty getting shad from the netters but that too should improve as the river level drops and the temperatures warm up. No reports of river herring this past week, even in the tributaries. Even the sea lamprey run dropped off. At Rainbow, we've counted only 128 lamprey during the day and 1,016 lamprey off the computer images taken at night. Our review of the computer images is only up to April 29<sup>th</sup>.

The main beneficiary of the rain and the resultant high, cold water has been the Atlantic salmon smolt run. Last Thursday night Tim and I sampled smolts at Rainbow and the fish were running strong. The temperature was 11 C (52 F) and both generators were running. We saw more smolts than we have seen in one night for many years. The numbers of hatchery-reared smolts seem to be dropping off but the wild (fry-stocked) smolts were increasing. The runs seemed to be dominated by smaller smolts (1 year old?) but there were some large ones mixed in. We expect this run to continue strong for the next two weeks.

Salmon fry stocking wraps up this week in Massachusetts but we expect to continue for another week and a half in Connecticut.



*Atlantic salmon smolts are crowded on the sampling table at the Rainbow Dam Bypass Sampling Station prior to sampling. Each fish is counted, identified to origin (hatchery smolt or fry stocked smolt), and measured. We take scales (for aging) from some and we take snips of a fin for subsequent genetic analysis from some. All are released live to resume their migration.*

## OTHER LOCATIONS WITHIN CONNECTICUT

FISHWAY (RIVER)	AMER. SHAD	ALEWIFE	BLUEBACK HERRING	GIZZARD SHAD	STRIPED BASS	SEA LAMPREY	SEA-RUN TROUT	AMER. EEL
<b>Greenville*</b> (Shetucket R., Norwich)	590	444	0	25	1	0	4	2
<b>Taftville*</b> (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Occum*</b> (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Versailles Pond</b> (Little R., Sprague)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Tunnel*</b> (Quinebaug R., Preston)	0	374	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Kinneytown*</b> (Naugatuck R., Seymour)	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
<b>Whitfords Brook</b> (Whitfords Br., Groton)		present						
<b>Trading Cove Brook</b> (Trading Cove Br., Montville)		thousands!						
<b>Latimers Brook+</b> (Latimers Br., E.Lyme)		2,452						
<b>Gorton Pond</b> (Pattagansett R., E.Lyme)		thousands?						
<b>Brides Brook**</b> (Brides Brook, E.Lyme)		64,660						
<b>Fishing Brook</b> (Fishing Br., O.Saybrook)		present						
<b>Branford Supply Pond Dam**</b> (Queach Br., Branford)		1,377						
<b>Clarks Pond</b> (Indian R., Milford)		~1,180						
<b>Bunnells Pond</b> (Peqonnock R., Bridgeport)		Thousands!!						
<b>Wood Dam**</b> (Saugatuck R., Westport)		2,131						
<b>Mianus River Pond**</b> (Mianus R., Greenwich)		71,179	0	0				present

\*Fish passage is video-recorded and counts are made off of tapes several days later so these data are always lagged a little behind. This report covers passage up to the following dates for these fishways:

Greenville= 5/03. Taftville= visual only. Occum= 5/03. Tunnel= 5/03. Kinneytown= 4/15.

\*\*These locations have an electronic fish counter and are used as index sites for river herring runs. The counter is checked daily Monday-Friday. Monday counts typically include all weekend passage. These counts are usually up-to-date but some may lag behind a day or two, occasionally.

+This location has a fish trap and fish are enumerated prior to release.

Counts in parentheses indicate numbers seen in a run that is now over and no further fish were counted during the past week. Typically used for alewife runs later in June.

## COMMENTS:

While the runs of alewives slowed down during the last week due to cold rains, the fish kept coming in. More good numbers were logged this week at Mianus, Saugatuck, and Clark Pond. Ron Merly reports good runs of fish in the Mill in Fairfield and below Derby Dam on the Housatonic River. Last night I was returning home from the City and stopped off at the Pequonnock River in Bridgeport after dark and watched alewives struggle (successfully) to get over the concrete apron below the dam. Fish runs continue in the east at streams like Pattagansett, Latimers, Poquentanuck, and Whitfords. The runs at Greenville slowed down with the weather but continued to come in—both the alewife and shad numbers continued to rise. The exciting news is passage further upstream. The Tunnel Dam Fishlift, which passed only 3 alewives last year, has already passed 374 this year. First Light Power has not had a chance to review tapes at Taftville Dam but Norwich Public Utilities has reviewed tapes for the upstream Occum Fishway and reports passing 2 alewives—so some must be passing at Taftville! Now where are the shad????

We've suggested that monitors start checking river herring for identification since blueback herring could be showing up in some places. So far, all checks have revealed that all fish are still alewives. Please keep checking.

Alewife transplanting wrapped up today with a trip to Rainbow. We will begin trucking shad on the Shetucket River later this week.

Glass eels are still running strong in many locations. The seasonal total for our index site at Fishing Brook stands at 11,000+.



*A glass eel captured at a Connecticut eel pass.*