

CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT
 Report Date: June 2, 2009



This is a report generated by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection/ Inland Fisheries Division- Diadromous Program. For more information, contact Steve Gephard, 860/447-4316. 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/r5crc. For more information about Atlantic salmon, visit the Connecticut River Salmon Association at www.ctriversalmon.org.

CONNECTICUT RIVER LOCATIONS

| FISHWAY (RIVER) | ATLANTIC SALMON | AMER. SHAD | ALEWIFE | BLUEBACK HERRING | GIZZARD SHAD | STRIPED BASS | SEA LAMPREY | SEA-RUN TROUT | AMER. EEL |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Rainbow (Farmington) | 10 | 33 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1,245* | 3 | 10 |
| Leesville (Salmon) | 1 | - | - | 0 | - | - | 1*** | 0 | 0 |
| Moulson Pond (Eightmile) | 0 | - | thousands | ?? | 0 | 0 | 0*** | 0 | - |
| Mary Steube+ (Mill Brook) | - | - | 9 (broken) | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| WestSpringfield (Westfield- MA) | 0 | 1,041 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 466 | 0 | 3 |
| Holyoke (Connecticut- MA) | 51/10 | 126,604 | 0 | 39 | 43 | 253 | 15,110 | 0 | 0 |
| Turners Falls (Connecticut- MA) | 1/1 | 979 | - | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | - |
| Vernon (Connecticut- VT) | 2/2 | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | 0 | 120 | - | - |
| Bellows Falls (Connecticut- VT) | 1/1 | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | - | 0 |
| Wilder (Connecticut- VT) | 1/1 | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | - | 0 |
| Other (all sites) | 0/0 | | | | | | | | |
| TOTALS= | 62/11 | 127,678 | 0++ | 39 | 43 | 256 | 16,821 | 3 | 13 |
| <i>(last year's totals)</i> | 141/11 | 156,4926 | ----- | 89++ | 110 | 551 | 66,521 | 8 | 213 |

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 that were not counted at downstream fishways. The number after the slash is the number of those fish 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.

*** Population estimates based on 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:

Steve opened the Connecticut River section of last week's report with the following curse "No more complaining about the Rainbow Fishway." We seem to be at the point when something is repaired a new problem arises. Telephone service restored, trap motor malfunctions, again. The DEP electrician is working on it as I write, but the problem may be worse than the "bad switch" that we were "hoping for". Needless to say (but I'll add it anyway) I'm looking forward to Steve's return. Who, by the way, reports beautiful vistas overlooking Norwegian fjords under the mid-night sun! Anyhow, things are pretty slow in terms of fish at Rainbow, so if the trap motor had to pick a time to go-down; it could have been worse. We did trap an additional three salmon at Rainbow since last week. One of the salmon apparently had been recently radio-tagged prior to its release at Holyoke! This salmon over-shot the Farmington River, got captured at Holyoke, tagged, released, had second thoughts about the whole ordeal and dropped back down to the Farmington River. It was transported to Cronin where it will be incorporated into this falls spawning operation. We also trapped the first Leesville salmon this past Sunday. A nice bright male (that will be starring in next's week video) that "salmon whisperer" Joe Ravita (former overseer of the Whittemore Salmon Station; now works at Burlington Trout Hatchery) helped me handle. Joe just happened to be there right when I needed him - thanks Joe. The lamprey run is on-hold with the cool temperatures. I image that once things start to warm-up the lamprey are going to make one more big push. Shad numbers at Rainbow have become disappointing over the last few years and this year is no exception. Dave trucked two loads of pre-spawn fish to Rainbow Reservoir again this year (today, in fact) so there should be fish spawning in the headpond - ensuring that shad will want to come back to it in a few years. I think that as of today he is done with the scheduled trucking from Holyoke, which is a week early. Next's week video will deal with shad trucking (if the Rainbow problems don't first drive me insane).

The shad run at Holyoke is also starting to taper-off. Daily lifts are now below 2,000 shad, which is still good - just not the 10,000 day lifts that we see during the peak. Last year's mark of 153,110 is still doable; especially considering the forecast is for continues cool temperatures which could help lengthen the run duration.

The salmon smolt run seems to be done. We sampled 11 smolts last Tuesday and 0 smolts on Thursday. A disappointing sample this year caused by the lack of electrical power. It looks like the run peaked before we were able to sample, and while we did get almost all of our scale sampling done and a decent number of genetic tissue samples, I don't think that we can say much about the strength of this year's run. We are also very curious about our new evening stockings (as opposed to afternoon) of hatchery smolts and thought that we might be able to detect a difference in the number of hatchery smolts that we sampled. We will try again next year.

The Annual Rainbow Dam Fishway Open House is this Saturday, June 6th. Right now the weather is forecasted to be great so anyone that has not that the chance to visit should swing-by and check it out. We will be there giving tours from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. See attachment for directions or visit: <http://www.ctriversalmon.org/>



Adult captured at Rainbow last week. similar wound is on the other side of the fish Anyone ever see this type of wound before?



Radio tag incision site of the adult salmon that overshot the Farmington River, got tagged at Holyoke and returned to the Farmington.

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OTHER LOCATIONS WITHIN CONNECTICUT

| FISHWAY (RIVER) | AMER. SHAD | ALEWIFE | BLUEBACK HERRING | GIZZARD SHAD | STRIPED BASS | SEA LAMPREY | SEA-RUN TROUT | AMER. EEL |
|---|---|---------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|--------------|
| Greenville* (Shetucket R., Norwich) | 1,780 | 190 | 0 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 10 |
| Taftville* (Shetucket R., Norwich) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Occum* (Shetucket R., Norwich) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Versailles Pond (Little R., Sprague) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tunnel* (Quinebaug R., Preston) | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kinneytown* (Naugatuck R., Seymour) | <i>no counts this year due to shortages of staff Sea lamprey, American shad, sea-run trout observed above fishway</i> | | | | | | | |
| Whitfords Brook (Whitfords Br., Groton) | 0 | none seen yet | | | | | | |
| Trading Cove Brook (Trading Cove Br., Montville) | small numbers seen | | | | | | | |
| Latimers Brook+ (Latimers Br., E.Lyme) | present (not enumerated) | | | | | | | |
| Gorton Pond (Pattagansett R., E.Lyme) | good numbers seen below (not enumerated) | | | | | | | |
| Brides Brook** (Brides Brook, E.Lyme) | 74,774 | | | | | | | |
| Fishing Brook (Fishing Br., O.Saybrook) | present (not enumerated) | | | | | | | |
| Branford Supply Pond Dam** (Queach Br., Branford) | 3,477 | | | | | | | |
| Clarks Pond (Indian R., Milford) | 6 | | | | | | | |
| Bunnells Pond (Peqonnock R., Bridgeport) | present (not enumerated) | | | | | | | |
| Wood Dam** (Saugatuck R., Westport) | 1,401 | | 86 | | | | | |
| Mianus River Pond** (Mianus R., Greenwich) | 23,663 | | 5,534 | | 0 | | | |

**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= 5/26 Taftville= n.a. Occum= ?. Tunnel= 5/26 Kinneytown= no counts this year

***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:

Shad numbers continue to taper-off, as does the reports of river herring. All runs have slowed. Dave had hoped to truck one more load of shad out of Greenville this year, but at this point I'm skeptical that he'll be able to do that. If there were good numbers of fish still out there, you'd think that they would have come in this past weekend; but then again the flows and water temperatures are falling - so who knows! If Dave can't haul out of Greenville he'll probably try to get one more load out of Holyoke (today was going to be his last day at Holyoke). A small wave of bluebacks moved through the western coastals including the Mianus and Wood Dam fishways. I did not get a Housatonic report this week, but did hear that sea lamprey are spawning below Tingue Dam in Seymour. These fish first must ascend the Kinneytown Fishway - we have seen them there in past years, but could not operate the fishway video recorder this year due to budget problems, so we have been in the dark up 'til now about anadromous fish in the Naugatuck. In addition to lamprey, American shad and sea-run brown trout have been observed at the base of the dam. Brides Brook is finished for the year - we pulled our counter today so that any spent fish looking to get back out to the sea can do so un-harassed. An update on shad tagging at Greenville: Bob Stira of FirstLight reports that a total of 16 radio tagged shad (out of 20 tagged) have been detected at either Taftville or Tunnel fishways and that 8 PIT tagged shad (out of 100 tagged) have been detected at the Tunnel Fishlift entrance. Today's "Feature Presentation" is a short I put together about shad tagging at Greenville. If you've had a problem receiving/opening/running any of my videos follow this link: <http://www.ctriversalmon.org/runs.html> The Connecticut River Salmon Association has put them on their website. Five untagged shad have passed through Tunnel Fishlift.

Brian is accusing Steve of messing-up the alewife numbers for Mianus Fishway and so we lost 4,000 fish with one keystroke. Alewife numbers are down there, but the bluebacks may approach the 10,000 number we saw last year. Sally reports another 86 fish through Wood Dam Fishway (Saugatuck River). We are counting those as bluebacks since we were able to get a sample there last week. The alewife/blueback numbers at Wood are subject to change - we may be able to make tease the numbers based on run date and strength; but I'll leave that up to our herring specialist.

The glass eel count at Fishing Brook is up to 7,375.

Steve will still be in Norway next week, so if you have information to share, please send it to me at: timothy.wildman@ct.gov.

This week's featured fishway is the **Tunnel Fishlift** on the Quinebaug River in Preston. This fishlift is owned and operated by FirstLight Power Resources and is the first (and only thus far) fishway on the Quinebaug River. The metal-sided fishway entrance can be seen in the foreground in front of the concrete powerhouse. While more water is emanating from the powerhouse, attraction flows from the fishway entrance appear sufficient in this photo. 8 PIT tagged shad have been detected at this entrance, 5 untagged shad have passed..

