

CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT
 Report Date: June 9, 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	38	0	0	0	1	1,259*	3	10
Leesville (Salmon)	1	-	-	0	-	-	1***	0	0
Moulson Pond (Eightmile)	0	- thousands	??	0	0	0	0***	0	-
Mary Steube+ (Mill Brook)	-	-9 (broken)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WestSpringfield (Westfield- MA)	1	1,243	0	0	0	2	483	0	3
Holyoke (Connecticut- MA)	54/10	147,765	0	39	44	377	18,504	0	0
Turners Falls (Connecticut- MA)	3/3	2,698	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
Vernon (Connecticut- VT)	4/4	6	-	0	0	0	755	-	-
Bellows Falls (Connecticut- VT)	2/2	0	-	0	0	0	62	-	0
Wilder (Connecticut- VT)	1/1	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0
Other (all sites)	0/0								
TOTALS=	66/11	149,046	0++	39	44	380	20,247	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:

I am not going to mention any problems at Rainbow in this report; I'd rather mention the 135 people who turned-out last Saturday for the Open House. I trust that they all have a better appreciation for the sort of stuff we do and the species of fish we are working to enhance/restore. Unfortunately, the fish didn't read the flyers - but the small mouth bass told me he had a blast eyeballing all the people through the viewing window! Seriously, thanks to all the people who did make it out - we do appreciate your interest.

Fish runs this past week have been very quite; even the sea lamprey stopped moving. Not sure if that's it for fish, or the conditions weren't to their liking. The conditions are about to change, however, so we shall see if this rain shakes any fish loose. Rainbow did see more sea lamprey action last night than they saw all last week, so with any luck, we will see fish of all species (native of course) start moving again. Leesville has also been extremely quite. I think I can count on one hand all the fish that I've passed there since trapping the salmon on May 31. I don't recall ever seeing only 49 cfs coming over the spillway there at this time of year; so this rain is more than welcome.

The shad run at Holyoke continues to taper-off. Daily lifts are holding around 2,000 shad and we have come very close to last year's mark. A fairly dramatic decline in the numbers of sea lamprey in the watershed this year; the numbers are down at all fishways - it will be interesting to see if the recent activity at Rainbow has occurred elsewhere.

This week video is about Pre-spawn adult American shad trucking out of the Holyoke Fishlift. It is quite a facility that Holyoke Gas and Electric built in support of American shad enhancement and restoration. The fish are never put through the stresses of netting or handling, which has cut-down on post-stocking mortality. To view this (and all the video's produced thus far) go to The Connecticut River Salmon Associations website @ <http://www.ctriversalmon.org/> and follow the link on the left margin of the homepage. Thanks for all your help CRSA! Thanks Marty!

Darren Desmarais of the USF&W's Richard Cronin Salmon Station receives a Connecticut salmon. Photo: Andrew Pryshlak



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)	2,098	190	0	11	7	4	2	10
Taftville* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Occum* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Versailles Pond (Little R., Sprague)	0	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 (Pegonnock R., Bridgeport)	present (not enumerated)							
Wood Dam** (Saugatuck R., Westport)	1,401		165					
Mianus River Pond** (Mianus R., Greenwich)	23,086		8,601		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= 6/7 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, though there were enough for Dave to get one more load out of the Greeneville Fishlift. Those fish went to the Shetucket River above the Scotland Dam. Another small wave of bluebacks moved through the western coastals including the Mianus and Wood Dam fishways this past weekend. Bob Stira of FirstLight reports that one of the PIT tagged shad (see Shad PIT tagging video) made it through the Taftville Fishway. It was Tag # 64, a 41 CM male that took only 13 minutes to get through the fishway.

The glass eel count at Fishing Brook is up to 8,213.

Steve will be back in time to do next week's report - I hope to put that adult salmon capture video together in-time! If you have information to share, please send it to Steve.