

CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT
 Report Date: July 8, 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)	12	37	0	0	0	1	1,869*	5	187
Leesville (Salmon)	2	-	-	0	-	-	1***	0	0
Moulson Pond (Eightmile)	0	- thousands	??	0	0	0	0***	0	-
Mary Steube ⁺ (Mill Brook)	-	-9 (broken)	-	-	-	-	-	-	652
WestSpringfield (Westfield- MA)	2	1,381	0	0	0	0	541	0	30
Holyoke (Connecticut- MA)	58/10	159,677	0	39	67	649	18,996	0	4,733
Turners Falls (Connecticut- MA)	9/9	3,813	-	0	0	0	7,237	-	-
Vernon (Connecticut- VT)	7/7	16	-	0	0	0	1,532	-	-
Bellows Falls (Connecticut- VT)	4/4	0	-	0	0	0	100	-	0
Wilder (Connecticut- VT)	1/1	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0
Other (all sites)	0/0								
TOTALS=	74/10	161,095	0++	39	67	649	21,403	5	5,602
<i>(last year's totals)</i>	<i>141/11</i>	<i>156,4926</i>	<i>-----</i>	<i>89++</i>	<i>110</i>	<i>551</i>	<i>66,521</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>213</i>

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:

Fishways are still open but most will be closing soon. Moulson Pond and Mary Steube are already closed; Rainbow will close on Friday and an experimental eel pass in the lower fishway will be installed for summer eel passage. Leesville will close early next week for some maintenance—baffle replacement and a tune-up of the eel pass. You can see by the numbers, there hasn't been a lot of change in fish numbers from last week. We picked up an additional salmon at Holyoke and a few eels here and there but things are pretty much over. Jay explains that the change in numbers at upriver fishways from last week reflect a few fish headed back down.

Here is an update on the ten salmon released at Holyoke:

- 1- Dropped downstream and was re-captured at Rainbow. Taken to Cronin for captive breeding.
- 1- Entered the Deerfield River (MA).
- 1- Entered the Mill River (MA).
- 7- Passed through the Turners Falls fishways (MA)
 - 1= entered the Ashuelot River (NH)
 - 6= passed through the Vernon fishway (VT)
 - 2= entered the West River and were trapped and trucked around the Townshend Dam (VT)
 - 1= entered the Saxton River (VT)
 - 3= passed through the Bellows Falls fishway (VT)
 - 2= entered the White River
 - 1= passed through the Wilder Fishway (VT) and its whereabouts is now unknown.

The continuing saga of the weather has thwarted the 2009 Lamprey Nest Survey on the Salmon and Eightmile River watersheds. A variety of conditions make the survey impossible to do. High flows last week appear to have obliterated all signs of the nests and rain yesterday brought the streams way up again, making them impossible to wade and view lamprey nests. By the time the streams go down, it will be too late in the season to count nests. We will lose the data for this year. It's been a strange year. The flow in the Connecticut River is higher now than it was at the beginning of the season.

It has been a mixed bag this year. Shad and stripers were up slightly; eels are up a lot; salmon and sea lampreys are down considerably. Blueback herring was down by more than 50% but when the numbers are less than 100, you can't make much out of a few less fish. The Merrimack River is also up to 74 salmon and the Penobscot is just over 1,700.

See you next year.

OTHER LOCATIONS WITHIN CONNECTICUT

FISHWAY (RIVER)	AMER. SHAD	ALEWIFE	BLUEBACK HERRING	GIZZARD SHAD	STRIPED BASS	SEA LAMPREY	SEA-RUN TROUT	AMER. EEL
Greeneville* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	2,168	190	0	12	7	4	2	263^
Taftville* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	5	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)	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,148
Kinneytown* (Naugatuck R., Seymour)	<i>no counts this year; sea lamprey, American shad, sea-run trout observed above fishway</i>							917
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)							9,256
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		587					
Mianus River Pond** (Mianus R., Greenwich)	22,979		9,563		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:*

Greeneville= 7/2 Taftville= 6/30? Occum= ?. Tunnel=7/1 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.

^includes 10 eels seen in the fishlift and 221 eels in the eel pass.

COMMENTS:

The season is over. Many fishways are now closed and others that are still open will likely remain open throughout the season. Greeneville is the last of the large fishways operating. It passed a few late shad so the City of Norwich is keeping it open for the rest of this week and then will shut it down before the weekend. Eel passage is now ramping up. In addition to the numbers in the table above, Mill River has passed 743 but those numbers and those for Kinneytown were not updated since last week so the numbers are probably higher.

Brian is seeing young-of-the-year alewives coming down Mianus Pond Fishway and is still seeing glass eels in the eel pass. This is pretty late for glass eels but Brad Chase from Mass Marine Fisheries reported yesterday that he is still seeing glass eels, too.

The high water, particularly in eastern Connecticut, had us concerned for the well-being of some of our fishways. During the peak, the lower portion of the Versailles Fishway was underwater and we couldn't see the new aluminum extension. However, now that the water has receded, we see that everything is intact and no damage has been found.

Before shutting down for the summer, let's congratulate the Town of East Haddam on its recent Open Space Referendum. The Town asked voters to approve the purchase of about 405 acres for conservation and the residents voted 3 to 1 to acquire and protect the land. Some of the land is along the Eightmile River and will help protect important diadromous fish habitat. East Haddam joins Guilford, Wethersfield, and other Connecticut towns that have recently approved such acquisitions. Even in economic hard times, local folks are recognizing the value of open space.

This is the last report for the year. See you next year.