

CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT

Report Date: June 2, 2010



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/r5csc. 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)	2	540	8	26	0	0	2,807**	3	16
Leesville (Salmon)	0	-	-	0	-	-	0***	2	0
Moulson Pond (Eightmile)	0	-	10,000s	10,000s	0	0	0***	0	-
Mary Steube ⁺ (Mill Brook)	-	-	1,209	-	-	-	-	-	-
WestSpringfield (Westfield- MA)	3	2,945	0	0	0	0	459	0	248
Holyoke (Connecticut- MA)	35/10	149,000	0	76	274	193	39,669	0	0
Turners Falls (Connecticut- MA)	0/0	303	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
Vernon (Connecticut- VT)	3/3	117	-	0	0	0	2,578	-	-
Bellows Falls (Connecticut- VT)	0/0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	0
Wilder (Connecticut- VT)	0/0	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0
Other (all sites)	0/0								
TOTALS=	40/10	152,485	10000s	102++	274	193	42,935	5	264
(last year's totals)	74/10	161,095	-----	39++	67	649	21,403	5	5,602

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 is in Quebec City this week attending the Annual NASCO (North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization) meeting, so I will attempt to fill-in for him this week. Don't worry, he will be back next week and be on the case for the final push through the end of the fish passage season.

The Rainbow Fishway Annual Open House is this Saturday, June 5th from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Come and take a tour of the Rainbow Fishway and see migrating fish in the underground viewing window. CTDEP staff will be on hand to conduct tours and answer questions. 400 Rainbow Road, Windsor CT 06065. Look for the brown DEP sign at the entrance.

Seven additional salmon were trapped since last week's report. The traditional Memorial Day Salmon at Leesville did not show-up this year despite the beautiful weather. My guess is that the low flows in the Salmon River had something to do with their absence. Yesterday the Salmon River was running a boney 41 cfs; which was about 100 cfs below the daily average; but thanks to the rains the river is back-up to average flows. I am hopeful that a nice bright sea-run salmon will be waiting for me when I check the fishway this afternoon. We still don't have any reports of tagged salmon passing through the fishways at Turners Falls, but Jay reports that three have passed through the Vernon Fishway. Jay also reports that Bellows Falls Fishway was scheduled to open this morning. On the Merrimack, the salmon count at the Essex dam is 42 and on the Penobscot they have counted 344 salmon at Veazie Dam.

The salmon smolt run at Rainbow is officially over. Last night zero smolts were sampled. This year's run appears to have been stronger than average - the hatchery smolts stocked this past March seem to have fared well; and the stream conditions over the past two years were very favorable for the wild, stream-reared (fry stocked in 2008), smolts emigrating this year. Similar reports come from other smolt sampling stations in the Connecticut River Watershed. I must add that we had a flawless sampling season this year with no operational problems, and for the first time that I've been around, we did not have to cancel a single sample.

The past week was a good-one for shad in the watershed; Rainbow saw its best single day count in a number of years. We are closing in on last year's shad count and could match it even though reports from Holyoke are that the numbers there are quickly dwindling. Both the CTDEP and the USFWS are done shad out of Holyoke, which make CTDEP's driver Dave Ellis very happy! It is not uncommon for Dave to put 2,000 miles on the shad truck per week during the trucking season and if you have ever seen the shad truck, you'd understand. Thanks Dave.

I did not produce a video for this week, and I'm actually running low on all the really cool stuff that we are lucky enough to get to do around here. I have a few more 'in the can' that we will post later in the season, but for now all I can do is to remind you that all of the videos that we have produced are on the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Association's website, www.ctriversalmon.org, including the videos from 2009 - just click on the outline of a salmon on the left margin that is labeled "River Runs" and then click on the DEP Video Archives to view. Thanks again CRSA!

Sea lampreys peaked at Leesville last Tuesday and Wednesday; Steve reported seeing many of them clinging to the rocks and spillway. Bruce Williams reports seeing many nests in the upper Jeremy River (almost in Glastonbury!) late last week (while stocking the last of this year's salmon fry). Still no sign of another wave of blueback herring at Leeseville.

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)	2,144	156	0	576	1	0	0	3
Taftville* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	4	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Occum* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Versailles Pond (Little R., Sprague)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tunnel* (Quinebaug R., Preston)	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	18
Kinneytown* (Naugatuck R., Seymour)	0	0	0	32	0	2	0	440
Mill River Eel Pass (Mill River, Hamden)								298
Trading Cove Brook (Trading Cove Br., Montville)		fishway destroyed in flood						
Latimers Brook+ (Latimers Br., E.Lyme)		2,558						
Gorton Pond (Pattagansett R., E.Lyme)		present (not enumerated)						
Brides Brook** (Brides Brook, E.Lyme)		164,167 (season over)						
Fishing Brook (Fishing Br., O.Saybrook)		present (not enumerated)						13,960
Capello Pond** (East River, Guilford)		10,976						
Branford Supply Pond Dam** (Queach Br., Branford)		50,668 (season over)						
Bunnells Pond (Pegonnock R., Bridgeport)		1000s						
Wood Dam** (Saugatuck R., Westport)		1,927 (missed much of run due to counter malfunction)						
Mianus River Pond** (Mianus R., Greenwich)		87,078	1,532	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= 5/21. Taftville= 5/16 (?). Occum= 5/24 Tunnel= 5/13?. Kinneytown= 5/27.

***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:

The alewife run seems to be over and just the bluebacks continue to run. Mike Aurelia reports that the run has switch to bluebacks at Mianus River, and Cynthia Fowx (TNC) reports 333 additional counts at Wood Dam on the Saugatuck River. My guess is that these are all bluebacks. Capellos continued to count fish, but we suspect that those are downrunners and so the number for the East River will probably need some adjustment. That counter is being pulled today.

The Kinneytown video is back-up and running and I think we have that system finally figured-out. Thanks go to the guys at Enel North America for installing a dedicated GFI for our use - right in the video cabinet (which they also supplied!). Our seasonal over there, Samantha Wright is back in business and busy counting fish and passing eels at the eel pass. She is seeing trout, suckers, lamprey, smallies and gizzard shad. I'm hoping that she sees American shad soon. The shad run is also slowing down at the Greeneville Fishlift on the Shetucket. We had planned to truck additional shad from the lift to habitat upstream of dams on both the Shetucket and Quinebaug rivers this week, but we may not have the fish to do so.

Fishing Brook continues to have a better year than last year with young-of-year American eels. In the table above, the numbers for Fishing Brook, Mill River, and Kinneytown are all eel pass fish. The numbers for Greeneville and Tunnel are fishlift numbers. Greeneville Eel Pass was destroyed in the floods but we expect to start getting numbers from the Tunnel Eel Pass along with those from eel passes at Occum, Lower Millpond, and Bunnells soon.

The Quinipiac River Watershed Association (QRWA) held another Fish Rodeo (number 5 this year!) and lifted another 558 herring (probably bluebacks) and six gizzard shad. QRWA is offering to train other towns to do this, if interested!

BLACK CROWED NIGHT HERRING ARE A GOOD INDICATION OF THE PRESENCE OF RIVER HERRING. Last week Steve mentioned that Sally Harold (TNC) reported seeing these fish-eating birds on Sasco Brook. Below is one of the pictures that she sent us – I count four. Thanks Sally.



A real nice underwater shot of a school of migrating alewife that ex-seasonal/fishway volunteer/grad student/all-round-good-guy Ben "Benjammin'" Gahagan provided.