

# CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT

Report Date: June 29, 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/r5crc](http://www.fws.gov/r5crc). For more information about Atlantic salmon, visit the Connecticut River Salmon Association at [www.ctriversalmon.org](http://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
<b>Rainbow</b> (Farmington)	4	560	8	15	0	0	3,100**	3	171
<b>Leesville</b> (Salmon)	1	-	-	0	-	-	856***	2	0
<b>Moulson Pond</b> (Eightmile)	0	-	10,000s	10,000s	0	0	488***	0	-
<b>Mary Steube+</b> (Mill Brook)	-	-	1,239	(closed June 9)	-	-	-	-	-
<b>WestSpringfield</b> (Westfield- MA)	4	3,435	0	1	0	0	485	0	320
<b>Holyoke</b> (Connecticut- MA)	41/10	163,491	0	76	353	293	39,782	0	0
<b>Turners Falls</b> (Connecticut- MA)	0/8	13,601	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
<b>Vernon</b> (Connecticut- VT)	0/8	282	-	0	0	0	3,179	-	-
<b>Bellows Falls</b> (Connecticut- VT)	0/4	0	-	0	0	0	392	-	0
<b>Wilder</b> (Connecticut- VT)	0/2	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0
<b>Townshend Dam</b> (West- VT)	0/1								
<b>TOTALS=</b>	50/10	167,486	10000s	92++	353	293	44,711	5	491
<i>(last year's totals)</i>	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.

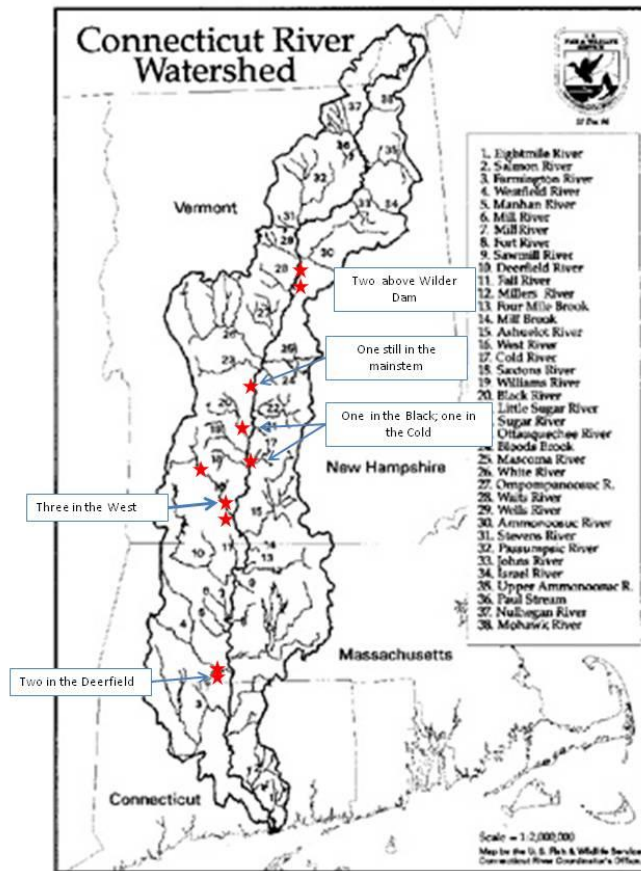
**COMMENTS:**

You will see in the table above that a couple of hundred American shad have been added at Holyoke since the last report and 3 gizzard shad here and 3 striped bass there, but the runs are really over. The one significant addition has been a few adult Atlantic salmon. Two were trapped at Holyoke over the weekend and I trapped one at Leesville this morning. Water temperatures have exceeded the threshold for salmon daily but this morning was a little cooler and I was surprised to find a 32 inch dark male salmon in the trap along with a 20" rainbow trout. The weather is supposed to turn cooler this evening so water temperatures could drop but we need a good rain to draw more salmon in and I'm not sure that is forecasted. I have not received any updates on the whereabouts of the ten radio-tagged salmon that were released at Holyoke, so I assume their locations remain about the same as I reported last week. I have added a map below to graphically depict their distribution in the watershed. Of course, this is subject to change.

Bruce reports seeing emigrating young-of-year clupeids at Rainbow Dam. At this location, they are most likely American shad or blueback herring.

This year we have conducted our lamprey nest surveys for the Salmon and Eightmile rivers before the last report so those population estimates were added to the table above. A few small stretches of stream still need to be surveyed, so these numbers may increase a little before the final numbers are submitted. More on the Lamprey Survey in the next section of the report, below.

We will be installing an eel pass in the bottom of the Rainbow Fishway when we close the fishway for the season in early July and the numbers for eels will climb (as will the eels!).



*Map of the Connecticut River Basin showing the approximate locations of the released salmon (red stars).*

## OTHER LOCATIONS WITHIN CONNECTICUT

FISHWAY (RIVER)	AMER. SHAD	ALEWIFE	BLUEBACK HERRING	GIZZARD SHAD	STRIPED BASS	SEA LAMPREY	SEA-RUN TROUT	AMER. EEL	
<b>Greeneville*</b> (Shetucket R., Norwich)	2,461	156	0	859	1	0	0	8	
<b>Taftville*</b> (Shetucket R., Norwich)	9	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	
<b>Occum*</b> (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	1	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)	2	1	0	3	0	0	0	109	
<b>Kinneytown*</b> (Naugatuck R., Seymour)	3	0	0	38	0	4	30	652	
<b>Mill River Eel Pass</b> (Mill River, Hamden)								1,577	
<b>Trading Cove Brook</b> (Trading Cove Br., Montville)			fishway destroyed in flood						
<b>Latimers Brook+</b> (Latimers Br., E.Lyme)		2,560	(season over)						
<b>Gorton Pond</b> (Pattagansett R., E.Lyme)		present	(season over)						
<b>Brides Brook**</b> (Brides Brook, E.Lyme)		164,149	(season over)						
<b>Fishing Brook</b> (Fishing Br., O.Saybrook)		present	(season over)						18,632
<b>Capello Pond**</b> (East River, Guilford)		32,651	(season over)						
<b>Branford Supply Pond Dam**</b> (Queach Br., Branford)		50,668	(season over)						
<b>Bunnells Pond</b> (Peqonnock R., Bridgeport)		1000s	(season over)						5
<b>Wood Dam**</b> (Saugatuck R., Westport)		3,000	(missed much of run due to counter malfunction)						65
<b>Mianus River Pond**</b> (Mianus R., Greenwich)		93,077	7,028	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= 6/25. Taftville=6/5. Occum= 5/24 Tunnel= 6/8. Kinneytown= 6/22.

\*\*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:

All activity has ceased at small coastal fishways and most have closed and fish counters pulled. The Shetucket River fishways are now closed and the data for Greenville is final. Bob Stira is still reviewing tapes for Taftville and Tunnel so those numbers may continue to rise. These fishways have also passed trout, suckers, bass, carp and other species. Kinneytown is still operating but we don't expect much more for counts from here to closing time. Glass eels have really slowed down to almost nothing but yellow eel passage continues. We have a new data point to add to the Saugatuck River. Volunteers, led by Sally and Cynthia of The Nature Conservancy, conducted a lamprey nest survey today and counted 35 nests, which equates to a population estimate of 65 fish. There is a little more habitat to survey, so this may inch up a little. Wood Dam has a fish counter but cannot distinguish river herring from sea lamprey, so their numbers may have to be adjusted on account of these data. But it is good to have more lamprey data from the state. SEE YOU NEXT SEASON!!!!



*Sea lamprey nest from the Saugatuck River*



The Sea Lamprey Nest Survey Team for 2010. Represented are: CTDEP Inland Fisheries Division, US Fish & Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, American Rivers, Connecticut River Watershed Council, a graduate student from CUNY, and an environmental consultant. The photo is before the survey since Brandon (second from right, front) still has soles on his new workboots.