

**CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT**  
 Report Date: June 24, 2014



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**

<b>FISHWAY (RIVER)</b>	<b>ATLANTIC SALMON</b>	<b>AMER. SHAD</b>	<b>ALEWIFE</b>	<b>BLUEBACK HERRING</b>	<b>GIZZARD SHAD</b>	<b>STRIPED BASS</b>	<b>SEA LAMPREY</b>	<b>SEA-RUN TROUT</b>	<b>AMER. EEL</b>
<b>Rainbow*</b> (Farmington)	3	529	0	27	0	0	4,276	0	1
<b>Leesville</b> (Salmon)	1	-	-	0	-	-	0***	0	0
<b>StanChem*</b> (Mattabeset)	0	5	254	83	100	-	17	4	5
<b>Moulson Pond*</b> (Eightmile)	0	3	13	180	0	0	33	0	-
<b>Mary Steube*</b> (Mill Brook)	-	-	1,543 (final)	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Rogers Lake+</b> (Mill Brook)	-	-	0 (final)	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>WestSpringfield</b> (Westfield- MA)	2	4,764	0	4	0	0	1,127	0	8
<b>Holyoke</b> (Connecticut- MA)	26	367,732	0	648	347	58	22,128	0	0
<b>Manhan River*</b> (Manhan- MA)	1	0	0	0	0	0	42	0	0
<b>Turners Falls*</b> (Connecticut- MA)	9	39,575	-	0	0	0	5,150	-	-
<b>Vernon*</b> (Connecticut- VT)	7	25,914	-	0	0	0	422	-	3
<b>Bellows Falls*</b> (Connecticut- VT)	0	0	-	0	0	0	294	-	0
<b>Wilder*</b> (Connecticut- VT)	0	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0
<b>Other</b> (all sites)	0								
<b>TOTALS=</b>	32	373,033	1,549	942	447	58	27,581	4	17
<b>(last year's totals)</b>	92	397,486	9,597	3,228	824	208	24,939	18	16

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.

\*There is a video camera that records passage. 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.

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:

The river is rapidly slipping into summer mode. Flows are down to 7,500 cfs and temperatures are up to 22 C (72 F). Holyoke continues to pick up a few **American shad** but it is down to a couple of hundred a day. You'll see that not many other numbers have moved. One new entry (not shown on the table above) is **shortnose sturgeon**. We don't have a column for that species because we see so few but Holyoke lifted two in the last week. The shad run is over at Rainbow and for all intents and purposes done at West Springfield. Shad are still moving at upstream fishways but only a few extra counts at Turners Falls and Vernon. But those counts are still behind. For example the Vernon counts are as of June 11 so even if the run is over there, the number will still likely rise. Two shad went up the Bellows Falls fishway, according to Lael Will of VTFW, but they went back down again. At StanChem, even the down-running shad have stopped.

We added one **Atlantic salmon** to the count. A salmon was found below the falls on the Sawmill River in Montague, MA. When Ken Sprankle and others found it, it was not in good condition. You can see the wounds from the photo below. Those wounds are like rug burns. We see them often on salmon that miss the entrance to the Holyoke Fishlift and try to swim up the apron of the dam and keep getting pushed back. This behavior has to be very fatiguing. We assume this is a factor in its condition. The interesting thing about this salmon is that it was not tagged nor was there any evidence that it was ever tagged. This implies that it snuck past the crew at the Holyoke Fishlift. Every since Tropical Storm Irene, the river suffers from bouts of poor visibility and at the worst of these the fishlift is shut down because the crew cannot see into the water. This makes me wonder if one came past on a turbid day moments before they shut down. The count has been adjusted to add one fish to the Holyoke count, even though we don't know when it passed.

No change with conditions at Leesville. Still one lonely lamprey and lots of empty nests. The elver run is still going strong. Our Marine Fisheries Division will be hosting a hearing tonight on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) draft Addendum IV to its American Eel Fishery Management Plan. The draft addendum offers several options on how to manage eels coastwide, going forward, including some ideas on glass eel harvest. Hearings are being held in many states along the East Coast. Tonight's Connecticut hearing will be held at 7:00 pm at Dinosaur State Park in Rocky Hill. If you wish to see the draft Addendum that will be the subject of the hearing, go to [www.asmfc.org/](http://www.asmfc.org/) and under breaking news on the right hand side, click on the fourth item from the top.

I suspect that next week will be the last of this year's reports. I assume by then all upstream migrations will be over and most video counts will be up-to-date, although clearly not all. For photos of the Manhan River Fishway, see the next section.



*This adult Atlantic salmon was found at the base of the falls on the Sawmill River in Massachusetts. The wounds are characteristic of what happens when fish try to swim up the apron of the Holyoke Dam. The fish was examined and scales were taken but left in the stream. It is unlikely to survive.*



*The last of the 2014 spawning sea lampreys on the Salmon River below the Leesville Dam. This fish was all by itself and all other nests were empty. It is close to death, the inevitable fate of all spawning sea lamprey. You can tell it is a male by the heavy "rope" appearing on its back. This secondary sex characteristic only appears as the fish approach spawning time.*

## 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)	2,248	787	169	120	7	0	0	8
<b>Taftville*</b> (Shetucket R., Norwich)	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Occum*</b> (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Tunnel*</b> (Quinebaug R., Preston)	55	29	0	2	0	0	0	0
<b>Kinneytown*</b> (Naugatuck R., Seymour) (out of order)	0	1	0	0	0	14	0	0
<b>Hallville Pond*</b> (Poquetanuck Br. Preston)	-	47	Season Final Count		0	-	0	
<b>Latimers Brook**</b> (Latimers Br., E.Lyme)	-	17,003	Season Final Count					
<b>Gorton Pond-</b> (Pattagansett R., E.Lyme)	-	no counter this year						
<b>Brides Brook**</b> (Brides Brook, E.Lyme)		265,969	Season Final Count					
<b>Clarks Pond</b> (Indian River, Milford)		90	Season Final Count		-	-	-	
<b>Branford Supply Pond Dam**</b> (Queach Br., Branford)		1,395	Season Final Count		-	-	-	
<b>Landon Dam**</b> (West River, Guilford)		886	Season Final Count			-	0	0
<b>Haakonsen Fishway*</b> (Quinnipiac R., Wallingford)	4	3,078	862	136	0	140	3	FINAL
<b>Bunnells Pond*</b> (Peqonnock R., Bridgeport)		9,031	0	0	0	FINAL		
<b>Wood Dam**</b> (Saugatuck R., Westport)		3,456	Season Final Count		0			
<b>Mianus River Pond* **</b> (Mianus R., Greenwich)		49,081	29,424	0	0	0	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= 6/24 Taftville= ?? Occum= n.a. Tunnel= 6/12 Kinneytown= 6/24 Haakonsen= 6/24 Hallville= 6/20

\*\*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 runs along the shoreline are over. We have no other data to add from last week's numbers. Our counts are now up-to-date except for three fishways on the Shetucket River:

Taftville- Bob Stira of FirstLight is reporting problems with a gate at the fishway and we need to understand this a bit better but I think there is still video to review.

Occum- We are just now reviewing these video files and we are seeing fish but so far no diadromous species. We hope to have more to report by next week's report.

Tunnel- A few more shad have been counted but still some video to review. We also need an update on eel passage from this location.

We are closing most of the fishways. We have heard from most partners on final numbers, except Mianus Pond and we hope to hear from the Town of Greenwich before next week.

Next week will be the last weekly fish report so if any partner has data, conclusions, or observations to share, please give them to me ASAP.

We are now transitioning into yellow eel passage and that will continue all summer. Glass eel runs are winding down.

**Glass eels**- Fishing Brook = 13,392; Mill River Eel Trap= 4,793; Greenville Eel Lift= 1,016, Lower Millpond (Old Lyme)= 61,101.

Photos are of the Manhan River fishway (see Connecticut River report).



*This is the Manhan River Fishway in Easthampton, MA. The photo was taken from the exit looking down. Just before the cover grating begins is a resting pool. Then there is a turn pool. The lower baffled ramp is out of site behind the wall. You can see the entrance pool along with the attraction water gallery at the lower level surrounded by railing.*



*This is a photo of the rock ledges at the Mahan River Fishway, shown to the left. Can you spot the sea lamprey latched onto the bedrock, trying to work its way up the falls?*