



CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT
 Report Date: April 21, 2015

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.ctiversalmon.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)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leesville (Salmon)	0	-	-	0	-	-	0***	0	0
StanChem* (Mattabesset)	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
Moulson Pond* (Eightmile)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Mary Steube* (Mill Brook)	-	-	41	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rogers Lake+ (Mill Brook)	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
WestSpringfield (Westfield- MA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holyoke (Connecticut- MA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manhan River* (Manhan- MA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turners Falls* (Connecticut- MA)	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
Vernon* (Connecticut- VT)	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	0
Bellows Falls* (Connecticut- VT)	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	0
Wilder* (Connecticut- VT)	0	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0
Other (all sites)	0								
TOTALS=	0	0	41	0	0	0	0	0	0
(last year's totals)	31	374,232	1,549	942	475	61	27,585	4	17

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 Connecticut River remains high—around 60,000 cfs. The water temperature at Eagle Landing State Park in Haddam is 10 C (50 F), so the shad could be entering the river now. I have heard no reports of shad in the Connecticut River but they're in the Shetucket River to the east (see below). Alewives are now being seen in many locations in the river below Hartford but the numbers are low. Ken Sprankle of the USFWS sampled a few in the lower Mattabesset River and I saw one at the Salmon River at Leesville. We've been trying to sample them at the Mary Steube Fishway in Old Lyme but the run has been so low that we are not reaching our target numbers. We have video cameras working at Moulson Pond, StanChem, and Rainbow but no alewives seen yet. I think we've worked out the early season bugs for the camera at Rainbow; no problems with StanChem—just no review yet due to our preoccupation with salmon fry stocking; and we are still trying to decide why the infrared camera at Moulson is not working at night. We've seen white suckers on the video at Moulson Pond but no other data from the others yet. The Manhan River Fishway is operational but the video is not yet hooked up.

I was snorkeled at Leesville for the first time this year on Sunday—late for the first time. It was 12.5 C with good visibility, 1,800 cfs. White suckers are everywhere in very large numbers. Also present were dozens of yellow perch, still on their spawning run. They are normally done by this late in April. (We also found fresh yellow perch eggs in the Falls River in Essex.) The other big 'winner' at Leesville was tessellated darter. They, too, are numerous and widespread, concentrated particularly on the sand beds. Other than that, a few largemouth bass and a bunch of hatchery trout.

We have begun stocking Atlantic salmon fry out of the Tripps' Streamside Incubation Facility in Old Lyme. The fry were still showing a lot of sac last week but with the 70 degree weather over the weekend, the development really accelerated and the Index is up to 97, so it is time to stock. But with the recent rain, we need to shift away from the Salmon River, which is too high for stocking, to the upper Farmington River.



The first fish to show up at the Leesville are white suckers. The species is coppery brown with a white belly. Here are about 300 in the Leesville Fishway Trap, prior to release upstream.



Our crew routinely visits streams to look for signs of river herring runs. Often the herring run up to dams at night and in the morning they are gone. But often we see signs of the fish from the night before. In this case at the head-of-tide on the Falls River in Essex, we found a rock covered with dried eggs and scales. It appears that a sea gull or otter hauled out an alewife for a meal. Proof that the fish were there!

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)	3	~100	0	0	0	0	0	0
Taftville* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Occum* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tunnel* (Quinebaug R., Preston)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kinneytown* (Naugatuck R., Seymour) (out of order)	0	0	0	0	0	60	0	0
Hallville Pond* (Poquetanuck Br. Preston)	-	0	0	0	-	0	1	1
Latimers Brook** (Latimers Br., E.Lyme)	-	1,169	0	-	-	-	0	-
Gorton Pond- (Pattagansett R., E.Lyme)	-							
Brides Brook** (Brides Brook, E.Lyme)		55,641						
Clarks Pond (Indian River, Milford)	-	0	yellow perch	-	-	-	-	-
Branford Supply Pond Dam** (Queach Br., Branford)		265	-	-	-	-		
Lower Guilford Lake** (East River, Guilford)		11	-			- 0	0	
Haakonsen Fishway* (Quinnipiac R., Wallingford)	0	8	0	0	0	2	0	
Bunnells Pond* (Peqonnock R., Bridgeport)	-	0	0	0	0			
Wood Dam** (Saugatuck R., Westport)		9	0		0			
Mianus River Pond* ** (Mianus R., Greenwich)		763	0	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= n.a. Taftville= n.a. Occum= n.a. Tunnel= n.a. Kinneytown= n.a. Haakonsen= n.a. Hallville= n.a.

**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 Greenville Fishlift passed the first shad of the season this week—three or four. Norwich Public Utilities (NPU) is consistently seeing 30 – 40 alewives a day. We don't have official counts yet because there was a glitch in the software on the external drive. We'll fix that and retrieve the old images and hopefully get some counts for next week. First Light Power has seen 17 white suckers go up the Tunnel Lift upstream of Greenville but nothing yet at Taftville. The Occum fishway (NPU) did not operate much last year due to power problems but it should be open by this coming Friday. No shad or alewives at Kinneytown on the Naugatuck yet but it's already passed 60 sea lampreys, which is wild since the only other site to report lampreys so far is Haakonsen Fishway on the Quinnipiac with two.

The alewife count at Bride Brook is picking up, with 40,000 over the weekend. The run at Latimer Brook Fishway is starting to pick up (see photos below) and clicks on the electronic fish counters are coming in for Wood, Lower Guilford Lake, Branford, and Mary Steube—but all pretty low right now. Mianus Pond Fishway remains relatively low for this time of year. Wood Dam lost its attraction water siphon but TNC is jumping on it and hopes to restore the flow by today. I'm thinking that the rain on Monday and this morning should bring in more fish when the flows begin to subside. But the temperature is going back down again, which will slow things down. The runs are slow to really get going in earnest. We're hearing that the osprey are finding them so maybe the fish are just offshore waiting for conditions to improve before coming in.

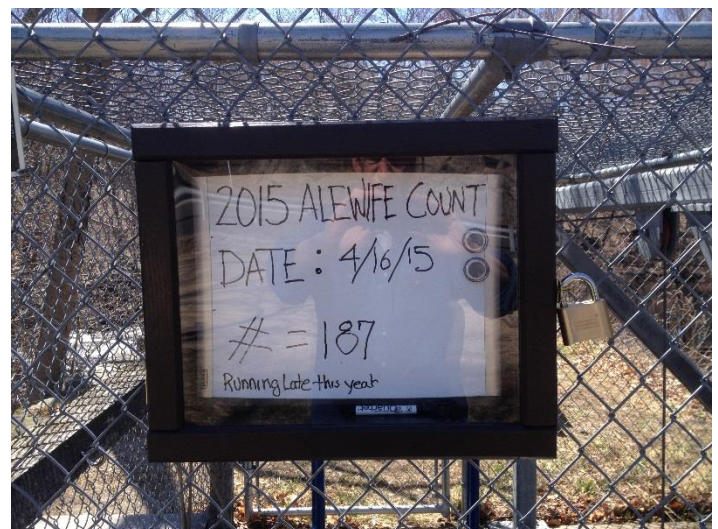
White suckers are being seen everywhere (see Connecticut River report above), which is no surprise. Haakonsen has already passed 461 (!) and Hallville weighs in with 53. I expect we'll see plenty more when we see video for Greenville, StanChem, and others. New volunteer stream monitor Dennis Bennett is keeping an eye on the lower Quinnipiac River watershed and reports a good run of white suckers in Muddy River. Kevin Mace volunteered for us YEARS ago on the Pattagansett River in East Lyme. He's moved back and is now monitoring the Pattagansett River and the Gorton Pond Fishway with his son! How cool is that? Annie Brown of Essex is volunteering to monitor runs on the Falls River and Tiley-Pratt Fishway this spring. And of course Ray Baldwin is back keeping tabs on Clark Pond Fishway in Milford. By the way, this is Tiley-Pratt's first operational season and the first time we've seen it with sufficient water in it. It looks great!

Our shad truck has been in the shop for repairs but we just got it back—thanks to Dave Blick and the crew at the Thomaston shop! Once the Bride Brook run really takes off, we'll start trucking alewives.

Last week I said that the glass eels should be showing up soon. We just got our first in Old Saybrook this week. We also have heard that our friends in the Bronx River were seeing them last week, as was the case with Ben Gahagan of Massachusetts Marine Fisheries north of the Cape. This is also the inaugural season for long-awaited fishway at the 182nd Street Dam on the Bronx River in New York. It's not Connecticut but we will still eagerly wait for updates from Sarah and Danielle of NYC Parks and Recreation to hear when the first fish pass their window and get on video!



The Latimer Brook Fishway gets considerable visitation. This year, we have upgraded the facility sign to provide more information about the site and the fish runs. A big thank you to the East Lyme Town Historian Liz Kuchta for providing us with old photos of the mills that used to be at the site. Drop by for a look next time you're in the area.



We've also added a fish tally board on the fence by the Latimer Brook Fishway trap. We visit daily and will update the numbers daily so visitors have an idea of what's going on.