

CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT
 Report Date: June 9, 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.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)	3	307	0	16	0	0	1,552	2	25
Leesville (Salmon)	0	-	-	0	-	-	0***	0	0
StanChem* (Mattabeset)	0	13	31	18	6	-	46	7	0
Moulson Pond* (Eightmile)	0	17	72	10,578	0	0	22	0	-
Mary Steube* (Mill Brook)	-	-	134 - FINAL	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rogers Lake+ (Mill Brook)	-	-	0 (but all 134 from Mary Steube trucked to Rogers Lake) - FINAL-						
West Springfield (Westfield- MA)	1	3,142	0	1	0	0	192	0	0
Holyoke (Connecticut- MA)	10	385,351	0	85	46	3	21,342	0	5,501
Manhan River* (Manhan- MA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turners Falls* (Connecticut- MA)	0	31,136	-	0	0	0	1,493	-	-
Vernon* (Connecticut- VT)	0	5,820	-	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=	14	388,830	237	10,698	52	3	23,154	9	5,526
(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 rain was well timed. I think it was just what was needed to bring another wave of fish in. It spiked the flow rates and brought down the water temperatures. This morning, many fishways were reporting at 15 or 16 degrees C (approximately 60 F). This will prolong the runs. In fact, the shad run has now surpassed that of last year and with another few good days could surpass the number reached in 2013. Dave is back at it again this week, grabbing more pre-spawned shad for transplantation into streams in Connecticut. Unfortunately, the latest report from the USFWS Connecticut River Coordinator's office does not include updates for the Turners Falls, Vernon, and Bellows Falls fishways so I cannot comment on those. We'll try to get updated data for upriver fishways for next week's report. We've got some more rain forecasted, so that is good. The last rain shot the flows up beyond the normal for this time of year but they have already dropped to below normal again. More rain may boost them back up to the more typical range.

Last week, Tim reported an uptick in sea lamprey numbers. I suspect that is a reflection of one last pre-spawning push by fish that have been lingering below. We're seeing significant nesting in the Salmon River below Leesville and not many new lamprey window counts added at Rainbow. That tells me that most fish are probably on nests by now. The number of lampreys (and blueback herring) may continue to increase at Moulson Pond on the Eightmile River not because those runs are any later than those of other streams but because our count is still about three weeks behind the present day. So, there probably aren't many more fish coming up the fishway but the numbers will still increase in future reports as the video backlogged is viewed.

News elsewhere along the East Coast:

Shad passage at the dams on the Susquehanna River:

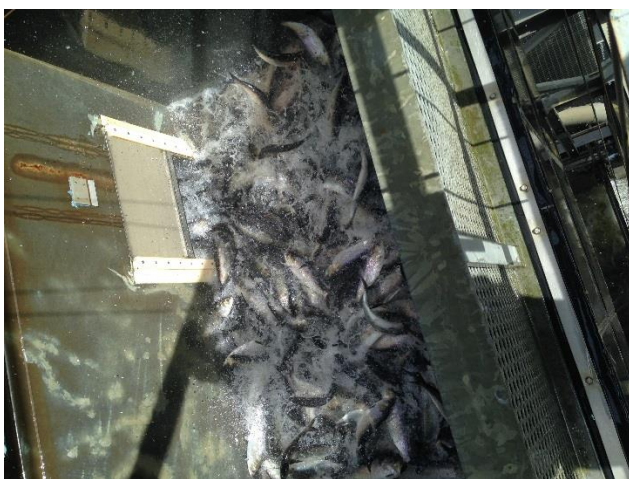
<i>Conowingo</i>	<i>Holtwood</i>	<i>Safe Harbor</i>	<i>York Haven</i>
8,341	5,286	3,896	43

The bad news is that the number to the gateway fishlift at Conowingo is down from last year. The good news is that they've passed a higher percentage of the run at Holtwood and Safe Harbor than during many past years.

Merrimack River at the Essex Dam in Lawrence, MA:

Atlantic Salmon	7
American Shad	59,142
River Herrings *	128,664
Striped Bass	139
Sea Lamprey	4,973
American Eel	4,864
Gizzard Shad	19

Penobscot River at the Milford Fishlift: Atlantic Salmon- 200, American Shad- 293, River Herring- 540,330, Sea Lamprey- 353



The shad keep coming at Holyoke dam. Here is a hopper-full of shad being dumped into the exit flume for their swim out into the Holyoke headpond. The hopper is sloped right to left so when the gate to the left opens, shad and water pour out and drop a short distance to the exit flume.



Once the shad are sluiced into the flume, they swim upstream through the exit flume toward the headpond and upstream spawning habitat. But first they pass the viewing window where biologists count them.

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)	1,856	502	10	5	3	1	0	3
Taftville* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Occum* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tunnel* (Quinebaug R., Preston)	36	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kinneytown* (Naugatuck R., Seymour)	0	1	0	0	2	136	0	0
Hallville Pond* (Poquetanuck Br. Preston)	-	32	0	0	-	0	5	1
Latimers Brook** (Latimers Br., E.Lyme)	-	4,926	FINAL					
Gorton Pond (Pattagansett R., E.Lyme)	-	0	0					
Brides Brook** (Brides Brook, E.Lyme)		218,076	FINAL					
Clarks Pond (Indian River, Milford)		34	0	-		-	-	
Branford Supply Pond Dam** (Queach Br., Branford)	538			FINAL-	-	-	-	
Lower Guilford Lake** (East River, Guilford)		2,414	FINAL		-	0	0	
Haakonsen Fishway* (Quinnipiac R., Wallingford)	2	1,289	158	15	1	198	0	
Bunnells Pond* (Peqonnock R., Bridgeport)		Camera troubles persist!		0	0	0		
Wood Dam** (Saugatuck R., Westport)		2,980	0	0				
Mianus River Pond* ** (Mianus R., Greenwich)		13,935	4,313	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= 6/04 Taftville= n.a. Occum= n.a. Tunnel= 6/8 Kinneytown= 6/7 Haakonsen= 6/07 Hallville= 6/07

**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:

Not much to add from last week. This is the time of year when the runs along the shoreline taper off and the action moves upstream in the Connecticut River (previous report section). One of the reasons for this is that the coastal streams are dominated by alewife, which is an earlier running species. By the time June rolls in, alewives have pretty much spawned and headed back to sea. Blueback herring come in later but the coastal streams are where we have really seen the decline of bluebacks over the past 20 years and there aren't many bluebacks left in the coastal streams. The exceptions are the larger streams like the Shetucket, Housatonic and even the Quinnipiac. The biggest mystery to me is why they hang on in the Mianus River, which is a pretty small stream. Another reason why the action dies out in the smaller coastal streams is that they run out of water. Streams like Latimer, Whitford, Indian, and Queach brooks pass a lot of flow in March and April but once the leaves come out and the rains taper off, the flows drop considerably and many of these streams have shallow gravel riffles above the head-of-tide that river herring cannot get over. Warming water temperatures end any migrations for sea-run trout.

Our staff has been out making checks and starting to close down the smaller fishways where it is clear the runs are over. Continuing to operate these fishways could draw down the headponds, so we close them for the summer. We've closed Vargas, Hyde Pond, Jordan, and Chalker Millpond. We're closing Hallville tomorrow so I indicated it as closed on the table above. The larger fishways like Greeneville, Tunnel, Taftville, and Kinneytown are still passing fish—they still have more flow coming down—and we'll keep them open longer until we start seeing more zeroes.

We'll be tuning up eel passes and getting them in good condition for the summer migration of yellow eels. Many eels that have already been in freshwater for a year or two start moving upstream to spread out during June and July.

On July 19th, the Lyme Land Conservation Trust will be holding its annual meeting and featuring a program on alewife restoration to Rogers Lake. Sharing the podium will be myself, Dr. David Post from Yale University, and noted naturalist author Richard Conniff. We'll be talking about the restoring alewives, specifically the fishways below Rogers Lake, David's unique research on what happens when sea-run alewives regain access to a historical spawning pond after 200 years, and what it means to the community. For details on the talk, visit <http://www.lymelandtrust.org/event/our-annual-meeting-the-reunion-of-alewives-in-roger-lake/>.

Juvenile eels- Fishing Brook = 11,089 glass eels/90 elvers; Mill River Eel Trap= 5 glass eels/62 elvers; Greeneville Eel Lift= 80 glass eels/1,054 elvers,



A sea lamprey rests while negotiating a chute of water below the Leesville Dam. This ability to latch onto rocks with its mouth is the reason the species is able to surmount steep inclines, including many fishways. It is also the origin of the genus name, in Latin.



Juvenile eels working their way upstream along the interface between bedrock and the concrete Leesville Dam. These elvers were making this move during the daytime, which is not typical.