

CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT

Report Date: June 13, 2017



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)	2	576	0	14	0	0	2,132	0	0
Leesville (Salmon)	1	-	-	0	-	-	0***	1	0
StanChem* (Mattabeset)	0	3	78	4	102	1	12	0	17
Moulson Pond* (Eightmile)	0	1	6	22	0	0	20	0	-
Mary Steube* (Mill Brook)	-	-	8,522 - FINAL	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rogers Lake+ (Mill Brook)	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Springfield (Westfield-MA)	4	4,138	0	4	0	0	137	0	0
Holyoke (Connecticut- MA)	8	505,580	0	871	591	114	13,402	SNS=3	0
Manhan River* (Manhan- MA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	57	0	0
Turners Falls* (Connecticut- MA)	1	28,541	-	0	0	0	392	-	-
Vernon* (Connecticut- VT)	2	10,669	-	0	0	0	27	-	0
Bellows Falls* (Connecticut- VT)	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	0
Wilder* (Connecticut- VT)	0	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0
Other (all sites)	0								
TOTALS=	15	510,295	8,606	911	693	115	15,703	1	17
(last year's totals)	5	392,057	792	3,558	685	638	36,914	6	19,799

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 American Shad run continues at Holyoke and up-river fishways. The Holyoke count has surpassed 500,000; for the fourth time ever. Standing at #3 is 1991 with 523,153 - I think we have a shot at that and possibly #2 (1983; 528,185 shad), but no chance of beating the all-time record of 721,764 in 1992. As with all fish species, mortality events occur after spawning (especially with anadromous species after a long hard migration) and with the number of shad in the river I expect that we will soon be getting calls from concerned citizens about dead or dying shad along the river banks here in Connecticut. It's easy to convince them that this is actually a sign of a large, healthy run (which it is, of course)! The river temp has climbed to 18°C and flows has dropped to 15,000 cfs; good conditions for fish passage (especially at this time of year). Given the forecasted cooler conditions, we could have decent numbers all week; but at some point the runs will dry up...it's just impossible to predict when. West Springfield has surpassed the long-term mean passage count for that facility. I was in error last week in reporting Sea Lamprey numbers for West Springfield. The count now stands at 137...not the reported 530. I believe that was an artifact from one of my two reports from last year. It did point-out to me however that this years lamprey run is falling well short of what we come to expect for the watershed.

Dave is trucking shad again this week. Yesterday and today he is releasing shad into the Mattabesset River well above the StanChem fishway in hopes of increasing that run. I think he is closing-in on the end of his scheduled sites and should be done this week - if the fish hold-out (which we think they will).

Ken and his crew plan to sample the lower Farmington River for the last time this year. We all expect so see a drop in the catch rate from last week.

Just this morning, Rainbow Fishway past its second Atlantic Salmon of the season (see photo below). Not much going-on at Leesville this past week. We may see a few fish in the trap tomorrow after tonight's thunderstorms pass and cool things off.

We can see the increasing numbers of American Shad and Sea Lamprey being reported upriver. Hopefully things remain cool up there to allow for continued gains.



Today this beautiful bright female Atlantic Salmon entered the Rainbow Fishway Window. With any luck she will find the male that was passed less than two weeks ago.

OTHER LOCATIONS WITHIN CONNECTICUT

FISHWAY (RIVER)	AMER. SHAD	ALEWIFE	BLUEBACK HERRING	GIZZARD SHAD	STRIPED BASS	SEA LAMPREY	SEA-RUN TROUT	AMER. EEL
Greenville* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	1,816	735	0	52	0	0	0	6
Taftville* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Occum* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
Tunnel* (Quinebaug R., Preston)	8	33	0	3	0	0	0	0
Kinneytown* (Naugatuck R., Seymour) (out of order)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hallville Pond* (Poquetanuck Br. Preston)	-	15	FINAL		0	Lots of trout		5 0
Jordan Brook ** (Jordan Brook, Waterford)	-	430	FINAL	0	-	0	0	0
Latimers Brook**	-	5,675		FINAL	-	-	-	-
Gorton Pond** (Latimers Br., E.Lyme)		1,916		FINAL				
Brides Brook** (Brides Brook, E.Lyme)		386,325	FINAL					
Chapmans Pond* (Menunketesuck R., Clinton)								
Branford Supply Pond Dam** (Queach Br., Branford)	3,308			FINAL-	-	-	-	
Lower Guilford Lake** (East River, Guilford)		3,426	FINAL	-	-	0 0	-	-
Haakonsen Fishway* (Quinnipiac R., Wallingford)	0	5,524	249	97	0	309	0	0
Hanover Pond Fishway* (Quinnipiac River, Meriden)		15	0	2	-	44	-	0 3
Bunnells Pond* (Peqonnock R., Bridgeport)	-	21,373	0	1	0	0	0	
Wood Dam** (Saugatuck R., Westport)		5,315	297	0	-	-	-	-
Mianus River Pond* ** (Mianus R., Greenwich)		19,242	852	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:*

*Greenville= 6/8 Taftville= 5/14 Occum= 6/11 Tunnel= 5/29 Kinneytown= n.a. Haakonsen= 6/8 Hallville= 5/31
Bunnells= 6/8.*

******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:

Runs across the state went quite this past week; even at our large river/inland fishways. We were unable to review Bunnells video, but a very cursory viewing revealed few fish moving – maybe a handful each day to the total, but not much more than that. We are starting to see larger numbers of post-spawn Alewife leaving Bunnells past the window – more so than up-runners which makes it difficult to accurately count. Down-runners are also being reported by Ray Baldwin at Clarks Pond Fishway (Milford). He has been a dedicated fishway volunteer for many years there and we are happy that he had such a great year (many thanks Ray). The biggest change from last weeks count is the push of Blueback Herring at the Mianus Pond Fishway. We added a few more herring to the count at Wood as well. Good to see, though well below what we hope for. Very bad Blueback year here in Connecticut

Glass eels- Fishing Brook = 9,145 glass eels/203 elvers; Mill River Eel Trap= 32 glass eels/278 elvers/1 yellow; Greenville Eel Lift= 10 glass eels/288 elvers; Hanover Pond= 506 yelloweels.

My weekly Diadromous Fish Radio show is live on iCRV (www.iCRVradio.com) at 8:00 am on Wednesday and re-played at 3:00 and 7:00 pm that day 8 am on Saturday.