

CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT
 Report Date: June 30, 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	316	0	18	0	0	1,591	2	33
Leesville (Salmon)	0	-	-	0	-	-	0***	0	0
StanChem* (Mattabeset)	0	15	31	18	11	-	49	7	1
Moulson Pond* (Eightmile)	1	19	72	11,698	0	0	63	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)	3	3,375	0	1	0	0	216	0	49
Holyoke (Connecticut- MA)	13	412,656	0	87	84	21	22,245	0	10,252
Manhan River* (Manhan- MA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	yes	0	0
Turners Falls* (Connecticut- MA)	3	58,044	-	0	0	0	8,423	-	-
Vernon* (Connecticut- VT)	3	30,823	-	0	0	0	1,544	-	62
Bellows Falls* (Connecticut- VT)	0	23	-	0	0	0	331	-	0
Wilder* (Connecticut- VT)	0	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0
Other (all sites)	0								
TOTALS=	19	413,239	237	11,822	93	19	24,138	9	9,514
(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:

All runs are over. There were only a few changes of a few individual fish from last week, although upper Connecticut River fishway counts are still lagging behind and final numbers reported in the fall may be higher than what I report here for my final report.

I don't have a lot of time to do a final season wrap up but I can conclude that:

Atlantic salmon- low, but predictable wind-down after the cessation of widespread stocking.

American shad- good! One of our strongest runs in many years!!!! The number of shad through Vernon (third fishway up) may break its all time record before it is all over. (the run is over but the counting is only through 5/29)

Alewife- dismal. The worst year in memory.

Blueback herring- poor. After last year's good year, this year was back to the low numbers of the past 20 years. Short lived "recovery".

Striped bass- very low.

Sea lamprey- low to average. Not horrible but not a banner yet by any stretch.

Eels- hard to say. Glass eel run at our index sites were not strong but elver runs upstream were strong and early. Upriver eel passes will be passing yellow eels all summer and their success may reflect more on the effectiveness of the eel passes than the status of the population.

Lamprey nest surveys will begin this week and add data for some fishways where this species cannot be counted. Final fish counts will be confirmed by the CRASC Technical Committee in the fall.

This is the last fish report of the season. Thanks for your interest. We'll "see" you next April.



Tour of the Rainbow Dam and Fishway, May 20, 2015.



Small eels sliding down the apron of our Fishing Brook Eel Trap, which is our official glass eel index site.

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)	1,919	502	10	5	5	1	0	3
Taftville* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Occum* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tunnel* (Quinebaug R., Preston)	36	21	0	0	0	0	0	3,700
Kinneytown* (Naugatuck R., Seymour)	0	1	0	0	3	136	0	0
Hallville Pond* (Poquetanuck Br. Preston)	-	32	FINAL 0	0	-	0	5	1
Latimers Brook** (Latimers Br., E.Lyme)	-	4,926	FINAL					
Gorton Pond (Pattagansett R., E.Lyme)	-No counter this year- fish passed							
Brides Brook** (Brides Brook, E.Lyme)		218,076	FINAL					
Clarks Pond (Indian River, Milford)		34	0	FINAL	-	-	-	-
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	159	15	1	198	0	
Bunnells Pond* (Peqonnock R., Bridgeport)	No counts this year- fish passed							
Wood Dam** (Saugatuck R., Westport)		3,032	0	0				
Mianus River Pond* ** (Mianus R., Greenwich)		18,642	4,313	FINAL 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= 6/21 Taftville= 5/13 Occum= n.a. Tunnel= 6/13 Kinneytown= 6/21 Haakonsen= 6/11 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:

Everything is done along the shoreline and most fishways are closed. We leave some open to pass downstream migrants (mostly alewives) or up-running eels. Some fishways, like Clark Pond, stay open all year long. The entire stream flow is passed down a spillway converted to be a fishway.

Most of the coastal runs revolve around alewives and as I mentioned above, it was the worst year for alewives in memory. By comparison, Bride Brook has been passing over 300,000 fish, Latimers 20,000 fish, Mianus 90,000 fish. Compare those numbers to the final 2015 numbers posted above. Space does not allow a full discussion of what is causing these declines but it seems clear to me that it is in the ocean.

Some quick Maine numbers: Penobscot River: salmon= 541 (up), shad= 1,427, river herring= 588,265, striped bass= 5, sea lamprey= 485. River herring are doing better in the Gulf of Maine compared to most places along the East Coast.

Juvenile eels- Fishing Brook = 11,807 glass eels/123 elvers; Mill River Eel Trap= 23 glass eels/211 elvers; Greenville Eel Lift= 108 glass eels/1,318 elvers; Tunnel= 3,700; Scotland= 161. The folks with the Branford Land Trust have netted and passed over the Water Supply Pond Dam 181 eels. More came up their eel nets when there was some water coming over the spillway. Not that the spillway is dry and the fishway is closed, they plan to install an eel pass into the fishway to coax eels up that route.

THAT'S A WRAP. SEE YOU NEXT YEAR.



We hope to work with the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to remove Straight Pond Dam this summer. This small dam in Preston blocks alewife and trout runs.



We hope that the Town of Darien will complete their project to rehab this dam and install a fishway on it this summer and fall. This dam blocks the migration of alewives that come up the Rings End Dam on the Goodwives River.