



CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT
 Report Date: April 28, 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	21	0	0	-	4	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 flows have dropped—now around 26,000 cfs—but so has the water temperature! Last week I reported that it was 10 C (50 F) at Haddam. This week it was 8 C (48 F)! Going the wrong direction! Since last week's report, the shad have arrived in the river. Net catches in the lower river have been low and sporadic—no surprise due to the water temperature. (I had my first shad dinner of the season. They are in the Connecticut markets, but still in short supply so grab it fast!) Video review at Rainbow Fishway revealed that one shad reached the window and turned around and went back down. That is the extent of Connecticut River shad passage so far. However, Holyoke Dam started lifting again yesterday so it may be just a matter of days before we start passing shad there. The alewife run continues to be extremely low. No more reported at Mary Steube and the run has yet to ascend the Moulson Pond Fishway. The addition of an infrared spotlight solved our video problems there and we are getting great images of suckers and trout coming up the fishway. We have passed a few alewives at the StanChem fishway (see article by Bill Leukhardt about that fishway and fish runs in general in this morning's *Hartford Courant*). Ken Sprankle of the USFWS electrofished the lower Mattabesset River yesterday and reported sampling good numbers of alewives so hopefully a good slug is headed up to StanChem. Ken reported turning up a few striped bass. Bruce Williams of our staff is reviewing StanChem video and reports a very large chain pickerel going up that fishway. That's not a species we often see in fishways. Things are still quiet at Leesville—even the white sucker run tapered off this past week due to the cold. At Rainbow, Bruce reports that the Atlantic salmon smolt run began a few days ago.

Salmon fry stocking continues. All of the fry that were hatched out of the Tripps' Streamside Incubation Facility in Old Lyme are now out and the crew is now starting to stock the fry out of the Kensington State Fish Hatchery. Most of the Salmon River watershed stocking is done and we're moving on to the Farmington River watershed. One of the days scheduled for stocking the Salmon River was shifted to the Farmington River due to high water, so we'll go back later to pick up that part of the Salmon. Although the numbers of fry we stock are now much lower, we still use volunteers occasionally, especially students from schools that have been helping us annually for many years.

The NASCO U.S. Section meeting will take place this Thursday at 10 am in NOAA's Regional Office in Gloucester.



Thousands of Atlantic salmon eggs are hatched in the Heath tray incubators seen in the background at the Tripp Streamside Incubator Facility. Water is supplied from Mill Brook in Old Lyme. Here, Bruce Williams of our Division is netting fish out of a tray and into a container for weighing. Visiting students look on.



After fry are removed from the trays at the Tripp's facility, they are transported to streams in which they are scheduled to be stocked. In this photo, Bruce Williams (blue jeans) provides instruction to volunteers with buckets of fry. These stockers may be on the stream for 20 – 40 minutes at a time, distributing the fry throughout good rocky habitat in the stream before returning for more for another locations.

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)	~44	242	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	5	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	2	1
Latimers Brook** (Latimers Br., E.Lyme)	-	1,449	0	-	-	-	0	-
Gorton Pond- (Pattagansett R., E.Lyme)	-	a few seen						
Brides Brook** (Brides Brook, E.Lyme)		122,733						
Clarks Pond (Indian River, Milford)	-	0	yellow perch	-	-	-	-	-
Branford Supply Pond Dam** (Queach Br., Branford)		265	-	-	-	-		
Lower Guilford Lake** (East River, Guilford)		41	-			- 0	0	
Haakonsen Fishway* (Quinnipiac R., Wallingford)	0	272	0	0	0	43	0	
Bunnells Pond* (Pegonnock R., Bridgeport)	-	0	0	0	0			
Wood Dam** (Saugatuck R., Westport)		1,766	0		0			
Mianus River Pond* ** (Mianus R., Greenwich)		2,076	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= 4/24 Taftville= n.a. Occum= n.a. Tunnel= 4/27 Kinneytown= 4/26. Haakonsen= 4/25 Hallville= 4/26

**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:

Where are the fish? The cold temperatures are delaying the runs everywhere. The alewife run has yet to ramp up. Yes, we've broken 100,000 at Bride Brook, but those numbers are still very low for this time of year. Other traditional strong locations—like Mianus Pond Fishway—still have very low numbers. None counted at all at Moulson Pond Fishway. Our staff systematically survey the streams along the Connecticut shoreline and are not seeing fish. Nor are our volunteers, who are scattered throughout the state. Kevin Mace has seen a total of two (2) alewives in the Pattagansett River below Gorton Pond Fishway. The Marine Fisheries Division's R/V Dempsey has begun its annual trawl survey on Long Island Sound and the catches have been very low—of everything. However, last Wednesday I hit a trifecta. I was visiting the Capello Pond Fishway in Guilford and as I approached the fishway, I scared up a black-crowned night heron, an osprey, and a great egret. Each one had a fresh alewife in their talons/bill. So the fish were in there. Ray Baldwin reports only lonely black-crowned night heron at Clarks Pond but a bunch of yellow-crowned night herons nesting nearby. The forecast now says no more nights in the 30s and maybe reaching 70 over the weekend, so maybe the runs will accelerate soon.

So what else is moving? White suckers- 53 at Kinneytown, 644 at Haakonsen, 200 at Moulson Pond, 96 at Hallville. Hallville is passing a bunch of trout. Most of our video problems have been solved but we still have issues with some equipment at Bunnells Pond. We hope to get over there tomorrow so Tim can rectify that. Maybe swap out some equipment. Hopefully we'll have some data from there next week.

A few public appearances this past week. At the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in Newport- a great plenary talk about diadromous fish by Dr. John Waldman of Queens College in NYC and I joined in on a panel discussion of stream restoration issues. I provided some fish for stocking and some remarks to school kids in Lyme on Earth Day and the next day talked about the DEEP's program of dam removal and fishway construction to a sportsmen's caucus of the General Assembly. I'll be addressing the Thames Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited on May 19th.

The next open house for the Mianus Pond Fishway in Greenwich, sponsored by the Greenwich Conservation Commission, will be Saturday, May 9, 1:00 to 3:00 pm. That's on the corner of East Putnam Road (U.S. Rt. 1) and River Road Extension, in the Cos Cob section. By Saturday, hopefully fish will be running!

We have been seeing some down-running large eels on video. The glass eel run is still pretty slow. Our seasonal tally at the Fishing Brook index site is 254 glass eels and 33 elver/yellow eels. The conservation consortium led by the Trust for Public Lands is about to close on The Preserve, a great chunk of coastal open space in Old Saybrook Essex, and Westbrook. This has been a long hard battle to protect this from development. This land comprises the headwaters of the Oyster River, in which drainage we have three fishways. Two are on Fishing Brook, where our eel index site is. A great cocktail reception earlier in Old Saybrook celebrating the upcoming acquisition.



The first day the Tingue Dam Fishway was opened it was full of white suckers. Alex Haro from the Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center in MA was present to help measure water velocities and he had an underwater GoPro camera that captured this shot of white suckers moving along the bottom of the fishway. (Photo courtesy of USGS)



We had a great Earth Day Celebration in Lyme. The Eightmile River passes right behind the Lyme Consolidated School—between the Moulson Pond and Ed Bill's Pond fishways. Here, volunteer Emily Bjornberg releases a nice fat brown trout (compliments of our great Kensington State Fish Hatchery) into the Eightmile River in front of appreciative budding environmentalists. Emily is also the Fishway Coordinator for the Lyme Land Conservation Trust. (photo courtesy of Joe Standart)