



# CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT

Report Date: April 12, 2016

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 visit the USFWS website at [www.fws.gov/r5crc](http://www.fws.gov/r5crc). For more information about Atlantic salmon, visit the Connecticut River Salmon Association at [www.ctriversalmon.org](http://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)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leesville (Salmon)	0	-	-	0	-	-	0***	0	0
StanChem* (Mattabesset)	0	19	65	0	0	-	1	0	0
Moulson Pond* (Eightmile)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Mary Steube* (Mill Brook)	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rogers Lake+ (Mill Brook)	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
WestSpringfield (Westfield- MA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holyoke (Connecticut- MA)	0	2	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								
<b>TOTALS=</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>(last year's totals)</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>416,355</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>11,822</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>24,573</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>20,305</b>

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 river is low and cold. It normally runs around 40,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) but today it is at 23,900 (no snow melt). Rich Murray of Holyoke Gas & Electric reports the temperature at Holyoke to be 3.5 C (38 F). In East Haddam, the river was 7 C (45 F) and the Salmon River was running at 9 C (48 C). The shad should not be showing up until the river hits 10 C (50 F) but they're in, even if not very enthusiastically. Holyoke lifted 2 shad and StanChem Fishway has passed 19 (it only passed a total of 15 last year!). The netters are catching them in the lower river and a local seafood shop is offering them for sale. Alewives are around but hard to find. Ken Sprankle electrofished twelve from the Mattabeset River last week and StanChem has also passed some. None of our Connecticut River volunteers report seeing any. Other than that, the runs of white sucker and yellow perch are on. StanChem has passed 621 suckers already and Melissa Grader of the USFWS reports suckers going up the Manhan River fishway in Easthampton, MA. Although the few Atlantic Salmon left in our watershed are not listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, most of the salmon in Maine are listed. The USFWS and NOAA have just released their draft Atlantic Salmon Recovery Plan and it can be viewed at:

<http://atlanticsalmonrestoration.org/resources/documents/atlantic-salmon-recovery-plan-2015/recovery-plan-pages/atlanticsalmondraftplan> Also another article on the salmon spawning in the Farmington:

<http://www.valleyadvocate.com/2016/03/29/so-long-salmon/>

See photos below of the new downstream bypass facility now operational at the Holyoke Dam.

I'll continue my reports on the dam removals done during the summer of 2015. This week's featured project is the **Pond Lily Dam Removal Project**. The dam was the first barrier on the West River in the Westville Section of New Haven and owned by the New Haven Land Trust, which built a fishway at the dam in the late 1990s. The fishway seemed to work but the stone dam, was crumbling and we feared that the dam would fail just enough to stop impounding water (so the fishway would not work) but still be enough of a structure to block fish (just like Hyde Pond in the last report). Plus, the dam created flooding problems both upstream in Woodbridge and downstream in New Haven. In 1982, the river ran down Whalley Ave. Save the Sound (STS) received Hurricane Sandy Resiliency funds and other grants to remove the dam. The final design was done by Stantec and the construction was done by Sumco. Gwen MacDonald and John Champion of STS ran the project. The steep pass fishway was disassembled and put into storage so it can be re-used at a future fishway project. The project was completed in the few snowy days of the winter but STS had a celebration and planting event this past Saturday. Scores of volunteers showed up to plant native trees and shrubs along the newly restored stream channel and Senator Richard Blumenthal and Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro were among the dignitaries to commemorate the success. Since this dam had a fishway, the removal may not technically open up "new" river miles to migratory fishes. But an open river passes more fish than a river with a dam and fishway plus this project secures the future for this river, knowing that the dam won't fail and block fish and degrade habitat. The habitat will be so much more productive as a free flowing stream and the nature preserve more inviting to visitors. Look at the bottom of the next section of this report for photos.



*The new downstream bypass at Holyoke Dam. The main chute resembles what was there previously but to the left are a couple of submerged openings that attract and pass down-running species that don't favor the water surface, like sturgeon and silver-phase American Eels. All go down the chute. To see where they end up, look at the next photo.*



*This is right below the Holyoke Dam. If you look just to the right of the huge wave, you'll see a concrete wall. That is the location of the entrance to the spillway fishlift. There is a lip at the bottom of the spillway apron that sends the water from the bypass shooting into the air and creates a calmer zone underneath where migrating fish can swim and find the entrance.*

## OTHER LOCATIONS WITHIN CONNECTICUT

FISHWAY (RIVER)	AMER. SHAD	ALEWIFE	BLUEBACK HERRING	GIZZARD SHAD	STRIPED BASS	SEA LAMPREY	SEA-RUN TROUT	AMER. EEL
<b>Greeneville*</b> (Shetucket R., Norwich)	28	277	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Taftville*</b> (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Occum*</b> (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Tunnel*</b> (Quinebaug R., Preston)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Kinneytown*</b> (Naugatuck R., Seymour)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Hallville Pond*</b> (Poquetanuck Br. Preston)	-	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
<b>Trading Cove Brook**</b> - (Trading Cove Brook, Montville)	-	0	0	0	-	-	0	-
<b>Jordan Brook**</b> - (Jordan Brook, Waterford)	-	16	0	0	-	0	0	0
<b>Latimers Brook**</b> - (Latimers Br., E.Lyme)	-	740	0	-	-	-	0	-
<b>Brides Brook**</b> (Brides Brook, E.Lyme)		49,328						
<b>Clarks Pond</b> (Indian River, Milford)	-	0		-		-	-	
<b>Branford Supply Pond Dam**</b> (Queach Br., Branford)	216		-	-	-	-		
<b>Lower Guilford Lake**</b> (East River, Guilford)		117	-			-	0	
<b>Haakonsen Fishway*</b> (Quinnipiac R., Wallingford)	0	38	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Bunnells Pond*</b> (Peqonnock R., Bridgeport)	-	0	0	0	0			
<b>Wood Dam**</b> (Saugatuck R., Westport)		0	0			Fish counter not operational		
<b>Mianus River Pond* **</b> (Mianus R., Greenwich)		2,368	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= 4/9 Taftville= n.a. Occum= n.a. Tunnel= n.a. Kinneytown= n.a. Haakonsen= 4/5 Hallville= 4/6

\*\*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:

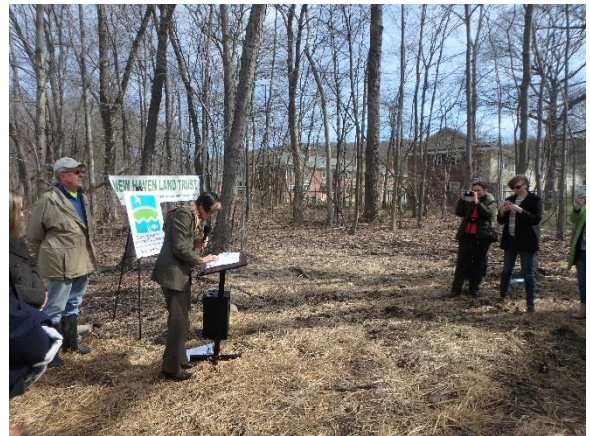
Most fishways are now open and alewives are trickling in but still in low numbers due to the cold. Ospreys are here and fishing but not finding many alewives. Volunteer Jeff Reamer found a white perch in his driveway, presumably dropped by an osprey, so they're finding alternative food. We saw one sea lamprey below the Haakonsen Fishway on the Quinnipiac and you can see we passed one at StanChem (CT River report), but this is pretty early for lamprey. We were out on the Quinnipiac River on Monday the day after that cold Sunday and we couldn't even find white suckers! It is supposed to be 70 on Sunday so maybe the water will warm up and we'll start getting some really fish passage action. Tim has been having problems with some of our laptops used to record video images. We think it may be the air temperature. Some have experienced temperatures below 20 degrees and we're not sure they've designed for that. Speaking of that cold weekend, the Town of Greenwich rescheduled a fishway open house from Saturday until April 23. See attached announcement with this email. Their other day is May 21, which is World Fish Migration Day. We'll also be hosting an Open House on that day at the Rainbow Dam Fishway. We hope to have other locations, too, and will announce those as the time draws near. Last report, we mentioned that the fish counter in Jordan Brook is new. We have recorded fish passing there for the first time. Last week we reported on the Hyde Pond Dam Removal. To watch a very cool 2.5 minute video of that project, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x7YNOob14sY>. The photos below are about Pond Lily, reported in the CT River section.



*The first breach of Pond Lily Dam looking north to south.*



*The dam site as of today, looking east to west. The dam was in line with the white building in the background and the camera.*



*Rep. DeLauro addresses the crowd as Curt Johnson from Save the Sound/CFE looks on.*



*The volunteers begin to plant native plants on the newly exposed streambanks. John Champion (ST5) is in the green vest and Tom Cleveland, active with the Branford Land Trust and past fishway projects, assisted in the early stages of this project and is in the beige jacket with back to camera.*