

# CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT

Report Date: June 2, 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/r5cnc](http://www.fws.gov/r5cnc). 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)	3	314	0	16	0	0	1,548	2	2
Leesville (Salmon)	0	-	-	0	-	-	0***	0	0
StanChem* (Mattabesset)	0	10	31	16	5	-	45	6	0
Moulson Pond* (Eightmile)	0	14	70	8,762	0	0	16	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)	0	2,828	0	1	0	0	176	0	0
Holyoke (Connecticut- MA)	7	348,439	0	75	46	3	21,342	0	0
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=	10	351,605	235	8,870	51	3	23,127	8	2
(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:

According to the National Weather Service a good percentage of the lower watershed received between 2 to 5 inches of rain from this storm that appears to be wrapping-up down here in Old Lyme (or not). Rainfall amounts in the upper watershed were in the 1 to 2 in range. The river flow is on the way up (22,000 cfs at Holyoke) with USGS reporting 32,000 cfs at Montague - upriver from Holyoke. Not sure if it gets high enough to need to close the fishlift. River temperature at Holyoke yesterday was a reasonable 20 degrees Celsius which is no doubt falling as I type this. Given these conditions it was not surprising to see Dave come back from the fishlift with an empty truck. He had planned to get a few more trips in transplanting **American Shad** this week, but now we both have our doubts. Even before this rain pushed the shad back the numbers were starting to fall-off (10,900 passed since last Friday). It will be interesting to see if anything is left of the shad run once the flows subside.

No report from Turners or Vernon this week.

Although the **Herring** runs seems to be quickly dwindling (or completely done for the year) in the lower river, numbers for Moulson Pond Fishway continue to rise since we are working through a backlog of video files. Valinn is reporting numbers through the 15<sup>th</sup> which I think is about the time I saw a marked drop-off of herring in the fishway. More recent files reveal an upturn in the **Sea Lamprey** run. The video system has been working really great there this year after I added additional Infrared illumination.

Ken Sprankle of the USFWS sampled Wethersfield Cove yesterday and sampled 62 fish, so they are still around, but most were post-spawn. He also sampled a few across the river down at the mouth of Keeney Cove. No bluebacks at the mouth of Roaring Brook.

The **Atlantic salmon** count is 8. Bruce Williams of our program trapped, tagged and released the second of the season for Rainbow Fishway today (see photo below). It was an intermediate colored (meaning it has spent some time in freshwater, unlike a bright silver fish fresh out of saltwater) female about 31 inches long. The dorsal fin on this fish was badly damaged (completely missing) which is not typical, but when absent usually represents a hatchery stocked smolt. Bruce took scales from the fish prior to its release so we will be able to verify its origin (smolt or fry stocked). Bruce's crew at Rainbow saw a different salmon with a damaged dorsal on video prior to trapping this one. If that also is a hatchery produced smolt, it too is from the last cohort of salmon release as smolts back in 2013.

A total of 117 people attended the Annual Rainbow Open House this past Saturday. Thanks go to Bruce and his seasonal crew Rob Colburn and Kyle Yonoski for putting this together again this year.



*R-003-15 – the third Atlantic Salmon of the season for Rainbow in the window yesterday.*



*One of the 14 American Shad counted thus far passing through the Moulson Pond Fishway.*

## OTHER LOCATIONS WITHIN CONNECTICUT

<b>FISHWAY</b> (RIVER)	<b>AMER.</b> <b>SHAD</b>	<b>ALEWIFE</b>	<b>BLUEBACK</b> <b>HERRING</b>	<b>GIZZARD</b> <b>SHAD</b>	<b>STRIPED</b> <b>BASS</b>	<b>SEA</b> <b>LAMPREY</b>	<b>SEA-RUN</b> <b>TROUT</b>	<b>AMER.</b> <b>EEL</b>
<b>Greeneville*</b> (Shetucket R., Norwich)	1,818	501	10	5	3	1	0	3
<b>Taftville*</b> (Shetucket R., Norwich)	6	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)	36	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Kinneytown*</b> (Naugatuck R., Seymour) (out of order)	0	1	0	0	2	136	0	0
<b>Hallville Pond*</b> (Poquetanuck Br. Preston)	-	32	0	0	-	0	5	0
<b>Latimers Brook**</b> (Latimers Br., E.Lyme)	-	4,926	<b>FINAL</b>					
<b>Gorton Pond</b> (Pattagansett R., E.Lyme)	-	0	0					
<b>Brides Brook**</b> (Brides Brook, E.Lyme)		218,076	<b>FINAL</b>					
<b>Clarks Pond</b> (Indian River, Milford)		34	0	-		-	-	
<b>Branford Supply Pond Dam**</b> (Queach Br., Branford)	513			<b>FINAL-</b>	-	-	-	
<b>Lower Guilford Lake**</b> (East River, Guilford)		2,414	<b>FINAL</b>					
<b>Haakonsen Fishway*</b> (Quinnipiac R., Wallingford)	2	1,187	86	14	0	197	0	
<b>Bunnells Pond*</b> (Pegonnock R., Bridgeport)		<b>Camera troubles persist!</b>			0	0	0	
<b>Wood Dam**</b> (Saugatuck R., Westport)		2,975	0	0				
<b>Mianus River Pond* **</b> (Mianus R., Greenwich)		13,658	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= 5/31 Taftville= n.a. Occum= n.a. Tunnel= 6/2 Kinneytown= 5/31 Haakonsen= 5/30 Hallville= 5/31*

**\*\***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:

Things along the coast have really fallen-off.....especially outside of Fairfield Counties. Mianus Fishway had some good days but were unable to sample to determine relative species abundance, so I used the last sample (over two weeks old) to estimate the number of Alewife versus Bluebacks. This is something that we will need to go back and settle later in the year (or before Steve takes over again next week!!!). You will also see that we added 89 fish to the total passed at Wood Dam this week. We know that there are still Alewife around because I saw them passing the Bunnells camera yesterday (before it too died). In the few short days of its life, the replacement Bunnells camera recorded some pretty nice footage which is intriguing as it was bought for only \$18.00! That cheap camera gave us some insights into building our own waterproof Infrared video cameras that we will explore sometime prior to next season. You just have no idea of when these cameras are going to die.....it really is just a matter of time. Off-the-shelf cameras are too expensive to have 'in stock' here in our office, so when one goes down (as Bunnells did this year) we lose the whole season. Very frustrating.

Our seasonal staff (Kirk Mc'Pherson, Pat Wendt, and Hillary Clifton) have done a real nice job for us all season long and have been putting in a lot of time reviewing the Greenville video. Due to this effort I can report that currently the shad run on the Shetucket River continues, but is winding-down quickly. More shad have been counted passed the Tunnel Dam Fishlift but we today learned that the lift has been out of service since last Saturday due to fraying in the main hoist cable. Thankfully the CT Crane is on site now and FirstLight is moving as quickly as they can to get the lift back in operation.

**Glass eels-** Fishing Brook = 10,176/89 elvers; Mill River Eel Trap= 5 glass eels/42 elvers; Greenville Eel Lift= 45 glass eels/766 elvers, Lower Millpond (Old Lyme)= 4,667 (no report for two weeks). No report from Mianus.



*Nice footage from the dead Bunnells camera. Luckily for the Alewife, the cormorant was a little late this time..*