

CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT

Report Date: June 17, 2018



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	STURGEON/ TROUT++	AMER. EEL
Rainbow* (Farmington)	0	388	5	0	0	0	586	0	0
Leesville (Salmon)	0	-	-	0	-	-	0**	0	0
StanChem* (Mattabesset)	0	2	325	11	29	-	23	2	0
Moulson Pond* (Eightmile)	0	1	8	2	0	0	0	0	-
Mary Steube* (Mill Brook)	-	-	(6,989)	FINAL	-	-	-	-	-
Rogers Lake+ (Mill Brook)	-	-	0	FINAL -	-	-	-	-	-
West Springfield (Westfield-MA)	0	4,560	0	4	0	0	94	0	0
Holyoke (Connecticut-MA)	2	267,553	0	1,060	64	237	10,234	9/0	0
Manhan River* (Manhan-MA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turners Falls* (Connecticut-MA)	0	1,971	-	0	0	0	16	-	-
Vernon* (Connecticut-VT)	0	3,749	-	0	0	0	35	-	0
Bellows Falls* (Connecticut-VT)	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	0
Wilder* (Connecticut-VT)	0	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0
Other (all sites)	0								
TOTALS=	2	272,504	7,327	1,077	93	237	10,937	9/2	0
(last year's totals)	20	541,637	922	800	230	452	23,955	85	20

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. ++Shortnose Sturgeon (Holyoke)/Sea-run Trout (other locations) 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 lower Connecticut River runs are just about over. There are Sea Lampreys moving through and spawning but the shad and river herring runs are pretty much over. Our Rainbow video count is a full month behind so those counts should continue to rise. I have not received data from other upstate fishways except for Holyoke. We'll try to get updated data for next week.

It seems likely that shad and lamprey in the upper river are spawning and we should be seeing downrunning shad soon.

We had a sewage spill in Middletown over the weekend and our agency sent out alerts. The spill has been fixed but boaters and swimmers in the lower river should use caution through this weekend. There did not appear to be any fish kill associated with the spill.

Last week, I attended the annual meeting of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) in Portland, Maine. The meeting place rotates among members and it was the turn of the U.S. this year. Delegates from ten nations attended and after the meeting we took them on a tour of fish passage sites in the Penobscot River watershed: Howland Dam Fish Bypass Channel, Leonard's Mill Fishway, the Milford Dam Fishlift, and the Veazie Dam Removal Site. It has been an exciting year at Howland as people have observed schools of river herring moving up the channel. At Milford, we saw fish being lifted and swim past the window. Currently, the numbers stand at 297 Atlantic Salmon, 2,254 American Shad, 2.1 million river herring, 1,941 Sea Lamprey and 117 Striped Bass.

You'll recall we hosted a number of events in Connecticut for World Fish Migration Day on April 23. The folks with WFMD just provided some feedback. Over 60,000,000 people were reached by 569 events in 63 countries. Wow!



Richard Dill of Brookfield Hydro shows NASCO delegates the viewing window of the Milford Fishlift on the Penobscot River in Maine. One salmon and dozens of shad and Sea Lamprey passed the window during the visit.



Bjorn Lake of NOAA-Fisheries explains the Howland Dam Bypass Channel on the Piscataquis River in Maine to NASCO delegates.

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)	1,004	1,653	122	89	5	0	1	1
Taftville* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Occum* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Scotland* (Shetucket R. Windham)	12	12	0	0	0	0	0	22
Tunnel* (Quinebaug R., Preston)	4	129	0	0	0	0	0	1,620
Kinneytown* (Naugatuck R., Seymour)	1	0	0	0	0	27	0	
Hallville Pond* (Poquetanuck Br. Preston)	-	(74)	FINAL	0	-	0	0	0
Jordan Brook ** (Jordan Brook, Waterford)	-	(512)	FINAL	0	-	0	0	0
Latimers Brook** (Latimers Br., E.Lyme)	-	(16,210)	FINAL-	-	-	-	-	-
Brides Brook** (Brides Brook, E.Lyme)		(395,026)						
Chapmans Pond* (Menunketesuck R., Clinton)		(46)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Branford Supply Pond Dam** (Queach Br., Branford)		(738)	FINAL	0	-	-	-	-
Lower Guilford Lake** (East River, Guilford)		(942)	FINAL	-	-	-	-	-
Haakonsen Fishway* (Quinnipiac R., Wallingford)	0	(3,007	60	10	0	107	0	0)
Hanover Pond Fishway* (Quinnipiac River, Meriden)		24	0	2	-	9	-	1
Clarks Pond Fishway*** (Indian River, Milford)		4,041	FINAL					
Bunnells Pond* (Pegonnock R., Bridgeport)	-	32,260	0	0	0	0	0	-
Mianus River Pond* ** (Mianus R., Greenwich)		32,961	7,820	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= 6/14 Taftville= 6/05 Occum= 6/04 Tunnel= 6/12 Kinneytown= 6/14 Haakonsen= 6/13 Hallville= 6/12 Hanover= 5/29
Bunnells= 6/14 Chapmans= 6/1*

***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. ***These are counts made by a volunteer when he is present and represents an index not a census. 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:

The runs are pretty much over. Summer has arrived. Most of the action is in the larger rivers, especially the Shetucket, which has fishways much farther away from the coast. All of those fishways are still open and we'll continue to report on them the rest of the month. The fish being lifted at Scotland are part of the testing and were trucked around Taftville and Occum. The number of fish passed at Greeneville includes the number that both Norwich Public Utilities and our program trucked. Sarah got 195 Blueback Herring last week at Mianus but some of them could have been downrunning Alewives. She knows there are fish leaving via the fishway now. I suspect the number listed in the table this week will be her final count before she pulls the counter but we'll wait for her report next week. We have pulled all of our counters and video and even closed many fishways (as can be seen above) due to low water. A few fishways that are still operating (e.g. Lower Guilford and Clarks) are never closed—they operate all summer but we stop counting.

We won't do a wrap-up until we know all of the runs are over.

Eel Counts- Fishing Brook = 39,129 glass/190 yellow; Chapmans Pond= 29,137 glass/406 yellow; Mill River Eel Trap= 1,997 glass/459 yellow; Hanover Pond= 4 yellow; Greeneville Eel Lift= 57 yellow. Occum= 52 yellow eels. The number shown on the previous page for Tunnel is for its eel pass, not the lift, and all fish are elvers or yellow.

My weekly Diadromous Fish Radio show is live on iCRV (www.iCRVradio.com) at 8:00 am on Wednesdays. If you can't tune in at 8:00 am, listen to it at any time: www.icrvradio.com/programs/program/50.



An Atlantic Salmon broodstock cruises past the Greeneville Fishlift window on the Shetucket River. They are stocked upstream but many drop down over several dams during spring high water and when the water gets warm, they find the fishways and go back upstream, where it is cooler..



Save the Sound (STS) hosted an annual meeting of Restore America's Estuaries (RAE). Today, they toured Rocky Neck to see the project that STS did with the DEEP to open up the mouth of Bride Brook. Project Manager Gwen MacDonald (back to camera, red) explains how the Alewife count at Bride Lake jumped from around 100,000 (before this culvert was put in) to around 400,000 (now, eight years later).