

# CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT

Report Date: April 16, 2019



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](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	STURGEON/ 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	11	0	0	-	0	0	0
Moulson Pond* (Eightmile)	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	-
Mary Steube* (Mill Brook)	-	-	7,309	-	-	-	-	-	- -
Rogers Lake+ (Mill Brook)	-	-	231	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Springfield (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								
<b>TOTALS=</b>	0	0	7,555	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>(last year's totals)</b>	2	281,328	7,326	1,079	99	268	23,955	91/0	2,083

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 Connecticut River remains in high water mode. Yesterday, the flow was around 56,000 cfs at Holyoke. Since the Holyoke Dam Fishlift cannot operate at flows greater than 40,000, that facility has not started operation. Most Connecticut tributaries are high and turbid after recent rains. Friday rains were not welcome for opening day of Connecticut's trout season on Saturday. Pond fishing was probably the way to go. Ken Sprankle of USFWS postponed his river herring sampling due to high water. Bruce postponed opening Leesville yesterday due to high water although he was able to open Rainbow today. He was not able to see any fish—the Farmington River is very turbid. Stu Winquist (Middlesex Land Trust) reports the Alewives are in at Pine Brook in Haddam Neck—about the same date as last year—and Patrick Wendt of NEHC reports Alewives in the Salmon River. You can see that we passed a few fish at StanChem and only four at Moulson Pond, which is a bit surprising since last week we had reports of fish throughout the fishway. Both of those fishways are passing White Suckers—224 at StanChem and 349 at Moulson Pond. Bruce has stocked a total of 130,000 fry out of the Tripps Streamside Incubation Facility in Old Lyme. It looks like we got a 90% survival rate from eyed egg to fry, which is better than the 13-year average of 80%. If you go to the Facebook page of the Tributary Mill Conservancy, you can see photos and see when Channel 8 television was there filming a story on the facility. Below is a photo of Bruce weighing out fry to load into coolers for the trip to the Salmon River. With him is resource assistant Victoria Drumm, the last of our seasonal workers. She was not on board yet when we took the group photo last week. So now you've met our entire crew.



A new bill called The Forage Fish Conservation Act, introduced by Reps. Debbie Dingell (D-Mich.), Brian Mast (R-Fla.) and others, would require that the role forage fish play in the marine ecosystem be accounted for when federal fisheries managers set catch limits on them. This would help to ensure the smaller fish in the ocean, such as river herring, shad, and menhaden, will be sustainably managed. Let's keep an eye on this bi-partisan bill.



*The Rogers Lake Fishway is passing sea-run Alewives for the first time. All fish are trapped at the exit and fin-clipped for genetic analysis before they are released into the pond. We also passed one Rainbow Trout.*



*Andrew McDonald (Yale University) and Jake Rawlings (DEEP) fin clip Alewives prior to release into Rogers Lake. This is part of the long-term study of the reintroduction of Alewives to the lake.*

## OTHER LOCATIONS WITHIN CONNECTICUT

<b>FISHWAY (RIVER)</b>	<b>AMER. SHAD</b>	<b>ALEWIFE</b>	<b>BLUEBACK HERRING</b>	<b>GIZZARD SHAD</b>	<b>STRIPED BASS</b>	<b>SEA LAMPREY</b>	<b>SEA-RUN TROUT</b>	<b>AMER. EEL</b>
<b>Greeneville*</b> (Shetucket R., Norwich)	4	159	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>Scotland*</b> (Shetucket R. Windham)	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	
<b>Hallville Pond*</b> (Poquetanuck Br. Preston)	-	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
<b>Jordan Brook **</b> (Jordan Brook, Waterford)	-	37	0	0	-	0	0	0
<b>Latimers Brook**</b> (Latimers Br., E.Lyme)	-	11,506	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Brides Brook**</b> (Brides Brook, E.Lyme)		207,158						
<b>Fishing Brook**</b> (Fishing Brook, OSaybrook)		4,115						
<b>Chapmans Pond*</b> (Menunketesuck R., Clinton)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Branford Supply Pond Dam**</b> (Queach Br., Branford)	3		0	0	-	-	-	-
<b>Lower Guilford Lake**</b> (East River, Guilford)		115	0	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Haakonsen Fishway*</b> (Quinnipiac R., Wallingford)	0	18	0	0	0	3	0	0
<b>Hanover Pond Fishway*</b> (Quinnipiac River, Meriden)		0	0	0	-	0	-	0
<b>Clarks Pond Fishway***</b> (Indian River, Milford)		10						
<b>Bunnells Pond*</b> (Peqonnock R., Bridgeport)	-	11	0	0	0	0	0	-
<b>Mianus River Pond* **</b> (Mianus R., Greenwich)		4,180	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= 4/10 Taftville= 4/2 Occum= na Tunnel= 4/2*

*Kinneytown= 4/11 Haakonsen= 4/9 Hallville= na Hanover= 4/15, Bunnells= 4/11 Chapmans= na \*\*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:

New London County continues to lead the way. We added another 137,907 last week at Brides; we're averaging about 20,000 to 30,000 a night. Trucking is in full swing. The Noroton River got its fish today—thanks go out to the Darien Land Trust and Save the Sound for assistance. But it's still slow in Whitford Brook where Jon reports only an additional 7 Alewives this week at the former Hyde Pond. We continue to be pleased with the numbers at Fishing Brook. We now have anadromous fish reported just about everywhere. Exceptions are Taftville and Tunnel (waiting on reports from Steve Leach), Kinneytown (29 White Suckers), and Hanover Pond (158 White Suckers and 2 brown trout), and Chapmans and Hallville which had late starts due to beaver/bad laptop and a burnt out light, respectively. We hope to have data for all of those places next week. Note that the Haakonsen Fishway on the Quinnipiac has already passed three Sea Lamprey—it seems a bit early. Finally good to get Branford Water Supply Ponds on the board, even though it's not many fish yet. Captain Ian reports a wave of fish in the Mill (Southport) and Bruce Park in Greenwich, along with some Gizzard Shad and attendant Black Crown Night Herons. Speaking of birds, I'm a little surprised the Bunnells count is still as low as it is due to the bird activity. Sally Harold reports some fish moving through the Wood Dam Fishway, where we're trying out some new ways of monitoring fish but it's not ready for prime time yet. As you can see, more fish have shown up at Mianus and Sarah reports glass eels have arrived there, as well.

I will add that as I was preparing this report on Tuesday, the crew was returning with end-of-day stories of more fish at many locations and in traps. It is clear that a lot was happening last night and today as the streams begin to recede after the rains. These rains are good for pulling in fish but often they don't run at the peak of the high water. They enter as the flow begins to taper off. But I can't stop the presses so today's fish numbers will be reported in next week's report. The forecast is for more warm weather, warmer at night, and more rain, so it should be good for keeping the runs coming. Hopefully by next week all of those zeroes will be replaced and we'll start seeing some more shad, at least in the Shetucket.

On Thursday night, I'll be giving a brief talk on our program at the "Meet Your Greens" program at the Griswold Inn, Main Street, Essex. 5:30 – 7:30 pm.

**Eel Counts-** Fishing Brook = 22,209 glass/58 yellow; Chapmans Pond= 0 glass/0 yellow; Mill River Eel Trap= 0 glass/0 yellow; Hanover Pond= 0 yellow; Greeneville Eel Lift= 0 glass/0 yellow. Occum= 0 yellow eels; Kinneytown= 0 yellow.

My weekly Diadromous Fish Radio show is live on iCRV ([www.iCRVradio.com](http://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](http://www.icrvradio.com/programs/program/50).



*Alewives surging to enter the Bride Brook fish counter and trap. I could say they were elbowing each other out of the way to get a better position but we all know that Alewives don't have elbows.*



*A glass eel from Fishing Brook Trap. Can anyone out there read palms? Not a bad 'life line'.*