

CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT

Report Date: June 4, 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 visit the USFWS website at www.fws.gov/r5csrc. 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	240	1	0	0	0	409	0	0
Leesville (Salmon)	0	-	-	0	-	-	0**	0	0
StanChem* (Mattabesset)	0	1	62	5	46	-	11	0	0
Moulson Pond* (Eightmile)	0	1	13	51	0	0	4	0	-
Mary Steube* (Mill Brook)	-	-	11,232	FINAL	-	-	-	-	-
Rogers Lake+ (Mill Brook)	-	-	285	FINAL -	-	-	-	-	-
West Springfield (Westfield- MA)	0	3,793	0	5	0	0	201	0	0
Holyoke (Connecticut- MA)	0	284,164	0	5,014	297	41	3,735	0	0
Manhan River* (Manhan- MA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turners Falls* (Connecticut- MA)	0	13,082	-	0	0	0	50	-	-
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	288,199	11,308	5,075	343	41	4,360	0	0
(last year's totals)	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:

River discharge was up again for a few days following the last report but has subsequently dropped (14,400 cfs) to slightly below average flows for this date. It was a big weekend for American Shad at Holyoke Fishlift: 48,870 on Saturday; 25,772 on Sunday; and 11,027 on Monday bringing the season total to 284,164 shad. Ken indicates that this spike in passage was a result of reduced spill at the dam and accordingly most of the passage took place from fish entering the spillway entrance as opposed to the tailrace entrance. Kevin's timing is good as he is trucking per-spawn American Shad out of Holyoke today and the rest of the week. Here in Connecticut, the Blueback Herring have gone quite from last week; although Holyoke passed another 300 or so since last report. You will note that the total Alewife count for this year decreased since last weeks report once the count for Rogers Lake (upstream of Mary Steube and therefore already accounted for) was omitted from the river total

A bright sea-run Atlantic Salmon was caught and released below Holyoke by a lucky angler this past week (see photo below). Since Connecticut is the only partner in the watershed still stocking salmon, we will probably see this fish again in the near future at either Rainbow or Leesville fishways. In prior years Salmon returning to the Salmon or Farmington rivers have been documented shooting past Connecticut (especially when the river discharge is as high as it's been this year) and actually passing upstream through the Holyoke Fishlift, only to show up at Rainbow or Leesville soon after!

The Sea Lamprey run continues to picking up. Their presence at Rainbow Fishway has really slowed our video review and we are falling behind. Since the fishway window (where we record our passage video) is located in a resting pool towards the middle of this very long fishway, we see lamprey (and other fish) going back and forth in front of the window. Well, imagine having to sort the back and forth out! It takes time and considerable patience on the part of our crew. Once we get to the end of the lamprey run we will quickly catch-up. As Steve mentioned in his last report we are restoring Sea Lamprey to the Shetucket River Watershed and so last week Kevin and I took some of our primitive friends from the Rainbow Fishway and released them in Merrick Brook (Scotland, CT) and Beaver Brook (Franklin, CT). These adult lamprey will spawn (improving trout spawning areas) and die (adding beneficial marine derived nutrients to these wild trout streams); but their offspring (as ammocoetes) will soon start emitting pheromones that will attract adults back to spawn as early as spring 2020.

Steve continues to attend the annual meeting of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO), which is in Tromsø, Norway. He reported that as of yesterday the high temperature was around 43 F and considerable snowpack in the mountains. Steve will also be attending a special international symposium as part of the meeting, and as part of the International Year of the Salmon.



Stocking pre spawn Sea Lamprey in Merrick Brook.

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)	807	699	0	17	0	0	0	0
Taftville* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Occum* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scotland* (Shetucket R. Windham)	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tunnel* (Quinebaug R., Preston)	1	33	0	0	0	0	0	1
Kinneytown* (Naugatuck R., Seymour)	0	0	0	0	0	35	0	0
Hallville Pond* (Poquetanuck Br. Preston)	-	16	Final	2	-	0	0	0
Jordan Brook ** (Jordan Brook, Waterford)	-	116	Final	0	-	0	0	0
Latimers Brook** (Latimers Br., E.Lyme)	-	26,390	Final	-	-	-	-	-
Brides Brook** (Brides Brook, E.Lyme)		296,703	Final	-	-	-	-	-
Fishing Brook** (Fishing Brook, OSaybrook)		14,279	Final	-	-	-	-	-
Chapmans Pond* (Menunketesuck R., Clinton)		5	Final	0	0	0	0	0
Branford Supply Pond Dam** (Queach Br., Branford)	385		Final	-	-	-	-	-
Lower Guilford Lake** (East River, Guilford)		364	Final	-	-	-	-	-
Haakonsen Fishway* (Quinnipiac R., Wallingford)	2	2,070	26	17	1	549	0	0
Hanover Pond Fishway* (Quinnipiac River, Meriden)		4	0	0	-	251	-	1
Clarks Pond Fishway*** (Indian River, Milford)		541	Final	-	-	-	-	-
Bunnells Pond* (Peqonnock R., Bridgeport)	-	12,078	0	1	0	58	0	-
Mianus River Pond* ** (Mianus R., Greenwich)		6,027	19,819	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= 6/2 Taftville= 5/20 Occum= 6/3 Tunnel= 5/27*

*Scotland= 5/27 Kinneytown= 5/30 Haakonsen= 6/2 Hallville= 6/2 Hanover= 5/23 Bunnells= 6/2 Chapmans= 5/21**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:

Things continue to wind-down along the coast (from east to west). As was reported last week, all of our electronic fish counters have been removed for the season. We are also beginning to pull video equipment at our coastal sites; Hallville was today, Moulson and Bunnells probably sometime next week. Where appropriate, some of these fishways will remain 'open' to provide additional safe downstream passage for both spent adult and juvenile river herring. We will continue to monitor runs with video at the large river fishways as those multispecies runs tend to continue into June. Down west, the Mianus River continues to see fish coming-in as Sarah reports 1,709 additional Blueback Herring since last report. Last week Steve mentioned the increasing Sea Lamprey run monitored at Haakonsen Fishway; the count is currently at 549 for the season. Additionally, Pat Wendt reports that he's also recording a big increase at the upstream Hanover Fishway (114 Sea Lamprey in one day; crushing the record of 52 for an entire season) - with the dam removals that have occurred upstream of Hanover Dam in recent years, there is plenty of high quality spawning and juvenile habitat now available to them.

Eel Counts- Fishing Brook = 54,307 glass/188 yellow; Chapmans Pond= 72,269 glass/650 yellow; Mill River Eel Trap= 3,875 glass/35 yellow; Hanover Pond= 148 yellow; Greeneville Eel Lift= 21 glass/74 yellow; Occum= 1 yellow eels; Tunnel= 43 yellow; Kinneytown= 0 yellow, Lower Millpond= 18 glass/0 yellow.
The eel count at Fishing Brook and Chapmans pond is the highest in their time series.

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.



A Few glass eels climbing the face of the Chapmans Pond Dam.