



Connecticut River Basin Fishway Passage Counts

Report Date: 05/20/2022



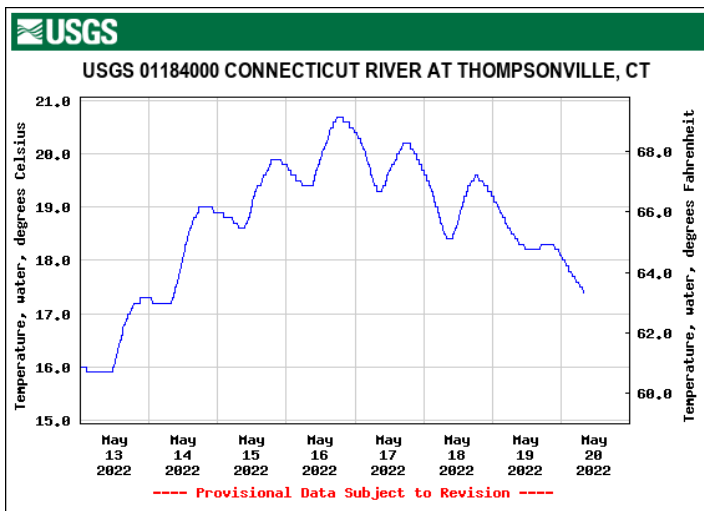
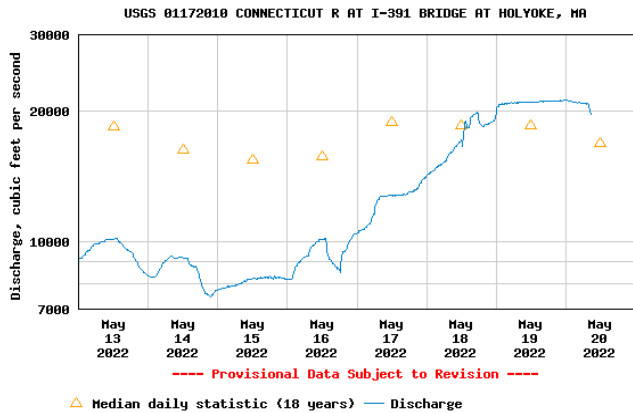
This report is compiled by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, CT River Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office using fishway count data provided by several agencies as well as power companies and is dependent in most cases on the review of video counts, that have an associated time lag for updates. Please visit <http://www.fws.gov/r5crc> for more information.

Fishway, River - State	Data as of:	American Shad	Alewife	Blueback Herring	Atlantic Salmon	American Eel	Sea Lamprey	Striped Bass	Gizzard Shad	Shortnose Sturgeon	Other/ comment
Rogers Lake-CT	final		264								
Mary Steube, Mill-CT	final		3,944								
Mill Pond, Falls -CT (NEW Fishway)	5/18		177								
Moulson Pond, Eightmile-CT	5/18		2								troubling
Leesville, Salmon-CT	open										no BBH seen
StanChem, Mattabesset-CT	4/22		1,561								image data in review
Rainbow, Farmington-CT	open	2			1						troubling
W. Springfield, Westfield-MA	5/9	75					19				337 white suckers
Holyoke, Connecticut-MA	5/19	114,574		236		287	6,717	20	16	1	
Easthampton, Manhan-MA											
**Turners Falls-Gatehouse, Connecticut-MA	5/15	2,014					20				Gatehouse visitor center opens 5/14
Vernon, Connecticut-VT	opened 4/29										
Bellows Falls, Connecticut-VT											
Total to basin, only <u>first barrier</u> counts											
		114,651	5,507	236	1	287	6,736	20	16	1	
Last year totals											
		237,355	26,863	3,019	4	12,952	20,620	352	54	11	

**** Spillway Fish Ladder - at the dam # shad, # sea lamprey; Cabot Station Ladder, base of canal, # shad, and # sea lamprey. Note that at Turners Falls Project (Dam/Canal) fish must use one of these two fishways first before having the opportunity to pass the final required ladder (Gatehouse).**

A - total collected from 3 eel ramp/traps at Holyoke in 2021

Since the last report the river and tributary conditions have had a relatively wild environmental ride with very low river discharge and the inversely related water temp increases that have both thankfully moderated for the short-term (see next page). Over the long-term (since 1976), we see the "averaged" cumulative shad passage would have ~ 40% of the annual run passed by this date. As we know, many factors affect passage efficiency and the current 20,000 CFS with substantial spill at the Holyoke Dam, impacts fish finding fishway entrances as it does at any dam when spilling. Recent days have had daily shad counts in the 3,000 to 9,000 range. The Sea Lamprey counts increased to values of up to 2,800 fish before dropping in recent days to tens of fish. The first Shortnose Sturgeon was also passed and American Eel (elvers) are showing in the Holyoke specially designed and operated eel passes. Our river herring assessment work observed very low catch rates in MA tribs, but "high" rates in Wethersfield Cove, with lots of shoreline spawning. Yesterday in spite of "good" conditions in the lower Farmington R, we only sampled 37 bluebacks over 7 runs (a lot of effort). This is typically "peak" abundance time for BBH in our assessment. This Saturday is World Fish Migration Day. I will be with the CT River Conservancy at Holyoke Rows from 10am-2pm, to display sampling gear and fish. On 5/29, Dr Boyd Kynard will be at Holyoke Fish Lift from 2:15-3:15 as part of scheduled tour - refer to <https://www.worldfishmigrationday.com/events/>.



Figures 1 and 2. Daily river discharge data for Holyoke aligned with daily water temperatures at Enfiled USGS Gage. Remarkable rate of temp increase with the near record low flows, before some much needed rain and temperature reductions, as we head into the heat of this weekend.



Images 1 and 2. Kevin Job (CTDEEP) and his crew over this spring have moved many thousands of Alewife from Bride's Lake for restoration of numerous runs and they are now actively trucking American Shad and Sea Lamprey from Holyoke Fish Lift for other target waters.



Image 3. Anglers fishing downstream of the Holyoke Dam. The Holyoke Shad Fishing Derby will end this weekend. Sierra at HFL noted that Holyoke Gas and Electric can provide tours of the fish passage facility on Sundays and Mondays, that must be scheduled on-line (as Dr. Kynard as done for 5/29). Go to <https://www.hged.com/community-environment/barrett-fishway/tours.aspx>. The Gatehouse fishway at Turners Falls is open to public as is Vernon Fishway (VT) on the weekends with some weekday hours too.