



Connecticut River Basin Fishway Passage Counts

Report Date: 05/26/2022



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								37K in 2020
Mill Pond, Falls -CT (NEW Fishway)	final		160								
Moulson Pond, Eightmile-CT	5/24		2	85			1				
Leesville, Salmon-CT	open										
StanChem, Mattabesset-CT	4/22		1,561								image data in review
Rainbow, Farmington-CT	open	2			1						
W. Springfield, Westfield-MA	5/19	751					302				723 white suckers
Holyoke, Connecticut-MA	5/25	150,017		260		561	9,779	48	44	2	
Easthampton, Manhan-MA											
**Turners Falls-Gatehouse, Connecticut-MA	5/19	11,330					655				Gatehouse visitor center opens 5/14
Vernon, Connecticut-VT	opened 4/29										
Bellows Falls, Connecticut-VT											
Total to basin, only <u>first</u> barrier counts											
		150,770	5,507	345	1	561	10,082	48	44	2	
Last year totals											
		237,355	26,863	3,019	4	12,952	20,620	352	54	11	

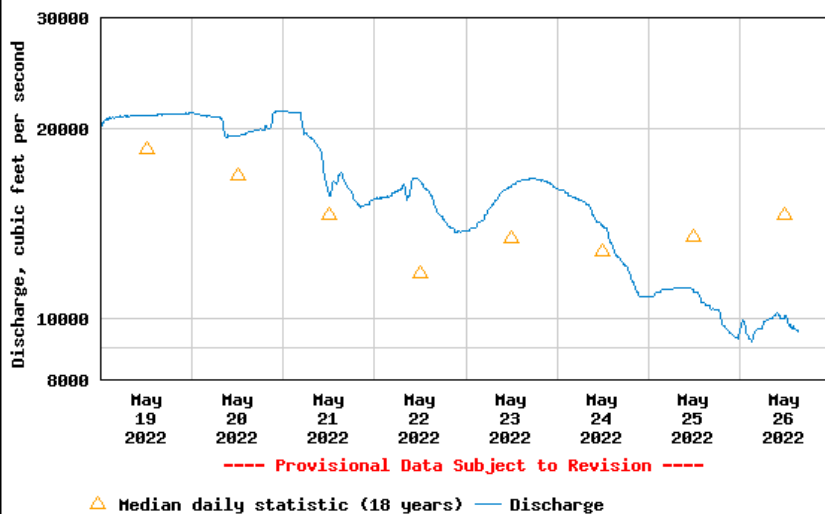
**** Spillway Fish Ladder - at the dam # shad, # sea lamprey; Cabot Station Ladder, base of canal, # shad, and # sea lamprey. Note that at Turners Falls Project (Dam/Canal) fish must use one of these two fishways first before having the opportunity to pass the final required ladder (Gatehouse).**

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

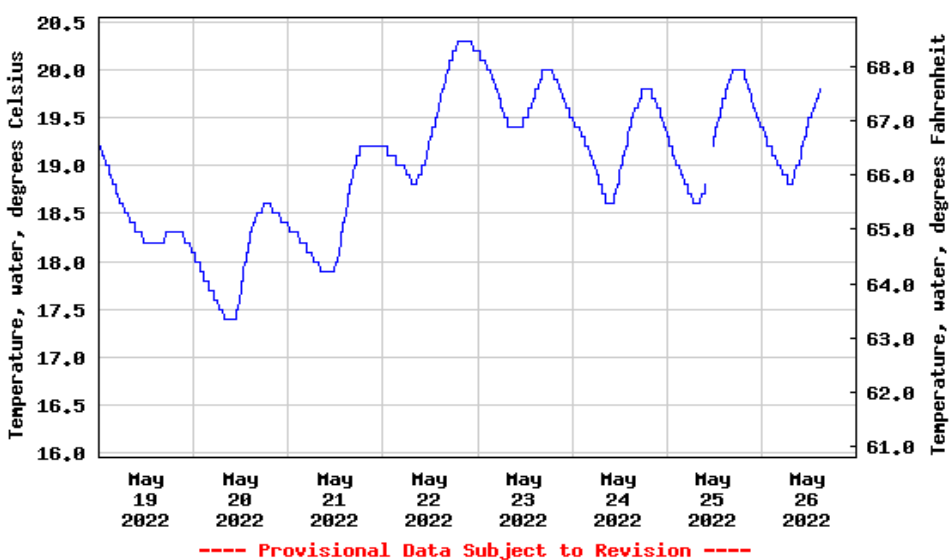
This week's report has some more disappointing updates given the mainstem discharge (average level to now very low) and water temps that are in a "normal" range (see next page figures). Sierra at HFL reports the following daily shad counts 5/20 (1,100), 5/21 (19,100), 5/23 (1,638), 5/24 (4,212), 5/25 (1,731). While 5/21 was fairly high, the other dates and notably recent ones with quite low flows is not good, as fishway attraction flows (signals) are as good as they get (relative to proportion of other sources - spill and/or turbines). Steven Mattocks (MADFW) reports very few additional shad but Sea Lamprey increasing. This week, our study had "modest" catch rates of Blueback Herring in the Chicopee River on Monday (60 total - best to date) and we observed many dozens of shad and lamprey too. The reason was simple - water/flow and suitable temps. The highly regulated Chicopee had moderated flows for fishes to use these habitats. That was not the situation on the Farmington R today, the USGS Gage upstream of the Rainbow Dam impoundment show it at <10th percentile for flow, we sampled 7 bluebacks and saw a handful of shad, water temps were "good" 20C/69F. Wethersfield Cove, not subject to drastic habitat swings seen in basin tribs, had moderate catch rates for blueback (160 fish), with temps just into 20-22C on Wed. Jacques Benway (CTDEEP) reported documenting successful Shortnose Sturgeon spawning in Holyoke for the 2nd year of their research on this as part of their larger sturgeon study! A suites of agencies continue to rely heavily on the Holyoke truck and transfer system - for research (Conte Lab) and restoration (CTDEEP, RIDFW, USFWS). Thanks to HGE.



USGS 01172010 CONNECTICUT R AT I-391 BRIDGE AT HOLYOKE, MA



USGS 01184000 CONNECTICUT RIVER AT THOMPSONVILLE, CT



Figures 1 and 2. Daily river discharge data for Holyoke aligned with daily water temperatures at Enfield USGS Gage. The cool weather has the water temps in a "sweet spot" for migratory fishes to both spawn and continue movements upstream if motivated/energy reserves allow.