



# Connecticut River Basin Fishway Passage Counts

5/12/2023



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/r5csrc> for more information.

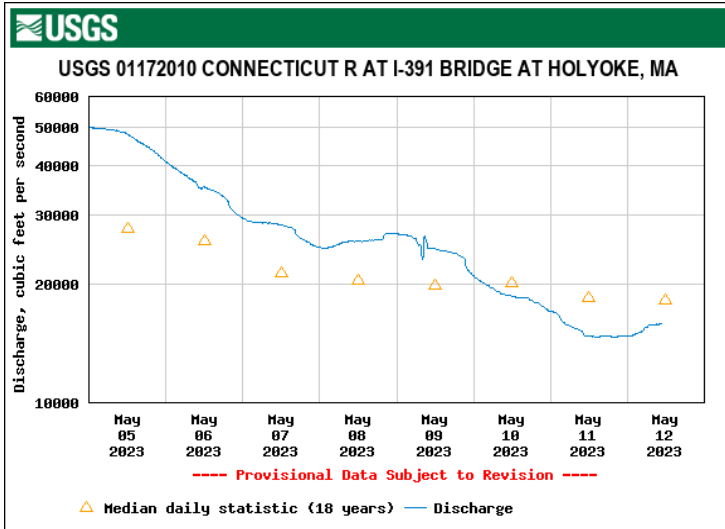
Fishway, River - State	Data as of:	American Shad	Alewife	Blueback Herring	Atlantic Salmon	American Eel	Sea Lamprey	Striped Bass	Gizzard Shad	Shortnose Sturgeon	Other/ comment
Rogers Lake-CT	open										
Mary Steube, Mill-CT	5/4		6,658								
Mill Pond, Falls -CT	open										
Moulson Pond, Eightmile-CT	4/26		150				1				
Leesville, Salmon-CT	open										river herring seen
StanChem, Mattabesset-CT	open		hundreds								
Rainbow, Farmington-CT	closed*										
W. Springfield, Westfield-MA	open										
Holyoke, Connecticut-MA	5/11	45,351		198			142	1	23		
Easthampton, Manhan-MA	open										
**Turners Falls-Gatehouse, Connecticut-MA	5/10	84									
Vernon, Connecticut-VT	open										
Bellows Falls, Connecticut-VT											
<b>Total to basin, only <u>first</u> barrier counts</b>											
		45,351	6,808	198	0	0	143	1	23	0	
<b>Last year totals</b>											
		191,651	6,681	370	4	7,845	23,042	314	63	20	

\* CTDEEP will not operate the Rainbow Fish Ladder due its documented poor performance and the lack of suitable downstream fish passage protection measures at the Stanley Works owned dam/project. Fish passage at this project has been the responsibility of the CTDEEP, due to FERC legal rulings and timing of that facilities construction.

\*\* *Spillway Fish Ladder - at the dam xx shad, xx sea lamprey; Cabot Station Ladder, base of canal, xx shad, and xx 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 2022

At Holyoke Fish Lift, operations were suspended from high flows/turbidity from 5/2 through 5/7, and reopened on 5/8 with 3,764 American Shad passed that day. Shad counts on the following days have increased nicely- 5/9 (4,082), 5/10 (9,830), and 5/11 (22,663), water temps are seasonally cool (14.6C or 58F) and discharge in main stem and tribs are close to long term averages. Other species, as shown are now also passing there. Historic, long-term annual (daily time step) data shows "approximately" 15% of the annual shad run is passed by 5/11 at HFL. Research by UMass/USGS Research Coop Unit has shown for Blueback Herring a shift in run timing at Holyoke starting and ending earlier. We plan to expand modeling work for the other species as climate change studies have been demonstrating both shifts and compression of these life history "windows", with potential concerns for population resilience among others. My Office's river herring assessment work, showed an increase in Blueback Herring abundance in Wethersfield Cove, rates close to our 10 year average (vs. last year's time series lows). We also sampled fish in Massachusetts tribs at modest rates, with temps still on cool side. The Farmington River produced highly variable rates that over the day increased on each successive downstream run. suggesting fish just moving in (at least for the ~7 km we cover to near its mouth).



Steve and Melissa getting the Manhan Fish Ladder entrance operational.



Sierra (HGE) providing the Fish Engineers and biologists access for inspections - Holyoke Canal downstream bypass facility shown.



The exit of the Vernon Fish Ladder. Jen Griffin (GRH) and agency staff are standing on where attraction water system is located (to maintain desired velocities and flow vectors).



The Turners Fall Spillway Fish Ladder (at the dam), an Ice Harbor design, with alternating baffles inserted for the weirs to improve passage performance. Engineers and Steve Leach (FLP) shown by a turn pool.



A transformed juvenile Sea Lamprey that hitched a ride with a fish going the wrong way (for the SL). We see this typically a few times every early spring.