



Connecticut River Basin Fishway Passage Counts

5/25/2023



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/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	open										
Mary Steube, Mill-CT	5/9		7,636								
Mill Pond, Falls -CT	open										
Moulson Pond, Eightmile-CT	5/5		150	12			15				
Leesville, Salmon-CT	open										river herring seen
StanChem, Mattabesset-CT	4/28	0	223	0			0				
Rainbow, Farmington-CT	closed*										
W. Springfield, Westfield-MA	5/14	1,674					1,306				730 white suckers
Holyoke, Connecticut-MA	5/24	221,414		2,173		596	3,256	16	50		
Easthampton, Manhan-MA	open										
**Turners Falls-Gatehouse, Connecticut-MA	5/20	3,962		0			112				
Vernon, Connecticut-VT	open										
Bellows Falls, Connecticut-VT											
Total to basin, only <u>first</u> barrier counts											
		223,088	8,009	2,185	0	596	4,577	16	50	0	
Last year totals											
		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 - (5/11) at the dam 98 shad, 0 sea lamprey; Cabot Station Ladder (5/10) , base of canal, 194 shad, and 0 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, since last report, Sierra reported daily total American Shad passage counts of 4,508 (5/19); 3,108 (5/20); 3,932 (5/21); 5,013 (5/22); 4,355 (5/23); and 8,100 (5/24). Sea Lamprey passage also increased this past week with water temperatures remaining seasonally cool (15-17C or upper 50s to low 60's F) and flows briefly above average to now below again (see figure). The Conte Lab is very busy running multiple studies in the Flume building with shad (side by side fishway study), Sea Lamprey upstream passage experimental fishways, and also swimming performance and behavior of Sea Lampreys. An American Eel upstream passage study is also in planning stages at Conte using a new technology. My office continues to conduct weekly river herring assessment work, with Blueback Herring being sampled in all our study areas in moderate rates - many females are partially spent but we also still see gravid (yet to spawn) females in the mix. The Holyoke Shad Derby, run by Holyoke Gas and Electric concluded last weekend and our creel teams (CT and MA) being managed by the Connecticut River Conservancy obtained lots of angler data as the schedules (study design) had some natural overlap.



Two anglers with their recent shad catch and reports of some fine shad fishing action by both. Andy Fisk shown at the famed Turners Falls Rock Dam with a "bright" fish and the other angler fishing belows Bellows Falls Dam, VT, with a *tour de force* shad.

