



Connecticut River Basin Fishway Passage Counts

6/15/2023



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	final		1,245								
Mary Steube, Mill-CT	final		7,636								
Mill Pond, Falls -CT	final		127								
Moulson Pond, Eightmile-CT	5/16		151	17			15				
Leesville, Salmon-CT	open										river herring seen
StanChem, Mattabesset-CT	5/16	0	239	0			0				
Rainbow, Farmington-CT	closed*										
W. Springfield, Westfield-MA	5/14	1,674					1,306				730 white suckers
Holyoke, Connecticut-MA	6/14	274,140		2,211		4,302	21,109	79	56	1	
Easthampton, Manhan-MA	open										
**Turners Falls-Gatehouse, Connecticut-MA	5/31 partial	24,905		0			6,288				
Vernon, Connecticut-VT	5/21	8,337					37				
Bellows Falls, Connecticut-VT											
Total to basin, only <u>first</u> barrier counts											
		275,814	8,026	2,228	0	4,302	22,430	79	56	1	
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 and HGE passage crew report American Shad passage counts of: 636 (6/8); 1028 (6/9); 1155 (6/10); 1799 (6/11); 354 (6/12); 786 (6/13) and 336 (6/14). Last week we Alex Haro and Corey Eddy were at Holyoke inspecting eelways in the evening. We obtained 40 elvers that evening and Alex was over next morning as Corey, Darren and interns learned to extract otoliths - it went well!. This will be a pilot study to determine the age structure of juvenile eels passing at Holyoke in late June, summer and fall. The study groups will be collected soon with more trainings on aging these very tiny structures. The last time this was done was in 2005 (at Holyoke). Also, we concluded our river herring assessment program this week. I want to recognize a great office staff that makes this program possible - Darren, Kyle, Rogue and Corey - great job. Lots more to do as next page will show samples sizes for scale cleaning, mounting and reading, oto aging, more data entry and analyses. Overall Blueback Herring abundance must still be derived as not a matter of simple straight math with table values, but I will expect it to fall within the middle of our ten-year study time series. Better than last year's record low, but still no reason for suggesting a meaningful management improvement.

Table 1. Provisional (2023) annual summary sample effort, catch, laboratory sample data from the USFWS Connecticut River, River Herring Assessment Program.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2021	2022	2023
Number of sampling dates	18	21	20	25	26	23	27	25	28	28
Total sample runs	81	124	114	145	145	147	147	118	173	151
Total electrofishing seconds	41,177	55,736	56,025	71,845	68,353	69,835	80,473	56,838	84,208	73,147
Total bluebacks captured	714	2,593	1,448	1,586	2,650	2,396	3,456	1,813	1,433	1,895
Total alewives captured	107	220	258	586	200	366	243	128	470	149
Blueback Herring otolith/scale – lab	501	655	622	730	1,192	991	1,473	929	903	1,094
Alewife otolith/scale - lab	103	188	165	461	190	284	217	114	356	141