



# Connecticut River Basin Fishway Passage Counts

9/14/2023



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										
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		277,367		2,211		10,187	21,168	116	60	47	
Easthampton, Manhan-MA	open										
**Turners Falls-Gatehouse, Connecticut-MA	7/5	33,753		2			rechecking				
Vernon, Connecticut-VT	7/5	27,283					7,371				missing data for parts of 13 dates
Bellows Falls, Connecticut-VT											no counts was operated
<b>Total to basin, only <u>first barrier</u> counts</b>											
		279,041	8,026	2,228	0	10,187	22,489	116	60	47	
<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 - (7/5) at the dam 7,160 shad, 1 river herring, 9,793 sea lamprey; Cabot Station Ladder (7/5 but missing 6/9 - 6/15) , base of canal, 47,519 shad, and 11,837 sea lamprey. Note that at Turners Falls Project (Dam/Canal) fish must use one of these two fishways first before having the A - total collected from 3 eel ramp/traps at Holyoke in 2022

Since the last report in mid-August we have had an additional 26 Shortnose Sturgeon captured at HFL. I have attached a figure on the next page that places these SNS events in context with river discharge given the consistently high flows. Not since 2018 have we seen this many SNS, with recent years 2019-2022 totals ranging from 11 to 20 annually. I have also included figures with monthly mean main stem discharge values to place the conditions in some context for available USGS data and run a simple regression given the scatter plots. Jacque Benway (CTDEEP) has been conducting their juvenile alosine seine assessment and has reported low shad catch rates. We began our assessment work the last week of August and have also observed low, but consistent catch rates for shad with the typical variability. Like Jacque, we need to obtain some more data before saying too much. Our two six month seasonal interns Kyle Hubbard and Roque Brock both had their last week with us, this week. I can not say enough good things about what a great job they did in so many projects and requests. Most notably this summer, cleaning, mounting, reading, and completing summary analyses for spawning histories on over 1,000 river herring samples -thanks! Further, Darren has recently completed Alewife oto aging and he has shown a very high proportion of age-5 fish this spring.

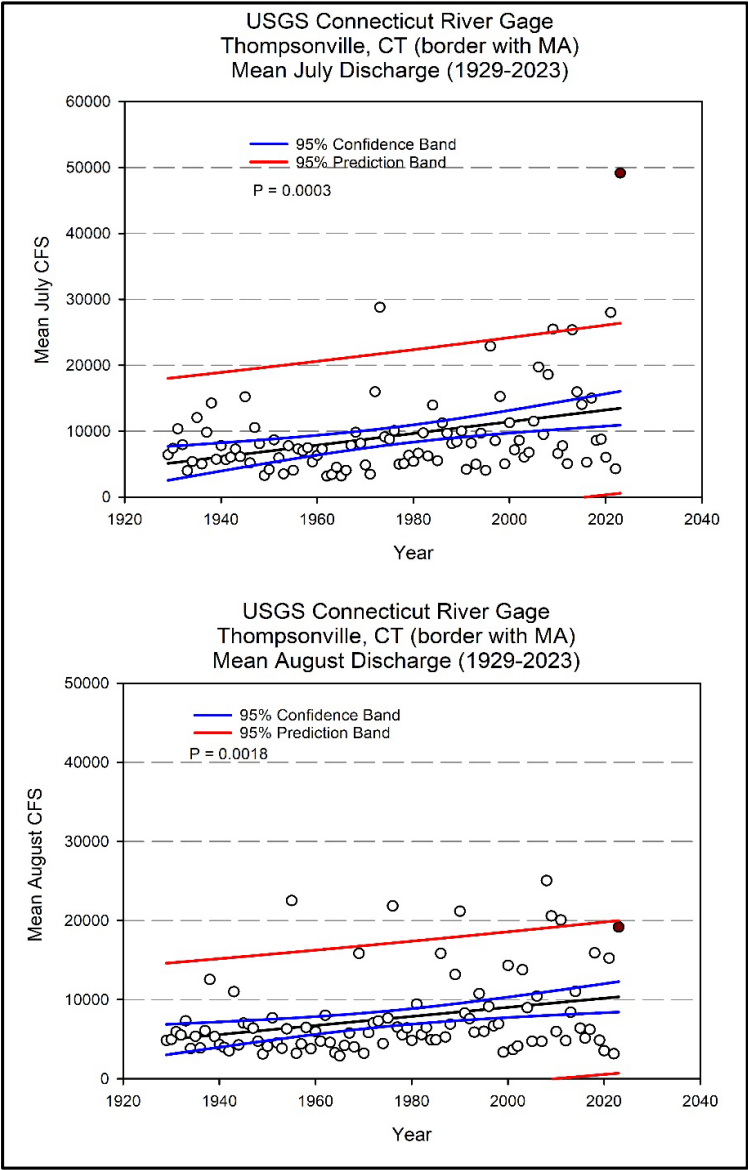


Figure 1. Mean monthly river discharge for July (top) and August (bottom) with noted significant regressions. The 2023 value is shown in brown.

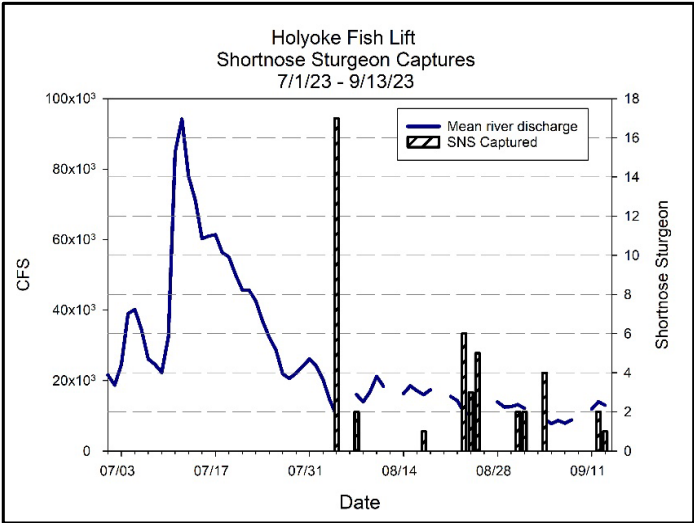


Figure 2. Shortnose captures at Holyoke Fish Lift with associated daily discharge values. Note that the lift was not operated from 7/8 to 7/31.



Images. USFWS Juvenile American shad assessment project in MA and VT/NH main stem river.