



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 Stuebe passed
Mary Steube, Mill- CT	open		4,238								
Mill Pond, Falls -CT	open										
Moulson Pond, Eightmile-CT	open										
Leesville, Salmon-CT	open										
StanChem, Mattabesset-CT	open										
Rainbow, Farmington-CT	not operated										not operated
W. Springfield, Westfield-MA	open										
Holyoke, Connecticut-MA	4/18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	opened 4/14
Easthampton, Manhan-MA	open										
**Turners Falls- Gatehouse, Connecticut-MA	closed										
Vernon, Connecticut-VT	closed										
Bellows Falls, Connecticut-VT	closed										
Total to basin, only <u>first</u> barrier counts											
		0	4,238	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Last year totals		437,553	28,063	728	0	18,687	60,525	458	73	28	

* 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.

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 4 eel ramp/traps at Holyoke in 2024

The Holyoke Fish Lifts opened on 4/14 and on 4/15 agency biologists and our FWS Fish Passage Engineer Jessica (as well as other fish passage team members -NGOs) met with HGE staff on site to review improvements to their 4 eel passes and holding facilities. These improvements reflected input from Alex Haro's continued involvement on fish passage. My office started our River Herring Stock Assessment Program in the previous week and sampled zero to single Alewife at our sites which was not unexpected. This week we sampled on three dates, with "low" catch rates of Alewife and a few Blueback Herring. Water temperatures in the spawning areas we sample have increased ~ 3C from last week, with most of our sites at 10C (50F). Yesterday, Corey and crew sampled a small number of Alewife in the Farmington River, and observed American Shad as present. We have also seen Striped Bass in our areas, generally smaller ~age-4 size ranges, with White Suckers and other species consistent with this time of year. River discharge is a concern in the tributaries and mainstem (see next page figure) as we are well below long-term averages in all areas. Kevin Job (CTDEEP) has been operating his many run monitoring stations for river herring and has been reporting overall "good" run numbers for time of year for Alewife in "coastal systems".

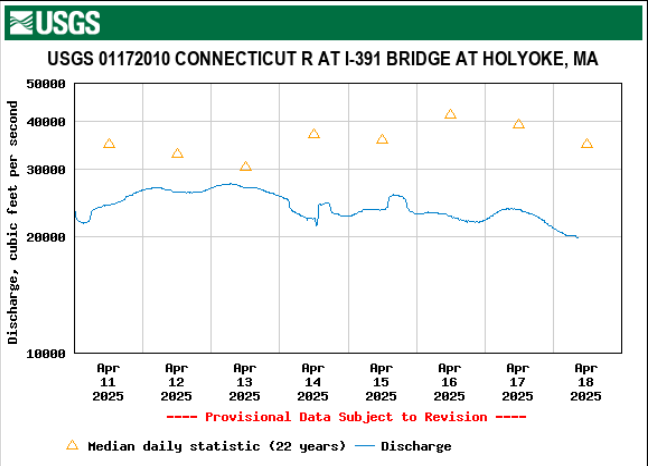


Figure 1. River discharge for noted period with average daily values.

Sample Yr	age-3	age-4	age-5	age-6	age-7	age-8
2013	0.87	1.06	0.63	0.51	0.03	0.01
2014	2.09	6.33	1.68	0.63	0.20	0.00
2015	0.16	1.19	1.56	0.32	0.14	0.04
2016	0.44	0.19	0.94	0.95	0.13	0.04
2017	2.43	0.85	0.21	0.68	0.34	0.04
2018	2.42	2.19	0.53	0.09	0.28	0.12
2019	0.35	4.51	2.09	0.48	0.14	0.09
2020						
2021	0.90	0.23	0.40	1.43	0.20	0.01
2022	0.32	0.59	0.10	0.15	0.23	0.02
2023	0.35	1.00	0.70	0.09	0.09	0.08
2024	0.21	0.21	0.31	0.15	0.02	0.01
2025						
Column %	23.0	40.1	20.0	12.0	3.9	1.0

Table 1. The catch-at-age rates (fish per minute) for Blueback Herring over our study period. "Strong" and weak year classes clearly evident (noted lines). It is apparent based on these statistics that it is reasonable to expect another extremely low Blueback Herring run in 2025. Age-4 fish typically make up 40% of the run and age-3 abundance rate was the 2nd lowest in our time series in 2024 (0.21). Last year was also the lowest "overall" average abundance (rate) record in our time series - a different figure. It is hard to not consider this species functionally extirpated from the largest river system in New England.

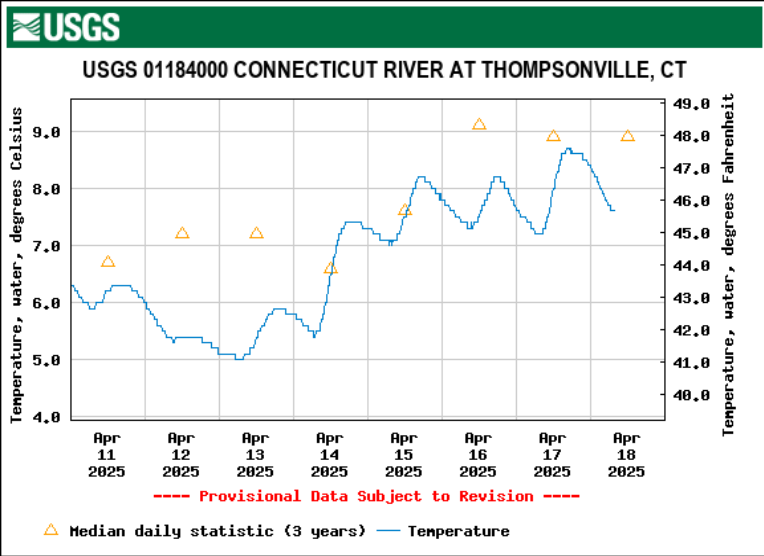


Figure 2. USGS reported water temperature data from CT River. Note that mean temp data is only based on 3 years and is not long-term based.



Image 1. Interns Gab and Jordan netting Alewife on Mattabesset River.



Image 2. Field processing sampled fish from a run and for later lab processing.



Image 3. Deploying acoustic receivers river herring tagged in 2024. Final four units to be delayed today (4/18) in upper study area, with reduced flows.