Connecticut River Migratory Fish Restoration Cooperative

Connecticut River Basin Fishway Passage Counts 4/25/2025



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	4/24		1,893								Mary Stuebe passed
Mary Steube, Mill-	4/24		8,859								
Mill Pond, Falls - CT	4/23		11								
Moulson Pond, Eightmile- <i>CT</i>	open										observed ALW passing
Leesville, Salmon- <i>CT</i>	open										white suckers seen
StanChem, Mattabesset- <i>CT</i>	open										data to be reviewed
Rainbow, Farmington- <i>CT</i>	not operated										not operated
W. Springfield, Westfield- <i>MA</i>	open										
Holyoke, Connecticut- <i>MA</i>	4/24	193	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	opened 4/14
Easthampton, Manhan- <i>MA</i>	open										USFWS inspecting 4/25
**Turners Falls- Gatehouse, Connecticut-MA	opened 4/22										
Vernon, Connecticut- <i>VT</i>	opened 4/23										
Bellows Falls, Connecticut-VT	closed										
Total to basin, <u>only first</u> barrier counts		193	8,870	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Last year totals		437,553	28,063	728	0	18,687	60,525	458			

^{*} 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 Lift team reported 56 American Shad passed yesterday as the water temperatures have continued to climb at a rapid rate with declining and quite low, seasonal river discharge levels. The predicted rain tomorrow is sorely needed (see next page) to provide access and spawning habitat in tributaries and cove areas. This week our office sampled low abundances of river herring in the Mattabesset River, Wethersfield Cove and Farmington River. We are seeing higher numbers of Alewife in all areas compared to last year, as well as a range of sizes, generally "larger sizes" and females that are almost always "spent". The sample areas warmed up very quickly over the past weeks, several degrees warmer than the mainstem values (next page). We have seen low abundances of Blueback Herring so far and I will state again no expectations for anything other than near record low abundances for that species. The good news continues to be Kevin Job (CTDEEP) and his teams monitoring work along the coastal systems that show much improved Alewife numbers at most sites. Today the USFWS Fish Passage Engineers Jessica Pica, Bryan Sojkowski, and Jesus Morales are inspecting and tuning (debris removal, setting weir boards etc.) on the Manhan River fish ladder in Easthampton MA.

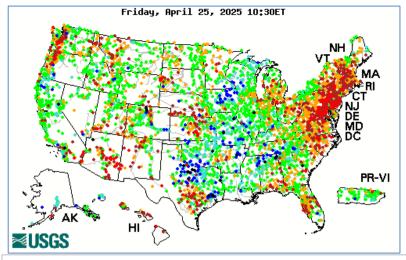


Image 1. Current (4/25/25) river discharge levels from USGS.

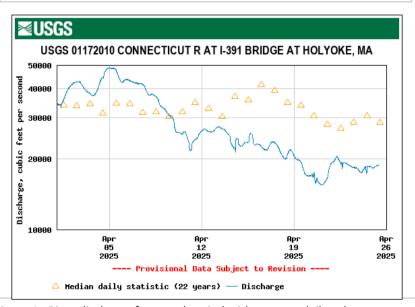


Figure 1. River discharge for noted period with average daily values.

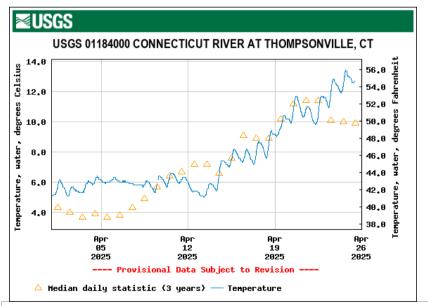


Figure 2. USGS reported water temperature data from CT River. Note that mean temp data is only based on 3 years and is not long-term based.

River Discharge Rating:

Explanation High > 90th percentile 76th - 90th percentile 25th - 75th percentile 10th - 24th percentile < 10th percentile