Connecticut River Migratory Fish Restoration Cooperative

Connecticut River Basin Fishway Passage Counts 5/23/2025



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	Final		6,440								Mary Stuebe passed
Mary Steube, Mill-	5/14		15,195								
Mill Pond, Falls - CT	5/14		1,069								
Moulson Pond, Eightmile- <i>CT</i>	open										both river spp passing
Leesville, Salmon- <i>CT</i>	open										river herring 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										no counts yet
Holyoke, Connecticut- <i>MA</i>	5/22	159,058	0	136	0	4	3,119	16	32	0	opened 4/14
Easthampton, Manhan- <i>MA</i>	open										
**Turners Falls- Gatehouse, Connecticut-MA	5/18	5,879	0	0	0	0	28	0	0		this count data include high flow turbid period
Vernon, Connecticut- <i>VT</i>	5/16	946									
Bellows Falls, Connecticut-VT	open										
Total to basin, <u>only first</u> barrier counts		159,058	16,264	136	0	4	3,119	16	32	0	
Last year totals		437,553	28,063	728	0	18,687	60,525	458	73		

^{*} 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

Holyoke Fish Lift has remained operational at the seasonally high river discharges we have been experiencing (next page). The high flows negatively impact upstream fish passage as the facilities have design limitations. In spite of this, the "tailrace fish lift" has been passing daily over 5,000 American Shad, with the entrance gate attraction flows, barely perceptible - suggestive of the numbers of fish there. This week Sierra and team provided us with 60 American Shad for our annual fish health test. Lael reports shad are passing at a slow start but has counted almost 1,000 at Vernon. This week our USFWS river herring assessment experienced reduced water levels from last week and cooler water temperatures. Catch rates were greatly reduced in Wethersfield Cove, very odd occurrence. Catch rates in the Chicopee River were reduced but again higher than last year. We had to cancel the Farmington River assessment yesterday given the true nor'easter conditions (yikes!).

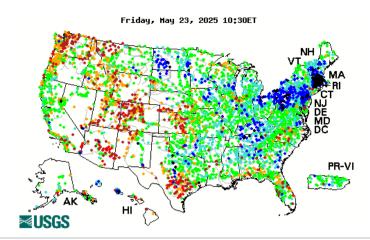


Image 1. Current (5/23/25) river discharge levels from USGS.

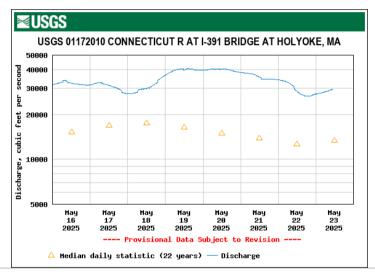


Figure 1. River discharge for noted period with average daily values.



Image 3. Katie, Claudia and Hannah, processing shad for fish health test tissue samples (60 fish), that are run at our USFWS Lamar Fish Health Unit.

River Discharge Rating:

Explanation

High

> 90th percentile

76th - 90th percentile

25th - 75th percentile

10th - 24th percentile

< 10th percentile Low



Image 2. Holyoke Dam on Tuesday (5/20) morning at 40,000 CFS when picking up American Shad from Sierra's HGE Team for fish health tests.