



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	4/30		4,680								Mary Stuebe passed
Mary Steube, Mill-CT	4/30		14,476								
Mill Pond, Falls - CT	4/30		513								
Moulson Pond, Eightmile-CT	open										both river spp passing
Leesville, Salmon-CT	open										white suckers seen
StanChem, Mattabesset-CT	open										data to be reviewed
Rainbow, Farmington-CT	not operated										not operated
W. Springfield, Westfield-MA	open										no counts yet
Holyoke, Connecticut-MA	5/1	7,329	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	opened 4/14
Easthampton, Manhan-MA	open										
**Turners Falls-Gatehouse, Connecticut-MA	opened 4/22										no counts yet, a few shad known to have passed
Vernon, Connecticut-VT	opened 4/23										
Bellows Falls, Connecticut-VT	closed										
Total to basin, only <u>first</u> barrier counts											
		7,329	14,989	0	0	0	20	20	40	80	
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

With the rain over the last weekend, river discharge improved to seasonal levels and caused a closure on Monday at Holyoke Fish Lift with associated poor water clarity. The weather also helped reduce the water temperatures - today 55F at the lift. Today Sierra reported slow passage in morning but it has become very active this afternoon, with the sun - several thousand shad passed! This week Jackie, Corey and I took turns running the river herring assessment trips among our sites. We observed improved river herring catch rates at Wethersfield Cove and the Farmington River. Corey did the Westfield and Lower Chicopee this week with only the Chicopee producing 18 Bluebacks. We have seen higher numbers of Alewife at Weth Cove this year for the month of April (since 2013) - this year has the second highest monthly total (note same effort each year). We also worked to set up a large staked fyke net (next page) over two days this week - fighting winds on Wed and completing today. While working on the net this Wednesday, we got a treat in having large schools of Blueback Herring spawning on an adjacent shoreline, over 100 meters. We watched as a group of males would chase and circle around and after a spawning female and found some other flooded wooded areas were more of the same.

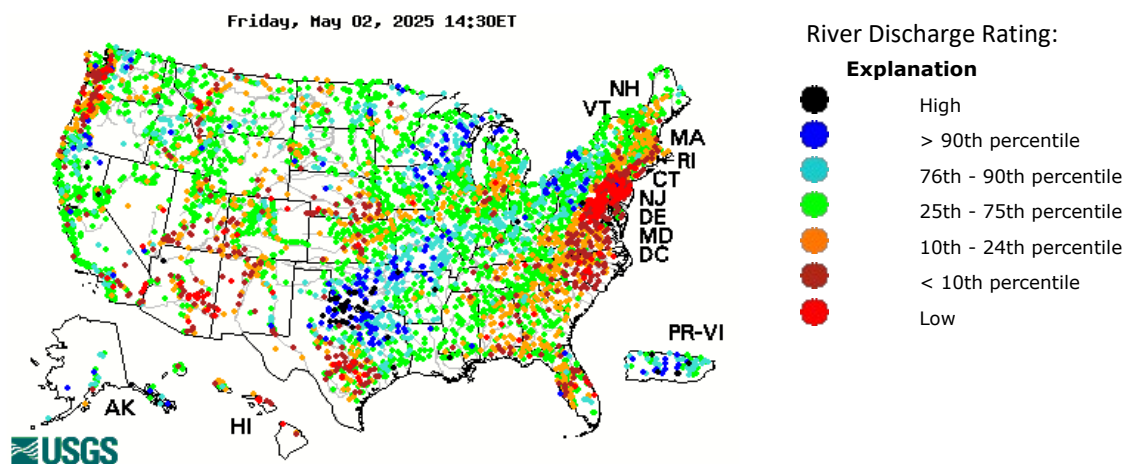


Image 1. Current (5/2/25) river discharge levels from USGS.

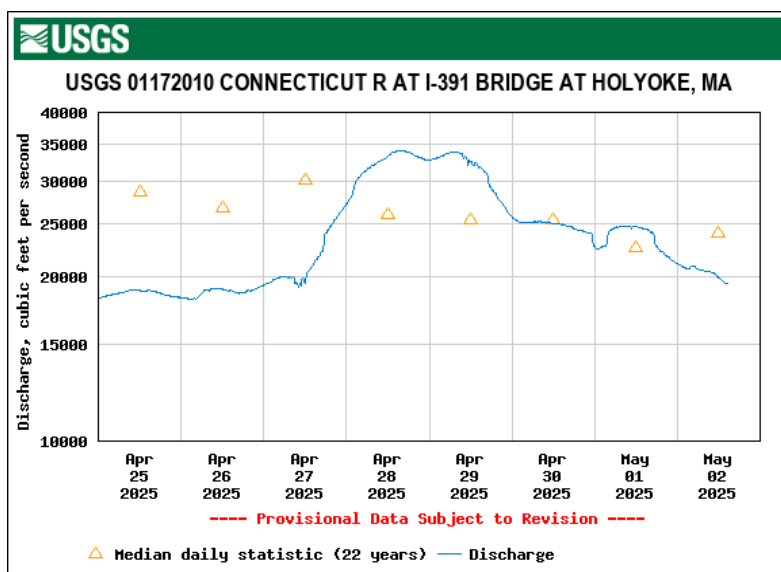


Figure 1. River discharge for noted period with average daily values.



Images - Staked fyke net in Wethersfield Cove to provide Blueback Herring for two fish passage studies at the USGS Conte Laboratory; #1 - varied fishway entrance designs and #2 - a "new" baffle type design for "chute style" ladder. I had designed the fyke net for this purpose and without having "opened" the wings nor having the "lead net line" to shore in place - we had fish in the back trap area today in the set up. Thanks to Tim Warren for cutting the 25 ft (yep 25 ft) poles and Conte staff with the set up Wed and today. The net has two compartments, 10' x 10' x 10', with funnel to back, and a winged net entry, with a planned lead line to be set on Monday - but appears not needed! Wings are folded flat at entrance on image at left, closed for business until Monday!