



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-CT	Final		15,447								
Mill Pond, Falls - CT	Final		1,325								
Moulson Pond, Eightmile-CT	4/30		12	1,381			15				
Leesville, Salmon-CT	open										no counter
StanChem, Mattabesset-CT	open										data to be reviewed
Rainbow, Farmington-CT	not operated										not operated
W. Springfield, Westfield-MA	open										data to be reviewed
Holyoke, Connecticut-MA	6/25	323,762	0	144	0	361	16,652	487	82	8	
Easthampton, Manhan-MA	open										no counter
**Turners Falls-Gatehouse, Connecticut-MA	6/12	26,363	0	0	0	0	2,320	0	0		
Vernon, Connecticut-VT	6/3	7,828					9				
Bellows Falls, Connecticut-VT	open										
<i>Total to basin, only first barrier counts</i>											
		323,762	16,784	1,525	0	361	16,667	487	82	8	
<i>Last year totals</i>											
		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

Since the last report (covering through 6/11), Sierra and crew at HFL reported some modest daily numbers in 1,000-3,000 through last week for shad, with the most recent six days steadily declining from 500 to 100+ shad daily. Sea Lamprey have essentially stopped at HFL in past 3 days. Shortnose Sturgeon, as shown, have increased (n=8) over the past 10 days at a consistent rate. Upstream main stem fishway counts are being worked on and have shown expected increases, nothing out of the ordinary. My office completed our River Herring Spawning Stock Assessment field work last week, logging in 30 field dates since 4/5 start. The river conditions (high flows and cool temps) did prolong presence of these species with some more encouraging results (for relative abundance rates) as shown on next page. I remain baffled at the poor rates in Wethersfield Cove given the much improved rates in the nearby Farmington River. We will be able to understand these data better once fish aging of samples (otoliths) is completed and we complete scale work for spawning history. Our seasonals Gab an Jordan have been great at juggling many tasks and keeping up with data entry so I could produce the figures on next page. We boat processed 2,196 Bluebacks Herring and 234 Alewife this spring - with 1,419 BBH and 198 ALW dissected in the lab by Jordan and Gab. Lots of scale sample processing to do now, also some eDNA sampling starting, with retrieval of our deployed acoustic receivers for returns of our 2024 tagging study fish (CTDEEP/USGS Conte/FWS).

USFWS River Herring Spawning Stock Assessment, Connecticut River
 mean annual relative abundance (95% CI) of Blueback Herring
 (four sample areas, 2013-2025)

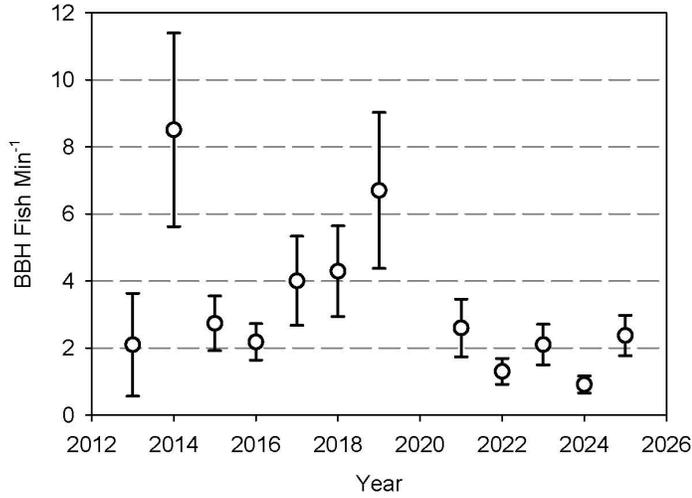
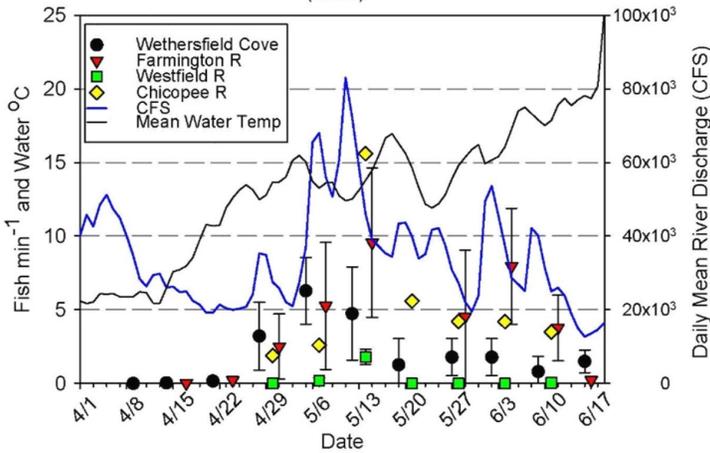


Image 1. Gab and Jordan cleaning and mounting scales. A lot of effort post fieldwork for spawning history composition of the sampled fish that also will have ages assigned. Gab and Jordan have been outstanding and entered all field and lab data to date.

Figure 1. Mean annual fish-per-minute catch rates for Blueback Herring, with 95% confidence intervals all sites combined, 2013 to 2025. In 2025, a total of 30 sample dates were completed from the first week in April through the third week in June. A total of 2,196 BBH were captured and processed in the field with 1,419 (subsampling from total) laboratory processed. Otoliths (ear bones) for aging, scales for spawning history, and gonads were obtained in the lab by Gab and Jordan.

USFWS Blueback Herring Electrofishing Catch Rates
 Connecticut River Basin
 (2025)



USFWS Blueback Herring Electrofishing Catch Rates
 Connecticut River Basin
 (2024)

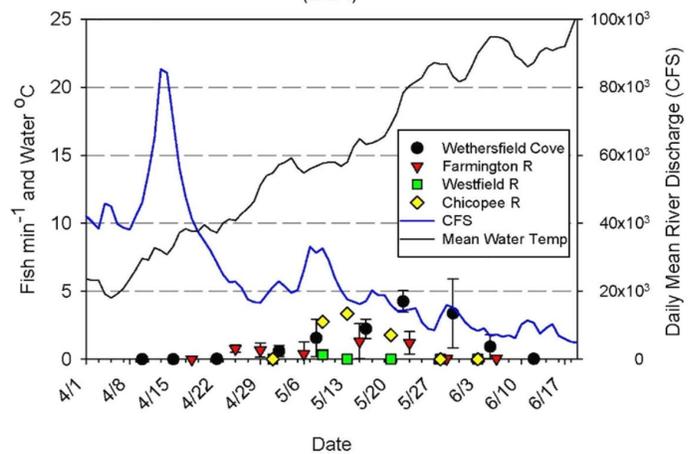


Figure 3 and 4. Site specific BBH mean catch rates (fish per minute), with standard deviations, for 2025 and 2024. Mean daily river discharge (blue) and water temperatures from USGS Thompsonville Gage also plotted. Plots exclude Alewife data (dates and location) from earlier sampling start date in April. Water temperature profile is notably cooler late season with higher river discharges.



It took some time yesterday, but we grapple hooked our 2 receivers off of Bride Lake in Long Island Sound. 4 Mile R. Coord give thumbs up, with Tim Warren.