

CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT

Report Date: May 15, 2018



This is a report generated by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection/ Inland Fisheries Division- Diadromous Program. For more information, contact Steve Gephard, 860/447-4316. For more information about fish runs on the Connecticut River call the USFWS Hotline at 413/548-9628 or visit the USFWS website at www.fws.gov/r5crc. For more information about Atlantic salmon, visit the Connecticut River Salmon Association at www.ctriversalmon.org.

CONNECTICUT RIVER LOCATIONS

FISHWAY (RIVER)	ATLANTIC SALMON	AMER. SHAD	ALEWIFE	BLUEBACK HERRING	GIZZARD SHAD	STRIPED BASS	SEA LAMPREY	STURGEON/ TROUT++	AMER. EEL
Rainbow* (Farmington)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leesville (Salmon)	0	-	-	0	-	-	0**	0	0
StanChem* (Mattabeset)	0	0	321	0	1	-	19	1	0
Moulson Pond* (Eightmile)	0	0	8	1	0	0	0	0	-
Mary Steube* (Mill Brook)	-	-	(6,989)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rogers Lake+ (Mill Brook)	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Springfield (Westfield-MA)	0	747	0	0	0	0	61	0	0
Holyoke (Connecticut-MA)	0	13,533	0	64	7	0	18	0	0
Manhan River* (Manhan-MA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turners Falls* (Connecticut-MA)	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
Vernon* (Connecticut-VT)	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	0
Bellows Falls* (Connecticut-VT)	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	0
Wilder* (Connecticut-VT)	0	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0
Other (all sites)	0								
TOTALS=	0	14,280	7,318	65	8	0	98	0/1	0
(last year's totals)	20	541,637	922	800	230	23,955	1/9	20	

Fishways listed in gray font above are not yet opened for the season. In some cases, the fishways will be opened soon. In the case of the fishways on the Connecticut River, some fishways are not opened until significant numbers of fish pass through the fishway immediately downstream of them. If that never happens, the fishway may not be opened during the season.

*There is a video camera that records passage. There is a considerable lag between the date a tape is recorded and when staff is able to count fish from the tape, so these numbers will not represent up-to-date counts until after the end of spring season.** Population estimates based on end-of-the-season nest surveys. +There is an electronic fish counter at this fishway. ++Shortnose Sturgeon (Holyoke)/Sea-run Trout (other locations) NOTE: All fish that pass through the Turners Falls, Vernon, Bellows Falls, and Wilder fishways had to first go through the Holyoke Fishlift where they were counted. Therefore those fish are not included in the totals at the bottom.

COMMENTS:

The Holyoke Fishlift began limited operation mid-week as flows dropped below 40,000 cfs and was on a full ten-hour lifting schedule by the end of the week. Shad, bluebacks, and lamprey are being lifted but the water is still cold: 13.7 C (~57 F). The temperature at Leesville was 10.5 C (51 C) on Sunday! That's early April temperatures. A strong start for the West Springfield fishway (500 shad passed on Sunday) and we know we're passing shad and lamprey at Rainbow but still don't have numbers from our video. All Connecticut River tributary fishways including the Manhan are passing white suckers. The white sucker run at Leesville is dropping off but there are still spawning fish below. Snorkeling revealed not a lot of changes from the past week on the Salmon River except the Tesselated Darters have shown up in good numbers. Bluebacks had a good wave below the dam on Saturday but appeared to be gone on Sunday although Rowan saw a few spawning during the last couple of evenings. The Mary Steube Fishway doesn't have a Blueback Herring run and the Alewife run is over so we have pulled the counter. Moulson Pond fishway has had a horrible Alewife run this year, probably due to flow competition from the dam and we're hoping we will pass more Blueback Herring soon. Jim Arrigoni reports no herring seen on the Coginchaug River this past week.

The Holyoke Shad Derby begins this Saturday! <https://www.holyoke.org/news/featured/53rd-annual-shad-derby/>

Today was supposed to be our last day of salmon fry stocking but we had to cancel due to family issues. This stocking will probably happen next week. The anticipated totals are: Salmon River watershed = 87,000, Farmington River watershed = 110,000, grand total = 197,000. The schools that participate in the Connecticut River Salmon Association's Salmon-in-Schools program are stocking the fry they hatched this winter. Each school receives 200 eggs from our Kensington Hatchery and incubates them in chilled fish tanks all winter long. When it comes time to release the hatched non-feeding fry in either the Farmington or Salmon rivers, most schools have 170 to 199 little salmon to stock. This week the Smith Middle School released their salmon into Salmon Brook (a Farmington River tributary in Granby) and dropped by to visit the Rainbow Fishway afterwards.



Bruce hosted 60 students from Smith Middle School in Glastonbury at the Rainbow Fishway, where they saw shad in the trap.



This is what a group of spawning Blueback Herring look like, splashing around the edge of a stream, usually in groups of three to eight fish. This photo was taken in Wethersfield Cove but the scene was repeated in many locations throughout the watershed this past week including the Salmon River. (Photo Ken Sprankle, USFWS).

OTHER LOCATIONS WITHIN CONNECTICUT

FISHWAY (RIVER)	AMER. SHAD	ALEWIFE	BLUEBACK HERRING	GIZZARD SHAD	STRIPED BASS	SEA LAMPREY	SEA-RUN TROUT	AMER. EEL
Greeneville* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	409	1,645	106	19	2	0	1	0
Taftville* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Occum* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tunnel* (Quinebaug R., Preston)	0	86	0	0	0	0	0	167
Kinneytown* (Naugatuck R., Seymour)	0	0	0	0	0	19	0	0
Hallville Pond* (Poquetanuck Br. Preston)	-	59	0	0	-	0	0	0
Jordan Brook ** (Jordan Brook, Waterford)	-	460	0	0	-	0	0	0
Latimers Brook** (Latimers Br., E.Lyme)	-	15,852	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brides Brook** (Brides Brook, E.Lyme)		(395,026)						
Chapmans Pond* (Menunketesuck R., Clinton)		10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Branford Supply Pond Dam** (Queach Br., Branford)	586		0	0	-	-	-	-
Lower Guilford Lake** (East River, Guilford)		850	0	-	-	-	-	-
Haakonsen Fishway* (Quinnipiac R., Wallingford)	0	2,631	0	3	0	72	0	0
Hanover Pond Fishway* (Quinnipiac River, Meriden)		14	0	1	-	2	-	1
Clarks Pond Fishway*** (Indian River, Milford)		3,933						
Bunnells Pond* (Pegonnock R., Bridgeport)	-	3,819	0	0	0	0	0	-
Wood Dam** (Saugatuck R., Westport)		passing fish	0	-	-	-	-	-
Mianus River Pond* ** (Mianus R., Greenwich)		30,665	0	0	0	0	0	-

**Fish passage is video-recorded and counts are made off of tapes several days later so these data are always lagged a little behind. This report covers passage up to the following dates for these fishways:*

Greeneville= 5/11 Taftville= 5/08 Occum= 5/10 Tunnel= 5/08 Kinneytown= 5/08 Haakonsen= 5/13 Hallville= 5/13 Hanover= 5/10 Bunnells= 5/2 Chapmans= 4/22

******These locations have an electronic fish counter and are used as index sites for river herring runs. The counter is checked daily Monday-Friday. Monday counts typically include all weekend passage. These counts are usually up-to-date but some may lag behind a day or two, occasionally. *******These are counts made by a volunteer when he is present and represents an index not a census.

Counts in parentheses indicate numbers seen in a run that is now over and no further fish were counted during the past week. Typically used for alewife runs later in June.

COMMENTS:

Alewife runs in New London and Middlesex counties in the east seem to be winding down. A few more came in this week but not many. Latimer Brook is still a bright spot with 1,507 alewives passed this past week and they're still coming into Whitford Brook, but at a slower rate. But in mid-coast area, we are seeing things pick up on the Quinnipiac, Clark's Pond, and at Bunnells. As of today we haven't finished viewing May 3 for Bunnells but already we've counted an additional 1,600 alewives for that one day and those will show up in next week's report. I haven't received any reports from monitors from the Housatonic or lower Fairfield County but Sarah saw very few fish this past week at the Mianus Pond Fishway.

Shad began being lifted in good numbers at the Greenville Fishlift this past week and we trucked more fish up to the Scotland Dam to support FirstLight's evaluation study. Greenville is showing some good numbers for many species. No shad have shown up yet at either the Taftville or Tunnel fishways but Tunnel has passed 86 Alewives. The eels just started arriving at Tunnel, as well. Over on the Quinnipiac we see that Pat at New England Hydro reports that 14 of the 2,631 Alewives passed at the downstream Haakonsen Fishway have passed up the Hanover Pond fishway in Meriden. In addition to the other diadromous fish listed on the table on the previous page, he has counted four brown trout, 2 brook trout, 44 suckers, one carp, and one eel (not in the separate eel pass, which is reported below). Water temperatures had reached 18 C (64 F) but have since dropped.

Other reports- I've added Ray Baldwin's counts at Clark's Pond Fishway to the table on the previous page since we are not running a fish counter at Gorton Pond this year. He watched as fish passed through the fishway into the pond and handled a few that were still running ripe. Dennis Bennett, braving belligerent skunks, continued to see herring in the lower tributaries of the Quinnipiac including a couple of 1,000 fish sightings. There are plenty of birds hanging out. Save-the-Sound worker Jon Vander Werff continues to get Alewives at every trap check on Whitford's Brook above where the Hyde Pond Dam was removed. The count is 1,176. He reports no Blueback Herring.

Eel Counts- Fishing Brook = 31,413 glass/143 yellow; Chapmans Pond= 11,827 glass/164 yellow; Mill River Eel Trap= 809 glass/72 yellow; Hanover Pond= 4 yellow; Greenville Eel Lift= not operational yet. The number shown on the previous page for Tunnel is for its eel pass, not the lift, and all fish are elvers or yellow.

I was interviewed by Patrick Skahill WNPR radio for a story on rivers and heads-of-tide. We visited the Chapmans Pond Fishway in Clinton. You can read or listen to the story at <http://wnpr.org/post/exploring-where-oceans-and-rivers-intersect-along-connecticuts-shoreline>.

My weekly Diadromous Fish Radio show is live on iCRV (www.iCRVradio.com) at 8:00 am on Wednesdays. **Now you can visit the station's website and click on any show and listen to it.** So if you can't tune in at 8:00 am, listen to it at any time: <http://www.icrvradio.com/programs/program/50>.



A fat and happy brooktrout passing the viewing window at the Hallville Pond Fishway in Preston. The bright area to the left is a reflection of the light fixture located inside the camera closet.



...and on the opposite end of the state is the Davis Pond Fishway at the first dam on the Silvermine River in Norwalk. Volunteer Marc Rivas has documented Alewives going up this fishway.