

CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT

Report Date: May 7, 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	283	0	0	-	0	1	0
Moulson Pond* (Eightmile)	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	-
Mary Steube* (Mill Brook)	-	-	6,695	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rogers Lake+ (Mill Brook)	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Springfield (Westfield-MA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holyoke (Connecticut-MA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	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	0	6,986	0	0	0	0	0	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 Connecticut River continues to be very high and muddy and Holyoke is still not lifting. They hope to start on Wednesday. There are shad in the river and anglers are reporting a lot in the lower Farmington River by Bart's (along with river herring). The Rainbow Fishway is operational with all of its gates open but we still have not been able to look at the video so cannot report any passage data. We've heard reports that fishing for shad was good at the Chicopee River. Monitor Denis Walter reported seeing some herring in Wethersfield Cove on Friday but none Saturday or Sunday. The Blueback Herring have been in all week on the Salmon River, entertaining Striped Bass and osprey but it seems like Sunday was a big spawning day, tapering off before dark. Snorkeling revealed very little diversity. Water temperature had gone up to 19 C (66 F) but there were not the many species present as I would expect. Still plenty of White Suckers and a few Yellow Perch. No tessellated darters! The fishway is passing lots of White Suckers and a dozen or so large Smallmouth Bass. We have not received any counts for the Moulson Pond Fishway but periodic visits this past week indicate hardly anything going on there. Surprisingly quiet on the Eightmile River.

I had to get this report out a day early this week because I'll be at an out-of-state meeting all day tomorrow. Because of that, I may be missing some reports for volunteers around the state who may have planned to send it their observations tomorrow morning.



USGS staff from the Conte Lab nets river herring while the USFWS staff operates the electrofishing boat in a cove of the Connecticut River. (Photo by Ken Sprankle, USFWS)



Dr. Steve McCormick tests a river herring with a 'fatmeter', a device used to estimate the percent of fat in the fish. Steve studies the physiology of diadromous fish and this helps us understand the bioenergetics of migrating herring (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
Greenville* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	28	797	0	0	0	0	0	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	14	0	0	0	0	0	22
Kinneytown* (Naugatuck R., Seymour)	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	0
Hallville Pond* (Poquetanuck Br. Preston)	-	43	0	0	-	0	0	0
Jordan Brook ** (Jordan Brook, Waterford)	-	415	0	0	-	0	0	0
Latimers Brook** (Latimers Br., E.Lyme)	-	14,345	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gorton Pond** (Pattagansett R., East Lyme)		0	no counter this year, alewives seen			-	-	
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)	469		0	0	-	-	-	-
Lower Guilford Lake** (East River, Guilford)		613	0	-	-	-	-	-
Haakonsen Fishway* (Quinnipiac R., Wallingford)	0	1,465	0	0	0	4	0	0
Hanover Pond Fishway* (Quinnipiac River, Meriden)		0	0	0	-	0	-	0
Bunnells Pond* (Pegonnock R., Bridgeport)	-	2,407	0	0	0	0	0	-
Wood Dam** (Saugatuck R., Westport)		passing fish	0	-	-	-	-	-
Mianus River Pond* ** (Mianus R., Greenwich)		30,433	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:

Greenville= 5/03 Taftville= 4/24 Occum= 5/06 Tunnel= 5/01 Kinneytown= 5/03 Haakonsen= 4/26 Hallville= 5/01 Hanover= 4/23
Bunnells= 4/28 Chapmans= 4/20

**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.

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:

We thought we might get 400,000 Alewives at Bride Brook this year but this morning tens of thousands of spent fish were trying to get out of the lake and back to sea. Our fish counting weir blocks them so we had to remove the fish counter and the trap. It doesn't mean there won't be a few more incoming fish coming up to spawn but we no longer have the capability to count them. This is an annual event and we're just about on schedule. We able to get to all but three of our transplant sites stocked with fish from Brides. Many fishways seemed to have had a slow week, perhaps because the Alewife run is winding down. Most of the coastal streams no longer host Blueback Herring runs so when the Alewives stop, the streams go quiet. The Mianus Pond Fishway passes Blueback Herring but Sarah with the Town of Greenwich has not documented any yet this season. I was with her on the fishway this morning and there were not fish in the fishway. Other fishways that started out strong have slowed right down: Bunnells, Branford, Lower Guilford Lake, etc. Latimers Brook still has fish trickling in.

Meanwhile, things are starting to heat up on the Shetucket River, which is still very high and turbid. Lots of water. We're still a few days behind on Greenville video review but the herring are still coming in. Today, Dave sampled the herring run out of the hopper and found that 50% of them were Blueback Herring, so that river is making the shift just as the Connecticut River is. Dave was on the river today helping FirstLight Power and its consultant Kleinschmidt Associates with the evaluation studies of the new Scotland Dam Fishlift. One study seeks to assess the physical impact of the lift and the unique pipe discharge system on American Shad, which can be somewhat sensitive. Ten shad, transplanted from Greenville, were placed in the hopper at the bottom of the lift and subjected to the normal lifting process and discharge pipe. They were discharged into a floating holding pen in the headpond and will be held there for 24 hours before assessing the fish for injuries or mortality. Other shad were tagged and released upstream of the Occum Dam but downstream of the Scotland Dam and they will be tracked to see if they approach, find, and use the lift. More tagged shad will be added in the coming days for this study and another study to assess the fish's attraction and use of downstream passage facilities at the dam.

Meanwhile, fish counts are low at Tunnel and nothing has been seen at Taftville yet, perhaps due to turbid water. Ward at NPU's fishway at Occum has passed 14 Atlantic Salmon (hatchery broodstock), some suckers, Yellow Perch, Smallmouth Bass and one Brook Trout.

Other reports- Last week, Ray Baldwin's count at Clark's Pond Fishway was 43. This week it is 2,321! Wait a minute—hot off the email- he got another 500 today! We have no reason to believe this fishway on the Indian River in Milford hosts Blueback Herring, so Alewives were still running strong here this past week. Dennis Bennett continues document river herring in the lower tributaries of the Quinnipiac: Watermans, Bruce's Ice Pond, and Muddy River. All had a good day on Saturday. We are over a week behind on the Haakonsen Fishway video so it will be interesting to see if it gets a spike on that Saturday, too. John Bair reports a lot of herring spawning in the Lower Housatonic by the O'Sullivan's Island boat ramp. Anglers report thousands below the Derby Dam.

Glass eels- Fishing Brook = 25,070 glass/117 yellow; Chapmans Pond= 4,975 glass/68 yellow; Mill River Eel Trap= 0 glass/20 yellow; Greenville Eel Lift= not operational yet.

My weekly Diadromous Fish Radio show is live on iCRV (www.iCRVradio.com) at 8:00 am on Wednesday and re-played at 3:00 and 7:00 pm that day 8 am on Saturday. iCRV now archives shows so if you miss one, you can go online and click on "Outdoors" and the "Fishing" and find past shows to listen to.



The fish counting weir at the exit of the Jordan Brook Fishway in Waterford. The fishway, located at a Town Park, has a new signboard this year, worth checking out.



Glass eels being released near sunset at Pattaconk Reservoir, Chester.