

CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT
 Report Date: May 2, 2017



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	SEA-RUN TROUT	AMER. EEL
Rainbow* (Farmington)	0	230	0	1	0	0	272	0	0
Leesville (Salmon)	0	-	-	0	-	-	0**	0	0
StanChem* (Mattabesset)	0	0	78	0	5	1	12	0	11
Moulson Pond* (Eightmile)	0	0	1	2	0	0	6	0	-
Mary Steube* (Mill Brook)	-	-	7,663	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rogers Lake+ (Mill Brook)	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Springfield (Westfield- MA)	0	236	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holyoke (Connecticut- MA)	0	6,079	0	5	0	0	1 SNS**=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	6,545	7,742	8	5	1	291	0	11
(last year's totals)	6	391,096	792	3,558	684	619	36,914	6	19,799

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
 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.

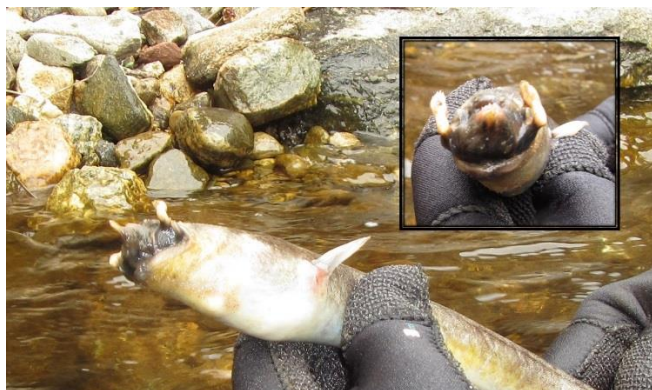
COMMENTS:

The Connecticut River is around 28,200 cfs, which is just about normal for this time of year. Holyoke, Rainbow and West Springfield are all starting to pass American Shad but the run is still building. We didn't get quite the warm weather as forecasted this past week so the run didn't really explode as I had anticipated. Still, there are a lot of fish in the river. West Springfield passed 86 shad on Saturday and another 112 on Sunday. Holyoke lifted 2,000 on Sunday. The striped bass are moving up and into the tributaries. The river herring run is spotty. While the Salmon River seems to be having a good year, other places are not seeing them, including, notably, Moulson Pond on the Eightmile River and StanChem on the Mattabesset River. Fish have been spotted in the Eightmile and David Bingham posted a short video of them in the lower fishway. But our video counts are lagging a bit behind. Ken Sprankle (USFWS) electrofished the lower Farmington River Monday to assess the river herring run and collected 280 herring. All but 5 were Blueback Herring. All locations are reporting good white sucker runs.

We reported on the release of alewives into the Bronx River last week. Steve Mirsky of Scientific America (last page) was there and recorded a quick interview featuring myself and Dr. John Waldman of Queens College: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/podcast/episode/bronx-rivers-cleanup-brings-herring-home/>. The Bronx River Fishway Alewife count is up to 37.

Some friends are giving a seminar on eels in the Hudson River: Dr. Karin Limburg, Dr. Bob Schmidt, and Chris Bowser will be at the Hudson River Foundation at Battery Park on May 9 at 10 am. For more info: Please call 212-483-7667 or email info@hudsonriver.org to RSVP as space is limited. Please indicate whether you wish to attend in-person or by webinar. Apparently Europe is experiencing the best glass eel run in years: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/foodanddrink/foodanddrinknews/10047273/Elvers-back-on-the-menu-following-biggest-harvest-in-30-years.html>. It's too early to make any such conclusions about our run here. Want beer to wash down your eels? The Farmington River Watershed Association is hosting a Beer Tasting at Hooker Brewery on May 18th: <http://frwa.org/newsroom-blog/beer-tasting-to-benefit-the-farmington-river-watershed-association/>

Last week, **Paul Greenberg** (author of "Four Fish" and other works) was featured on **Frontline on PBS: The Fish on My Plate**. The segment examined the role of seafood in our lives, management of marine fish stocks, the pros and cons of aquaculture vs. harvesting wild fish, the ecological impact of reduction fisheries, and also the physiological impact (to him) if he ate nothing but fish for a whole year. (The answer may surprise you.) This segment provides a good (and entertaining) look at fish as food and I recommend it. I'm a little late in telling you about the broadcast but it can still be found at: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/the-fish-on-my-plate/>.



I'm trying to perform a Heimlich maneuver on this American Eel but it's too late. It apparently choked on it. Found while snorkeling the Jeremy River where the Norton Dam used to exist. .



Blueback herring spawning in the Salmon River, Leesville.

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)	548	435	0	3	0	0	0	3
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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kinneytown* (Naugatuck R., Seymour)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hallville Pond* (Poquetanuck Br. Preston)	-	1	0	0	-	0	0	0
Jordan Brook ** (Jordan Brook, Waterford)	-	329	0	0	-	0	0	0
Latimers Brook** (Latimers Br., E.Lyme)	-	5,051	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gorton Pond** (Pattagansett R., East Lyme)		1,484	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brides Brook** (Brides Brook, E.Lyme)		386,325	FINAL- counter pulled due to downrunners					
Chapmans Pond* (Menunketesuck R., Clinton)		8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Branford Supply Pond Dam** (Queach Br., Branford)		2,612	0	0	-	-	-	-
Lower Guilford Lake** (East River, Guilford)		947	0	no report this week			-	-
Haakonsen Fishway* (Quinnipiac R., Wallingford)	0	3,892	0	36	0	84	0	0
Hanover Pond Fishway* (Quinnipiac River, Meriden)		0	1	0	-	2	-	3
Bunnells Pond* (Peqonnock R., Bridgeport)	-	9,216	0	0	0	0	0	-
Wood Dam** (Saugatuck R., Westport)		122	0	-	-	-	-	-
Mianus River Pond* ** (Mianus R., Greenwich)		14,672	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= 5/1 Taftville= 4/21 Occum= 5/1 Tunnel= n.a. Kinneytown= n.a. Haakonsen= 4/24 Hallville= 4/24 Hanover= 4/24 Bunnells= 5/1

***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:

Bride Brook is having a great Alewife run this year. We thought we'd break 400,000 but the first wave of post-spawned fish showed up at the upstream side of the counter and we had to pull the counter to let them out. We do this every year. If we don't pull the counter, a massive fish kill could result. Some fish will continue to enter to spawn but we cannot count them. Before we pulled the counter (and trap) we were able to transplant fish in a number of sites to promote run restoration, including: East Branch Eightmile River, Grannis Pond (the Eightmile River in the Quinnipiac watershed), the Quinnipiac River, Falls River, the Patchaug River, Fishing Brook, and Poquetanuck Brook as well as giving fish to Rhode Island and the Bronx River. Now that we can longer trap Alewives, we'll look to truck American Shad, once the run at Holyoke Fishlift picks up. Other locations seem to be seeing increases in the Alewife run from last year, especially Bunnells Pond Fishway in Bridgeport, which is closing in on a record high year for that site, and the Clark Pond Fishway in Milford which is having a banner year. But other places seem much lower than normal, especially Mianus Pond Fishway.

The shad run on the Shetucket River is strengthening and Jeff Lortie of NPU plans to start trucking shad from Greenville around Occum next week. Bob Stira of FirstLight has reviewed video at Taftville but has not seen any anadromous fish, yet. Nate Rocha at NPU continues to see lots of suckers and trout moving through Occum Fishway but no anadromous fish, yet. I just came back from Tunnel Fishlift on the Quinebaug River and the FirstLight workers had just finished tuning up the lift after replacing the cable, some conduits and a pulley cover after the cable snapped. Tunnel is now back on auto and will be lifting daily. There is still some spill at Tunnel but the boards have been fixed and there should be less false attraction to the spillway this year. The flashboards are still out at Kinneytown on the Naugatuck River so that fishway is likely passing very few fish. We have not bothered to look at the video record. Nearby, at the Derby Dam on the Housatonic, Striped Bass are being caught but volunteer monitors have yet to see schools of river herring. Fish runs continue to build on the Quinnipiac River (Haakonsen Fishway) and now you can see that the first of the Alewife and Sea Lamprey have reached the next fishway at Hanover Pond.

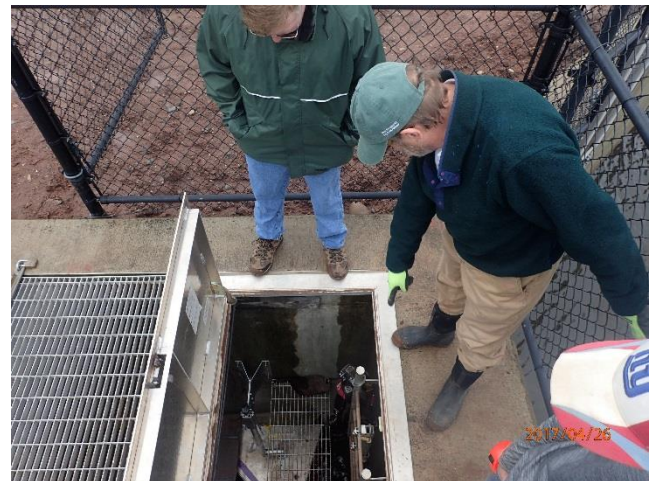
The river herring runs continue to be strong in New York, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. The fish seem to be just showing up now in New Hampshire and while they have yet to report any on the Penobscot in Maine, reports have them in Midcoast Maine by now.

Glass eels- Fishing Brook = 5,182 glass eels/131 yellow eels; Mill River Eel Trap= 1 glass eel/93 yellow eels; Greenville Eel Lift= 0 glass eels/59 yellow eels; Lower Millpond (Old Lyme)= not operational yet. The team at Branford Waters Supply Ponds has observed glass eels at their dam and they have installed the seasonal eel pass next to the fishway.

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.



Last week we showed a photo of a school of alewives swimming past the Bunnells Fishway camera. This week we show the resident cormorant, which seems to appreciate the fishway..



Federal Fishway engineers Brett Towler (USFWS) and Bjorn Lake (NOAA) toured CT fishways this week. Here, Brett examines that video camera set up at Hanover Pond Fishway as Chris Conover and Pat Wendt (in NY cap) look on.