

**CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT**  
 Report Date: May 30, 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](http://www.fws.gov/r5crc). For more information about Atlantic salmon, visit the Connecticut River Salmon Association at [www.ctriversalmon.org](http://www.ctriversalmon.org).

**CONNECTICUT RIVER LOCATIONS**

<b>FISHWAY (RIVER)</b>	<b>ATLANTIC SALMON</b>	<b>AMER. SHAD</b>	<b>ALEWIFE</b>	<b>BLUEBACK HERRING</b>	<b>GIZZARD SHAD</b>	<b>STRIPED BASS</b>	<b>SEA LAMPREY</b>	<b>SEA-RUN TROUT</b>	<b>AMER. EEL</b>
<b>Rainbow*</b> (Farmington)	1	425	0	12	0	0	1,193	0	0
<b>Leesville</b> (Salmon)	0	-	-	0	-	-	0**	0	0
<b>StanChem*</b> (Mattabeset)	0	2	80	0	87	1	12	0	17
<b>Moulson Pond*</b> (Eightmile)	0	0	6	22	0	0	15	0	-
<b>Mary Steube*</b> (Mill Brook)	-	-	8,522	FINAL- counter pulled due to downrunners			-	-	-
<b>Rogers Lake+</b> (Mill Brook)	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>West Springfield</b> (Westfield- MA)	0	1,718	0	3	0	0	530	0	0
<b>Holyoke</b> (Connecticut- MA)	7	390,702	-	549	468	28	4,374	SNS**=0	0
<b>Manhan River*</b> (Manhan- MA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Turners Falls*</b> (Connecticut- MA)	1	2,002	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
<b>Vernon*</b> (Connecticut- VT)	1	2	-	0	0	0	0	-	0
<b>Bellows Falls*</b> (Connecticut- VT)	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	0
<b>Wilder*</b> (Connecticut- VT)	0	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0
<b>Other</b> (all sites)	0								
<b>TOTALS=</b>	8	392,847	8,877	586	555	29	6,124	0	17
<b>(last year's totals)</b>	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 Holyoke shad numbers have surpassed last year's numbers and it looks like it will keep going for a while. Last year the total was 391,000. It appears that we have a shot at breaking 400,000 lifted at Holyoke. The numbers at Turners Falls are still low but the video review at that facility is lagging behind. The actual up-to-date count must be considerably higher than the 2,000 we show in the table above. Shad have just begun to pass through Vernon Dam Fishway. The water temperature in the Connecticut River remains low which means that these shad may not be triggered to spawn for some time yet and they may continue to move upstream and use these upriver fishways. While the Rainbow Fishway has only made modest gains in shad over the past week, the West Springfield Fishway on the Westfield River posted some good numbers.

My comments about the Blueback Herring run last week are still relevant. During the past week we had another strong wave in the Salmon River, especially on Thursday when Rowan Lytle witnessed a big pulse. Yesterday, David Molnar of the Fisheries Division observed lots of herring in at Crow Point, which was warmer than the mainstem river. Holyoke pass a few hundred more. But meanwhile, the bluebacks continue to be MOA at Moulson Pond Fishway, the Cuginchaug, and many other places we should be seeing them. The Sea Lamprey run is picking up now and we're seeing them pass through several fishways, although they have yet to appear at the Vernon fishway.

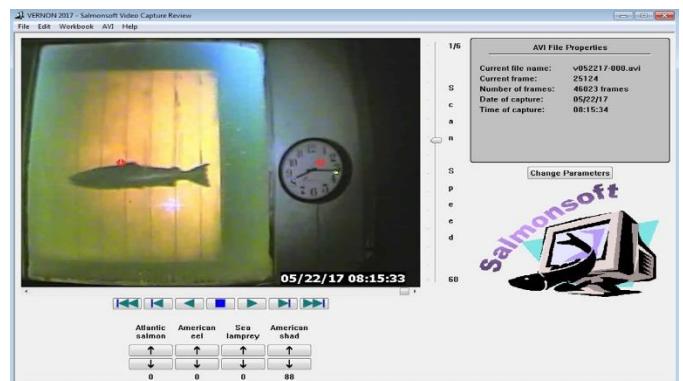
Holyoke passed four more adult Atlantic Salmon and Rainbow got its first one yesterday. Memorial Day weekend is typically the peak of the salmon run on the Connecticut. One of the salmon lifted at Holyoke has died. It apparently started leaping while still in the bucket and damaged itself on the ride up. While we don't often see that with salmon, it does happen. Fish lifts seem to work better for shad at high dams than ladder-style fishways but one of the disadvantages is that there are moving parts. Not only do they break down but they can pinch, crush, and scare fish. One salmon has already passed through two fishways at Turners Falls and passed through the Vernon, VT fishway (see photo, below right). The salmon count has already surpassed the total for 2016. The salmon count on the Penobscot River in Maine is up to 18 with 790,000 river herring passed.

Here's a story on eel smuggling in Maine:

<http://wgme.com/news/local/how-maine-came-to-play-a-central-role-in-an-international-eel-smuggling-scheme>



*The first salmon to return to a Connecticut fishway was this bright male at the Rainbow Dam Fishway on May 29<sup>th</sup>.*



*Holyoke has lifted seven salmon. One has been reported passing through the Turners Falls Fishway. This one passed through the Vernon Dam Fishway (video screen shot courtesy of Vermont Fish and Wildlife).*

## OTHER LOCATIONS WITHIN CONNECTICUT

FISHWAY (RIVER)	AMER. SHAD	ALEWIFE	BLUEBACK HERRING	GIZZARD SHAD	STRIPED BASS	SEA LAMPREY	SEA-RUN TROUT	AMER. EEL
<b>Greeneville*</b> (Shetucket R., Norwich)	1,335	715	0	43	0	2	0	6
<b>Taftville*</b> (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Occum*</b> (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Tunnel*</b> (Quinebaug R., Preston)	8	33	0	3	0	0	0	0
<b>Kinneytown*</b> (Naugatuck R., Seymour)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Hallville Pond*</b> (Poquetanuck Br. Preston)	-	15	0	0	-	0	0	8
<b>Jordan Brook **</b> (Jordan Brook, Waterford)	-	430	FINAL- counter pulled due to downrunners				0	0
<b>Latimers Brook**</b> (Latimers Br., E.Lyme)	-	5,675	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Gorton Pond**</b> (Pattagansett R., East Lyme)		1,916	FINAL- counter pulled due to downrunners				-	-
<b>Brides Brook**</b> (Brides Brook, E.Lyme)		386,325	FINAL- counter pulled due to downrunners					
<b>Chapmans Pond*</b> (Menunketesuck R., Clinton)		8	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Branford Supply Pond Dam**</b> (Queach Br., Branford)		3,273	0	0	-	-	-	-
<b>Lower Guilford Lake**</b> (East River, Guilford)		3,373	0	0	-	-	-	-
<b>Haakonsen Fishway*</b> (Quinnipiac R., Wallingford)	0	5,523	247	93	0	310	0	0
<b>Hanover Pond Fishway*</b> (Quinnipiac River, Meriden)		4	0	1	-	11	-	3
<b>Bunnells Pond*</b> (Peqonnock R., Bridgeport)	-	20,944	0	1	0	0	0	-
<b>Wood Dam**</b> (Saugatuck R., Westport)		5,315	297	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Mianus River Pond* **</b> (Mianus R., Greenwich)		18,374	1,369	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= 5/28 Taftville= 4/21 Occum= 5/16 Tunnel= 5/29 Kinneytown= n.a. Haakonsen= 5/28 Hallville= 5/28 Hanover= 5/16 Bunnells= 5/28*

**\*\***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:

There have not been a lot of change along the shoreline since last week. We are continuing to close down fishways to the east but leave open some in the west in hopes that Blueback Herring will trickle in. We did not get a lot of reports this week from our network of observers. Perhaps everyone was out fishing or barbequing.

On the Shetucket River, Norwich Public Utilities continue to truck shad from Greenville around the Occum Dam. Tunnel reported a few shad being lifted but they have not started on the backlog of Taftville video so we don't know what has passed there. NPU did not submit a report for Occum this week but I assume that had they seen anadromous fish passing, we would have heard about it.

Some of our numbers this week may look a big funny when compared to last week. We discovered a few errors in last week's report and those were corrected for this week. There are a couple of cases where the number went down due to this correction.

This week we spent some time over at the Hanover Pond Dam on the Quinnipiac River assisting New England Hydro Company evaluate the impact of the Archimedes Screw Generator on downrunning shad. We trucked shad from the Holyoke Dam and dropped them in the Screw and then attempted to recapture them down in the tailrace. The ones we recaptured seemed to have come through the experience fine. But we were unable to recapture many due to their refusal to drop downstream out of the tailrace and into our net. Their swimming behavior suggested that they were strong and unfazed and still had an upstream urge.

**Glass eels**- Fishing Brook = 8,315 glass eels/198 yellow eels; Mill River Eel Trap= 2 glass eel/244 yellow eels; Greenville Eel Lift= 2 glass eels/1882 yellow eels; Hanover Pond= 352 yellow eels.

My weekly Diadromous Fish Radio show is live on iCRV ([www.iCRVradio.com](http://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.



Seasonal Zach Skelton holding an adult American Shad used as part of the fish passage evaluation for the Archimedes Screw Generator assessment at Hanover Pond Dam.



The Archimedes Screw is under the green cover below the powerhouse. The Hanover Pond Denil Fishways is to the far right. In this photo, Fisheries Division staff position a mesh trap and a net to capture shad coming down the Screw.