

**CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT**  
 Report Date: June 19, 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.ctiversalmon.org](http://www.ctiversalmon.org).

**CONNECTICUT RIVER LOCATIONS**

| <b>FISHWAY<br/>(RIVER)</b>                 | <b>ATLANTIC<br/>SALMON</b> | <b>AMER.<br/>SHAD</b> | <b>ALEWIFE</b> | <b>BLUEBACK<br/>HERRING</b> | <b>GIZZARD<br/>SHAD</b> | <b>STRIPED<br/>BASS</b> | <b>SEA<br/>LAMPREY</b> | <b>SEA-RUN<br/>TROUT</b> | <b>AMER.<br/>EEL</b> |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Rainbow*</b><br>(Farmington)            | 2                          | 596                   | 0              | 14                          | 0                       | 0                       | 2,150                  | 0                        | 0                    |
| <b>Leesville</b><br>(Salmon)               | 1                          | -                     | -              | 0                           | -                       | -                       | 0***                   | 1                        | 0                    |
| <b>StanChem*</b><br>(Mattabeset)           | 0                          | 3                     | 78             | 4                           | 102                     | 1                       | 14                     | 0                        | 19                   |
| <b>Moulson Pond*</b><br>(Eightmile)        | 0                          | 1                     | 6              | 22                          | 0                       | 0                       | 21                     | 0                        | -                    |
| <b>Mary Steube*</b><br>(Mill Brook)        | -                          | -                     | 8,522 - FINAL  | -                           | -                       | -                       | -                      | -                        | -                    |
| <b>Rogers Lake+</b><br>(Mill Brook)        | -                          | -                     | FINAL          | -                           | -                       | -                       | -                      | -                        | -                    |
| <b>West Springfield</b><br>(Westfield- MA) | 4                          | 5,407                 | 0              | 4                           | 0                       | 0                       | 158                    | 0                        | 0                    |
| <b>Holyoke</b><br>(Connecticut- MA)        | 9                          | 529,951               | 0              | 874                         | 638                     | 114                     | 21,229                 | SNS=7                    | 0                    |
| <b>Manhan River*</b><br>(Manhan- MA)       | 0                          | 0                     | 0              | 0                           | 0                       | 0                       | 6                      | 0                        | 0                    |
| <b>Turners Falls*</b><br>(Connecticut- MA) | 3                          | 40,541                | -              | 0                           | 0                       | 0                       | 1,111                  | -                        | -                    |
| <b>Vernon*</b><br>(Connecticut- VT)        | 2                          | 17,572                | -              | 0                           | 0                       | 0                       | 81                     | -                        | 0                    |
| <b>Bellows Falls*</b><br>(Connecticut- VT) | 0                          | 0                     | -              | 0                           | 0                       | 0                       | 36                     | -                        | 0                    |
| <b>Wilder*</b><br>(Connecticut- VT)        | 0                          | -                     | -              | -                           | -                       | -                       | 0                      | -                        | 0                    |
| <b>Other</b><br>(all sites)                | 0                          |                       |                |                             |                         |                         |                        |                          |                      |
| <b>TOTALS=</b>                             | 16                         | 535,958               | 8,606          | 914                         | 740                     | 115                     | 23,572                 | 1/7                      | 19                   |
| <b>(last year's totals)</b>                | 5                          | 392,057               | 792            | 3,558                       | 685                     | 638                     | 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.

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 American Shad count is only 49 fish shy of the number 2 year of 1983 (530,000). They've probably already lifted that amount since they sent in this week's report. It is has been a great shad run in the Connecticut River. If survival of the eggs-to-juveniles is good, this should bode well for some future years. Research has shown that river conditions during the time when the eggs hatch and turn into larvae has more influence on the number of young shad that depart the river in the fall and head to sea as does the number of parents that spawn in the river. You could have a lot of adults spawning but if the river is cold and turbid and there is not a lot of zooplankton for the newly hatched larvae to feed on, survival to the next life stage will be poor. Conversely, if you have a modest number of adults spawning, but very good conditions and lots of zooplankton, the survival to the next life stage will be good. I don't have a sense yet on how the river conditions were for the last two weeks, but we could be in a situation where we had lots of spawning adults and good river conditions, which could produce a bumper crop of young shad. Tim raised the issue of dead shad in the river in last week's report. Shad are not like Sea Lamprey or Pacific salmon that all die after spawning. Many survive, go back to sea and feed for another year and then return to spawn in subsequent years. But some of them die after spawning. It isn't clear what controls that number but it is likely energy depletion and that can be affected by many things: how strong the water current is when they migrate upstream, how far upstream they go, how many dams they pass, and what is the water temperature. They are cold-blooded creatures so the water temperature affects their metabolism. If the river is real warm, many fish "burn out" before getting back to sea and resume feeding. However, past experience tells us that the post-spawning mortality is a proportion of the entire population and if you have a lot of fish come in, you'll have a relatively high number that die (subject to those other factors). So based upon that, we would expect a lot of dead shad in the river this year. It is nothing to be concerned about. It does not reflect upon the quality of the water. It is just what shad do. The heat wave of last week will raise the number of dead but if it gets cool and rainy again, that could reduce the number.

Dave wanted to haul shad from Holyoke to the Naugatuck River today but with the flows the way they were, all of the shad were using the tailrace lift. The holding tanks and system for capturing and loading shad at Holyoke are only associated with the spillway lift, so the fish were not available today. If we get all this rain and the river rises, perhaps there will be a few more days when they'll use the spillway lift and we can truck more shad. The number of shad passed at upstream fishways is a bit lower than we would expect based on the passage at Turners Falls, but keep in mind that those counts are not yet up to date because not all the video has been viewed. We expect those numbers to keep rising. Note that a few more sturgeon and another salmon were passed at Holyoke. Sea Lamprey are still running but winding down quickly. Most are probably spawning now. Their numbers are a bit low this year. More on that later. But note that we're passing them as far upstream as the Bellows Falls fishway. Last week, we reported a wrong number for the lamprey at the Manhan River Fishway due to a typo. The number this week is correct.



*Many shad die after spawning and this may be a common sight for the next few weeks.*

*A sturgeon decal. Want one? Email me with a mailing address.*

## OTHER LOCATIONS WITHIN CONNECTICUT

| <b>FISHWAY<br/>(RIVER)</b>                                   | <b>AMER.<br/>SHAD</b> | <b>ALEWIFE</b> | <b>BLUEBACK<br/>HERRING</b> | <b>GIZZARD<br/>SHAD</b> | <b>STRIPED<br/>BASS</b> | <b>SEA<br/>LAMPREY</b> | <b>SEA-RUN<br/>TROUT</b> | <b>AMER.<br/>EEL</b> |
|--|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Greeneville*</b><br>(Shetucket R., Norwich)               | 1,902                 | 735            | 0                           | 57                      | 2                       | 0                      | 0                        | 6                    |
| <b>Taftville*</b><br>(Shetucket R., Norwich)                 | 0                     | 0              | 0                           | 0                       | 0                       | 0                      | 0                        | 0                    |
| <b>Occum*</b><br>(Shetucket R., Norwich)                     | 13                    | 0              | 0                           | 0                       | 0                       | 0                      | 0                        | 34                   |
| <b>Tunnel*</b><br>(Quinebaug R., Preston)                    | 8                     | 33             | 0                           | 3                       | 0                       | 0                      | 0                        | 0                    |
| <b>Kinneytown*</b><br>(Naugatuck R., Seymour) (out of order) | 0                     | 0              | 0                           | 0                       | 0                       | 0                      | 0                        | 0                    |
| <b>Hallville Pond*</b><br>(Poquetanuck Br. Preston)          | -                     | 15             | <b>FINAL</b>                |                         | 0                       | Lots of trout          |                          | 5 0                  |
| <b>Jordan Brook **</b><br>(Jordan Brook, Waterford)          | -                     | 430            | <b>FINAL</b>                | 0                       | -                       | 0                      | 0                        | 0                    |
| <b>Latimers Brook**</b>                                      | -                     | 5,675          |                             | <b>FINAL</b>            | -                       | -                      | -                        | -                    |
| <b>Gorton Pond**</b><br>(Latimers Br., E.Lyme)               |                       | 1,916          |                             | <b>FINAL</b>            |                         |                        |                          |                      |
| <b>Brides Brook**</b><br>(Brides Brook, E.Lyme)              |                       | 386,325        | <b>FINAL</b>                |                         |                         |                        |                          |                      |
| <b>Chapmans Pond*</b><br>(Menunketesuck R., Clinton)         |                       | 8              |                             | <b>FINAL</b>            |                         |                        |                          |                      |
| <b>Branford Supply Pond Dam**</b><br>(Queach Br., Branford)  |                       | 3,308          |                             | <b>FINAL-</b>           | -                       | -                      | -                        |                      |
| <b>Lower Guilford Lake**</b><br>(East River, Guilford)       |                       | 3,426          | <b>FINAL</b>                | -                       | -                       | 0 0                    | -                        | -                    |
| <b>Haakonsen Fishway*</b><br>(Quinnipiac R., Wallingford)    | 0                     | 5,524          | 263                         | 107                     | 0                       | 309                    | 0                        | 0                    |
| <b>Hanover Pond Fishway*</b><br>(Quinnipiac River, Meriden)  |                       | 15             | 0                           | 2                       | -                       | 46                     | -                        | 0 3                  |
| <b>Bunnells Pond*</b><br>(Pegonnock R., Bridgeport)          | -                     | 21,402         | <b>FINAL</b>                | 1                       | 0                       | 0                      | 0                        |                      |
| <b>Wood Dam**</b><br>(Saugatuck R., Westport)                |                       | 5,315          | 297                         | 0                       | -                       | -                      | -                        | -                    |
| <b>Mianus River Pond* **</b><br>(Mianus R., Greenwich)       |                       | 19,242         | 4,807                       | 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= 6/18 Taftville= 5/14 Occum= 6/19 Tunnel= 5/29 Kinneytown= n.a. Haakonsen= 6/15 Hallville= 5/31 Bunnells= 6/15.*

*\*\*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.*

*+This location has a fish trap and fish are enumerated prior to release.*

*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:

Runs have essentially ended in the small coastal streams and you can see that we're beginning to close many fishways. The runs are persisting in the far western end of the state and in the larger river systems like the Shetucket, Quinnipiac, and (supposedly) the Naugatuck, except that with the boards out the Kinneytown Fishway has not had a season. Greeneville passage is winding down and we have had no updates from First Light at Tunnel and Taftville, but Nate at Norwich Public Utilities reports 16 shad have passed Occum so Taftville must be passing some fish. On the Quinnipiac, things are slow and we'll probably close the Haakonsen Fishway soon. Pat at New England Hydro has not added much to the count at Hanover Pond Fishway. However, the Hanover Pond Eel Pass continues to do well (see data below) and it passed 500 eels over two days last week. A few more Sea Lampreys have moved up.

We only have space to report diadromous fish numbers in this report but many of these fishways pass many other species. For example, at Hanover Pond, they've passed 45 Brown Trout, 5 Brook Trout, 2 Rainbow Trout, 164 White Suckers, and 5 Carp. At Occum, they've passed 16 broodstock Atlantic Salmon, 82 Brown Trout, 19 Rainbow Trout, 37 White Suckers, 1 Carp, 54 Smallmouth Bass, 3 Largemouth Bass, and 9 Yellow Perch. At StanChem (Connecticut River sheet), they've passed 3 White Perch, 4 Brown Trout, 3 Brook Trout, 2 Rainbow Trout, 366 White Suckers, 37 Carp, 1 Brown Bullhead, 182 sunfish (unidentified species), 115 Smallmouth Bass, 56 Largemouth Bass, and 5 Yellow Perch. And Rainbow Fishway and other large fishways pass even more. So the benefit goes beyond what we report in these weekly reports.

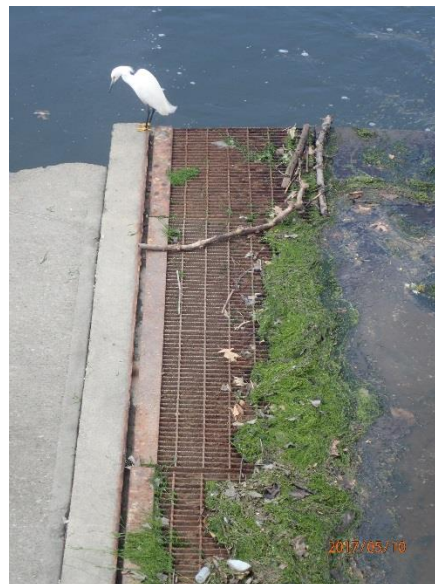
Work will begin before long on removing the Springborn Dam, the first barrier on the Scantic River in Enfield. This past week, the Department began lowering the water level at the Somersville Dam, the next dam upstream. That is also a state-owned dam and we intend to use that pond as water control for our Springborn project as well as a project in Somers right below the dam where the property owner is removing demolition debris from the river, left over from a fire that destroyed the old mill. Both projects will greatly benefit the Scantic River. As the pond comes down, our crew has been up monitoring the pond for fish and mussel stranding. We have not seen anything yet during the slow drawdown, which will get interrupted by tonight's heavy rain but we'll probably be back at it late this week and next week. Just downstream of the Springborn Dam, Terry Brook flows in and the DOT is replacing a bad culvert under Rt. 190 and will be installing fish passage structures as part of that project. So in a very compact area, there will be three fish-friendly stream projects going on at the same time this summer and we have all been trying to coordinate our actions.

**Glass eels-** Fishing Brook = 9,574 glass eels/220 elvers; Mill River Eel Trap= 32 glass eels/ elvers/324 yellow; Greeneville Eel Lift= 10 glass eels/361 elvers; Hanover Pond= 1,183 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. We have been on hiatus last week and this week due to scheduling conflicts. We expect to be back on the air next Wednesday June 28, perhaps talking about NASCO and international salmon management.



*Seasonal Zack Skelton monitors the drawdown of the Somersville Dam Pond.*



*The Rings End Fishway in Darien is pretty quiet these days but this snowy egret may be thinking young alewives may be coming down the steep pass.*