

**CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT**  
 Report Date: April 7, 2020



This is a report generated by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection/Fisheries Division- Diadromous Program. For more information, contact Steve Gephard, 860/447-4316. For more information about fish runs on the Connecticut River 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**

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	14	0	0	-	0	0	1
Moulson Pond* (Eightmile)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Mary Steube* (Mill Brook)	-	-	10,497	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rogers Lake+ (Mill Brook)			548						
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								
<b>TOTALS=</b>	0	0	10,511	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>(last year's totals)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>318,707</b>	<b>11,308</b>	<b>5,113</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>20,479</b>	<b>20/0</b>	<b>0</b>

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. The same for Rogers Lake—they first pass through Mary Steube and therefore won't be counted as part of the total.

## COMMENTS:

It was a slow week on the lower tributaries. We know the Alewife run has moved upstream: Valinn saw fish at Joshuatown Road on the Eightmile, I found a few in Pattaconk in Chester, and we've passed a handful at StanChem up in Berlin. Numbers were pretty low until last night. After that 60 degree day, Mary Steube Fishway passed over 1,000 fish. (Our crew is still battling a cantankerous beaver there.) Today, Millpond in Essex (see below) was 14 C (57 F) and most streams are near 10 C (50 F), so things should ramp up, particularly after a second 60 degree day. Cool days are ahead, however. At 39,000 cfs, the river is flowing a levels typical for this time of year. Lots of White Suckers moving, especially at Leesville, StanChem and below the falls at Higganum Creek. Our announcement last week about the re-naming of the Moulson Pond Fishway to the Bireley Fishway was apparently premature. We have been advised by the land trust and its Board is still figuring out what the official name will be. It will have both Moulson Pond and Linda Bireley in the name but for brevity sake, they are suggesting that we continue to list it as Moulson Pond. We have made that change for this report.

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**MILLPOND FISHWAY-** Last week we featured the Dolan Pond Fishway, which is located less than a quarter mile downstream of this fishway on the Falls River in Essex, a tidewater tributary of the Connecticut River. The same team we reported last week for Dolan Pond worked on this fishway: Sally Harold, then of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), managed the project, Howard Pfrommer of Nathan Jacobson Associates (NLJA) designed it, and Schumack Engineered construction (foreman Scott Hines) built it. The National Fish & Wildlife Foundation funded its design at the same time Dolan Pond was designed but the construction was funded by grants from the John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation and the Electric Boat Mitigation Fund. The steepass fishway was officially named the John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Fishway, in recognition of their lasting contributions. However, to avoid a very lengthy, table-format busting name, we will refer to it by its nickname, the Millpond Fishway. Despite the window, we don't have fish counting capability at this fishway but hope to add it in the future. We are extremely grateful to Centerbrook Architects (CA), which owns the dam (and now the fishway). The company, which also has a small hydroelectric turbine and solar panels, is very environmentally-conscious and have been great to work with, both at the company and individual levels, and during planning, construction (summer/fall of 2019), and now operation. It can be viewed from the parking lot behind Centerbrook Pizza or CA's parking lot behind the post office. This fishway allows Alewives to reach the 50-acre Millpond, which is good spawning and nursery habitat and where we have been stocking Alewives from Bride Brook.



*The entrance of the Millpond Fishway is located between the hydroplant's tailrace (left) and the spillway (right). After one steepass ramp, it turns right for a long ramp, then turns left for a short climb and turns left for a short distance and leads to a 180 degree turn pool with a window (see photo to right) and then makes it finally ascent to the spillway. If you look carefully, you'll see a black hose on this side, which is an eel pass.*



*This is the 180-degree turn pool with a viewing window to observe migrating fish.*

## 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)	3	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Taftville*</b> (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Scotland*</b> (Shetucket R. Windham)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Tunnel*</b> (Quinebaug R., Preston)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Kinneytown*</b> (Naugatuck R., Seymour)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Hallville Pond*</b> (Poquetanuck Br. Preston)	-	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
<b>Jordan Brook **</b> (Jordan Brook, Waterford)	-	24	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Latimers Brook**</b> (Latimers Br., E.Lyme)	-	4,843	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Gortons Pond*</b> (Pattaganset R., E.Lyme)		71						
<b>Brides Brook**</b> (Brides Brook, E.Lyme)		230,379						
<b>Fishing Brook**</b> (Fishing Brook, OSaybrook)		6,295						
<b>Chapmans Pond*</b> (Menunketesuck R., Clinton)		29	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Branford Supply Pond Dam**</b> (Queach Br., Branford)	9		-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Lower Guilford Lake**</b> (East River, Guilford)		3	0	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Haakonsen Fishway*</b> (Quinnipiac R., Wallingford)	0	27	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Hanover Pond Fishway*</b> (Quinnipiac River, Meriden)		0	0	0	-	0	-	0
<b>Bunnells Pond*</b> (Peqonnock R., Bridgeport)	-Open and operating but no videography this season due to COVID-19							
<b>Mianus River Pond* **</b> (Mianus R., Greenwich)		NA	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= 4/6 Taftville= na Occum= na Tunnel= na Kinneytown= na Haakonsen= 4/6 Hallville= 4/6 Hanover= 4/5

Bunnells= na Chapmans= 4/6\*\*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:

All fishways are now open and operating. You'll see that most of the fishways registered very modest increases from last week (e.g. Branford Supply Ponds went from 3 to 9). But Bride Brook had a strong week, jumping from 69,000+ to 230,000+. After a generally lackluster week due to cool temperatures, both Latimer Brook and Fishing Brook had strong runs last night. All of the Shetucket River basin fishways are open and you can see that Greenville registered the first three American Shad of the season. We normally don't expect them to really get cooking for another month. When Steve Leach of FirstLight opened the Tunnel Dam Fishlift, he immediately saw over 60 Alewives in the exit flume, before he even operated the lift for the first time. These must have been drop backs from some of the Alewives that Kevin has trucked to upstream portions of the Quinebaug and Patchaug rivers. Kinneytown was just opened so we have no data to report from there. We have been passing White Suckers and other species at Hallville but no Alewives yet. Yesterday, Project Oceanology live-streamed an on-site interview of Dan Mullins of the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District and myself at the Hallville Fishway. They have posted the interview and a quick visual tour of the fishway on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=heJFY2Ds2A> and Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ProjectOceanology/videos/615433772390205/> (Thanks to Molly Jacobs of Project O.) Numbers in the central coast area are still pretty modest and while White Suckers and other species are moving upstream, only a few Alewives have penetrated up the Quinnipiac River to Wallingford. Patrick Wendt of New England Hydro reports that the Hanover Pond Fishway was opened before last week's report, but there are no anadromous species to report, yet. After learning from this report last week that our crew was not able to service the Bunnells Pond Fishway in Bridgeport, Gregg Dancho and his staff stepped up and volunteered to look after it for us. They've already extracted a big log from the exit. Unfortunately, we will not have fish counts to report from that site, which usually racks up some pretty good numbers. We still don't have counts for Mianus Pond Fishway but hopefully that is temporary. Sarah from the Greenwich Conservation Commission hopes to get their repaired counter installed very soon. Speaking of malfunctioning counters, our counter at Bride Brook (which is a very important index station) went down today after 18 years of loyal duty. Cause of death is unconfirmed but maybe it was due to those 48,000 Alewives that were not social distancing. Kevin is out there now swapping out the dead counter with a live one so we don't lose valuable data. The new counter is our 'roving counter', which is assigned a new site each year. So we won't have that extra site this year. Suddenly, ospreys are everywhere! Spring and the Alewives surely have arrived!!!

**Eel Counts**- Fishing Brook = 2,888 glass/21 yellow; Chapmans Pond= 229 glass/6 yellow; Mill River Eel Trap= 0 glass/0 yellow; Hanover Pond= 0 yellow; Greenville Eel Lift= 0 glass/0 yellow. Occum= 0 yellow eels; Kinneytown= 0 yellow.

My weekly Diadromous Fish Radio show is back live on iCRV ([www.icrvradio.com](http://www.icrvradio.com)) at 8:00 am on Wednesdays. **Due to the COVID situation, I call in rather than sit in the studio.** If you can't tune in at 8:00 am, listen to it at any time: [www.icrvradio.com/programs/program/50](http://www.icrvradio.com/programs/program/50). They archive the shows.



*Alewives passing the viewing window at the Mary Steube Fishway on Mill Brook in Old Lyme (photo courtesy of Denise Savageau).*



*Last week we reported that Bruce Williams had stocked out all the Atlantic Salmon fry from the Tripps Streamside Incubation Facility in Old Lyme. This shows students from the Old Saybrook High School removing the fry from the incubators and putting them into buckets to be transferred to the truck. This was a day or two before the school closed and the students told to shelter at home.*



*Above: a long line of screen is used to try to keep beaver out of the Mary Steube fishway (where they build dams!). There is a submerged opening in the fence to allow migrating Alewives exiting the fishway to continue upstream. Beaver have burrowed underneath this fence. Below: Seasonal workers Marissa and Jake opening the Millpond Fishway, prior to social distancing was implemented in mid-March.*



*Speaking of social distancing, the Alewives at Bride Brook refuse to practice it! Last night, 48,000 fish passed up through our electronic fish counter and into the lake. Some officials have suggested that since Alewives refused to practice social distancing, we should close the brook. We have advised the officials that we lack authority over Alewives and were unable to find enough fish-appropriate face masks to distribute as the Alewives leave Long Island Sound and enter the brook. ☺*