

CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT

Report Date: April 12 2011



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	0	0	0	0	0	0*	0	0
Leesville (Salmon)	0	-	-	0	-	-	0***	0	0
Moulson Pond (Eightmile)	0	-	0	0	0	0	0***	0	-
Mary Steube⁺ (Mill Brook)	-	-	1,009	-	-	-	-	-	-
WestSpringfield (Westfield- MA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holyoke (Connecticut- MA)	0/0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turners Falls (Connecticut- MA)	0/0	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	-	0
Wilder (Connecticut- VT)	0/0	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0
Other (all sites)	0/0								
TOTALS=	0/0	0	9	0++	0	0	0	0	0
(last year's totals)	50/10	168,430	10000s	92++	370	297	44,711	5	542

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.

* The number before the slash indicates the total number of salmon seen at the fishway that were not counted at downstream fishways. The number after the slash is the number of those fish that were allowed to continue upstream of the dam. The others were captured for breeding.

**Many of these species move at night. There is a video camera that records overnight passage when staff is not present. So this count is a combination of real-time counts and video counts. 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. ++This total does not include the imprecise estimates at Moulson Pond 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 flow on the Connecticut River is going up again, heading for 70,000 cfs! No sign of shad yet but the alewives are on the move! Hundreds below the Moulson Pond Fishway in Lyme although the land trust team there has not reported any above the fishway yet. The first sighting was on the 7th. The alewives showed up yesterday at the Leesville fishway (which is now passing white suckers), Dave Ellis saw an osprey with an alewife in the Cromwell Meadows area of the Mattabasett River and David Molnar of the Marine Fisheries Division reports the alewives in Wethersfield Cove, Keeney Cove and Porter Brook—an old buckie favorite that has not seen fish in several years. The fish should be in the Farmington and Enfield Dam area any day now. Rainbow Fishway was opened yesterday and within an hour we had white suckers moving past the counting window at pool 24. The forsythia is finally blossoming and the osprey are nesting on navigational aids on the river. Spring has finally sprung!

The Mary Steube Fishway is working better this year due to a new entrance installed by our crew last summer. See the photo below. Joe Zaiantz opened his Shad Museum off Rt. 154 in the Higganum section of Haddam on Sunday.

For a look at underwater video of alewives at Leesville on the Salmon River, courtesy of long-time fish guy, Blaine Anderson, go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ah4AhWWvuk0>

Last week, we mentioned that we had stocked this year's salmon smolts in the Farmington River. For a quick video of that operation, go to the website of our friends the Connecticut River Salmon Association, at <http://www.ctriversalmon.org/>. Look on the left margin and click on the area that says "2011 Fish Runs, Videos". It plays on Windows Real Player.

Later this summer, we will be implementing a big batch of fish passage projects (either fishways or dam removals). They will begin after these reports end, so I will highlight one each week, as space allows. This week's featured project is the STANCHEM DAM FISHWAY in East Berlin, CT on the Mattabasset River, a Connecticut River tributary that enters at Middletown. This Denil fishway was designed by Fuss & O'Neil through a contract with the Connecticut River Watershed Council and the construction has been taken over by The Nature Conservancy. TNC got a grant from the DEP to build this summer and is now applying for the necessary permits. This fishway will target American shad, alewife, blueback herring, and sea lamprey although with American eel (separate eel pass). See photo below.

Left-over from Last Week- WE HAVE DISCOVERED DIDYMO ("ROCK SNOT") IN THE FARMINGTON RIVER. Check out the brochure that I attached to this email. If you fish the Farmington River on Opening Day, the information is important to you.



The new entrance of the Mary Steube Fishway in Old Lyme. The old entrance was the concrete structure but the drop was too high for easy entry. The steeppass unit makes it easy for alewives to enter.



The StanChem Dam- the first dam on the Mattabasset River in East Berlin, CT. The future fishway will be rather U-shaped, circumventing the left end (in the photo).

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)	0	150	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
Versailles Pond (Little R., Sprague)	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
Whitfords Brook (Whitfords Br., Groton)	0	none seen						
Trading Cove Brook (Trading Cove Br., Montville)	none seen (counter not yet in)							
Latimers Brook+ (Latimers Br., E.Lyme)	13							
Gorton Pond (Pattagansett R., E.Lyme)	present (not enumerated, low numbers)							
Brides Brook** (Brides Brook, E.Lyme)	63,823							
Fishing Brook (Fishing Br., O.Saybrook)	14							
Capello Pond** (East River, Guilford)	one seen below							
Branford Supply Pond Dam** (Queach Br., Branford)	22							
Bunnells Pond (Pegonnock R., Bridgeport)	none seen							
Wood Dam** (Saugatuck R., Westport)	81							
Mianus River Pond** (Mianus R., Greenwich)		6,601	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= n.a. Taftville= n.a. Occum= n.a. Tunnel= n.a.. Kinneytown= n.a.

******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:

Fish have trickled in all across the state but other than Bride Brook, no one is posting large numbers yet. We expect a big surge this next week. Mianus Fishway got another push and Joe reports an open house at the fishway that saw about 60 visitors. Volunteer Roy in Guilford saw fish but the water was pretty dark. Speaking of Guilford, conservationists and fish folks lost a good friend this past week with the passing of Sally Richards of Guilford. Sally was a fish biologist who started with the Connecticut River Ecological Study (the CT Yankee nuke impact study) and then ran her own lab in Guilford. She was instrumental in having the Landon Dam Fishway built and monitored and was a founding member of the Guilford Land Conservation Trust, which is preserving some great habitat for diadromous fish. She was in her mid-80s.

In the section above, I mentioned that partners will be doing many fish passage projects this summer. Judy Benson of The New London Day wrote an article on the Anguilla Brook Project in Stonington. It can be seen at <http://www.theday.com/article/20110411/NWS01/304119932/-1/NWS>

In addition to the numbers posted above, there is evidence of continued runs at Poquetanuck Brook, Pattagansett River, Hammonasset River, and Sasco Brook.

We're still having problems with missing baffles at the Kinneytown Dam Fishway on the Naugatuck River in Seymour so that is not opened yet. One baffle was replaced today and we expect more work tomorrow, hopefully allowing it to be opened. White suckers are congregating below the fishway. The Kinneytown eel pass was damaged in the March floods but nothing that Tim Wildman won't be able to repair.

Oh, and some fun news from our friends on the Bronx River:
<http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/04/12/whats-with-the-fish/>

FOR ANGLERS VENTURING FORTH THIS SATURDAY ON THE OPENING DAY OF THE FISHING SEASON:

Remember, we have over 50 fishways in the state and fishing within a certain distance of the fishway is prohibited. Statutes allow us to close 250 feet below the fishway but for many of the smaller fishways, this distance is excessive, so we post a much smaller stretch. We try to balance the need to protect migrating fish as they bottleneck near the entrance of the fishway with the desire to provide as much fishing access to the public as possible. To learn of closed areas, look at the DEP's Angler Guide and streamside signs and red rocks (see photos below).



If you're fishing below a dam with a fishway, look for these red signs. They mark the downstream boundary of the 'no fishing' zone below the fishway. You cannot fish between these red signs and the dam. Other orange signs may indicate the 'no fishing' zone, as well.



For many of the fishways, we try to paint a big rock red to mark the downstream end of the 'no fishing' zone. Vandals sometimes tear down the signs pictured to the left but these rocks are hard to carry away.