

CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT

Report Date: March 19, 2013



This is a report generated by the Connecticut Department of Energy and 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/r5src. 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
StanChem (Mattabesset)	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moulson Pond (Eightmile)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0***	0	-
Mary Steube+ (Mill Brook)	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(last year's totals)	47/10	499,935	>25,057	>7,039	504	303	15,193	11	0

These figures adjusted after last year's report ended and does not include 3 shortnose sturgeon passed over the summer.

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:

No fishways are opened. No news for the Connecticut River system. See next section on the coastal area.



Last spring, this is what the Spoonville Dam on the Farmington River looked like. This is about 2 miles upstream of the Rainbow Dam Fishway, in the town of East Granby.



This is what it looks like now. The Farmington River Watershed Association hired a contractor and had the dam removed last summer. This is great for migratory fish—and safer for humans.

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	0	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
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							
Trading Cove Brook (Trading Cove Br., Montville)								
Hallville Pond* ** (Poquetanuck Br. Preston)	-	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
Latimers Brook+ (Latimers Br., E. Lyme)		0						
Gorton Pond** (Pattagansett R., E. Lyme)		0						
Brides Brook** (Brides Brook, E. Lyme)		100						
Fishing Brook** (Fishing Br., O. Saybrook)		0						
Lower Guilford Lake (East River, Guilford)		0						
Branford Supply Pond Dam** (Queach Br., Branford)		0						
Haakonsen Fishway* (Quinnipiac R., Wallingford)	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Bunnells Pond (Pegonnock R., Bridgeport)		0						
Wood Dam** (Saugatuck R., Westport)		0						
Mianus River Pond** (Mianus R., Greenwich)		200						

**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= x/x Taftville=x/x Occum= x/x Tunnel= x/x Kinneytown= x/x Haakonsen=x/x Hallville= x/x

***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:

A few fish came into Brides at the beginning of last week. We may have missed the first night with our counter but it looked like very few fish. We then set up our counting weir and got that operational so we could count fish even without the trap. The trap is now set up but not closed since we will not be trucking alewives for a week or so. We had a lot of downed trees across Bride Brook between Long Island Sound and Bride Lake and it seems to have blocked the passage of some fish. Our crew cleared the deadfalls and we think we're ready for the next wave.

A very large pine tree came down right in front of the entrance to the Branford Water Supply Ponds Fishway and might have blocked some fish. Tom Cleveland and David Post (perhaps others?) got out there and cleared it away within the last few days—good job, guys. Linda Bireley from the Lyme Land Conservation Trust reported a big tree fell into the Moulson Pond Fishway on the Eightmile River in Lyme. Don Gerber and other volunteers got out and cleared that away. A word to all fishway operators—with all the storms we've been having, it would be good for you to check not only your fishways for trees but the stream downstream of your fishways to ensure that the fish can reach it. If there are special problems, contact us. Ray Baldwin reported that a weir blew out of the Clarks Pond Fishway in Milford and Bruce Williams has been working on fabricating a new weir to install.

Joe Cassone also reports a few hundred alewives already up the Mianus Pond fishway in Greenwich. Brides and Mianus are always the early runs in our state. The cold weather is holding them back for now but next week if we get some warm weather, the runs will start. Although I have heard of possibly ANOTHER snowstorm next week! Anyway, starting planning to open your fishway by April 1st, keep us informed of problems and report back when they are opened and start submitting regularly weekly reports as soon as they are open. We are very busy getting cameras and computers and fish counters ready for the new season. We have a new coastal fishway ready to open at Hallville, which we will be featuring in future reports.



A large pine tree came down near the Branford fishway but did not damage it. Volunteers cleaned the tree away so that it would not stop fish from accessing the fishway.



The construction of a steep pass fishway around the Hallville Dam (Poquetanuck Brook, Preston) back in December. This fishway is now completed and will be passing fish soon. More in future reports.