

# CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT

Report Date: March 26, 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](http://www.fws.gov/r5src). 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	SEA-RUN TROUT	AMER. EEL
<b>Rainbow</b> (Farmington)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0*	0	0
<b>Leesville</b> (Salmon)	0	-	-	0	-	-	0***	0	0
<b>StanChem</b> (Mattabesset)	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Moulson Pond</b> (Eightmile)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0***	0	-
<b>Mary Steube+</b> (Mill Brook)	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>WestSpringfield</b> (Westfield- MA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Holyoke</b> (Connecticut- MA)	0/0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Turners Falls</b> (Connecticut- MA)	0/0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
<b>Vernon</b> (Connecticut- VT)	0/0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
<b>Bellows Falls</b> (Connecticut- VT)	0/0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	0
<b>Wilder</b> (Connecticut- VT)	0/0	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0
<b>Other</b> (all sites)	0/0								
<b>TOTALS=</b>	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 have been opened. Not much news for the Connecticut River system. The river is fairly low for this time of year (no snow melt from VT and NH). We're trucking salmon smolts from the Dwight D. Eisenhower National Fish Hatchery in Pittsford, VT to the Farmington River this week.

See next section on the coastal area.



*This alewife was 'observed' by pike anglers in the Haddam Island area of the Connecticut River.*



*Connecticut trucks line up for disinfection at the Eisenhower NFH. We're always careful to ensure that we don't accidentally introduce some pathogen from our streams into the densely populated raceways of the hatchery. Salmon smolts are netted out of the raceways and into the trucks and then they are trucked for several hours and flushed from the tanks into the Farmington River.*

## OTHER LOCATIONS WITHIN CONNECTICUT

<b>FISHWAY (RIVER)</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>Greeneville*</b> (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<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)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Kinneytown*</b> (Naugatuck R., Seymour)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Whitfords Brook</b> (Whitfords Br., Groton)	0							
<b>Trading Cove Brook</b> (Trading Cove Br., Montville)								
<b>Hallville Pond* **</b> (Poquetanuck Br. Preston)	-	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
<b>Latimers Brook+</b> (Latimers Br., E.Lyme)		0						
<b>Gorton Pond**</b> (Pattagansett R., E.Lyme)		0						
<b>Brides Brook**</b> (Brides Brook, E.Lyme)		160						
<b>Fishing Brook**</b> (Fishing Br., O.Saybrook)		0						
<b>Lower Guilford Lake</b> (East River, Guilford)		0						
<b>Branford Supply Pond Dam**</b> (Queach Br., Branford)		0						
<b>Haakonsen Fishway*</b> (Quinnipiac R., Wallingford)	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
<b>Bunnells Pond</b> (Pegonnock R., Bridgeport)		0						
<b>Wood Dam**</b> (Saugatuck R., Westport)		0						
<b>Mianus River Pond**</b> (Mianus R., Greenwich)		221						

*\*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:

It has been a quiet week with more snow and cold temperatures. The alewives are definitely around. We picked up a total of 22 more fish at Bride Brook this week and Joe Cassone reports another 100 or so at Mianus (along with some gizzard shad). Besides the report we had of alewives being up the Connecticut River as far as Haddam, we've also had reports of alewives below the Derby Dam on the Housatonic River and even in the Fourmile River in East Lyme. There are plenty of sightings of ospreys, some with fish in their talons. I believe that with the cold weather temperatures, the fish are hanging out in tidewater and not initiating any rigorous migrations. The most strenuous movement we've seen has come from the few that have left tidewater to climb a few feet up the Mianus Pond Fishway. Massachusetts reports smelt running in some of their herring streams (sadly, Connecticut no longer hosts smelt runs) and they have also seen some sea lamprey in the Parker River. This is really early for sea lamprey!

I was premature last week in indicating that we had opened the Latimer Brook Fishway. It and Gortons is still closed. We have not opened many fishways yet due to the cold temperatures and preoccupation with other seasonal preparations. We have opened the brand new Hallville Pond Fishway on Poquetanuck Brook in Preston. This fishway was built for the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District by Schumack Construction and Tim and Dave just set up both a Smith-Root electronic fish counter (photo right) and a camera system behind the viewing window (photo left). No fish have arrived yet but we have high expectations for this steep pass fishway in a stream that supports a large run. Tim is over drying out the counting house at the Haakonsen Fishway today in preparation of setting up that camera and will be opening that, Kinneytown, and the new StanChem fishway in the coming week or so. I'll be returning to the office next Tuesday after a week's absence and will not issue a report that week. Then, I am presenting a paper the following Tuesday at an eel symposium so that week's report will be late, perhaps on Wednesday April 10. By then, we should have most of the fishways open and will be seeing some fish. Fishway operators- plan to send me your fishway opening reports by that week. Thanks.



*The viewing window at the new Hallville Fishway (Poquetanuck Brook, CT), which is now open and ready for business. The board on the bottom is a 'fish baffle' intended to keep fish from swimming below the window ledge and avoid detection. The backdrop is photo-reflective material to assist with low light images (with 6" stripes), and the mesh lead fence for the Smith-Root Electronic fish counter can be seen to the right. This fishway has both an electronic counter and a camera (for verification of species ID and direction of movement and public outreach).*



*Top view of the Hallville Fishway exit (flow is from headpond, left to right). Trash rack is to left and the counting weir slides down a set of channels to the right just upstream of the viewing window. Fish are forced to swim through green PVC pipes to get counted. Cables go through formed portal in wall and enter the counting house where the instrumentation is housed along with the camera and computer for the imaging.*