

# CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT

Report Date: June 5, 2013



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/r5cnc](http://www.fws.gov/r5cnc). 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)	2	89	0	19	0	0	2,024*	4	0
<b>Leesville</b> (Salmon)	3	-	-	0	-	-	0***	3	0
<b>StanChem</b> (Mattabesset)	-	3	460	31	17	-	13	11	0
<b>Moulson Pond</b> (Eightmile)	0	1	~550	~2,200	0	0	0***	0	-
<b>Mary Steube<sup>+</sup></b> (Mill Brook)	-	-	9,137 (final count)		-	-	-	-	-
<b>WestSpringfield</b> (Westfield- MA)	7	4,684	0	0	0	0	635	0	0
<b>Holyoke</b> (Connecticut- MA)	40/0	369,684	0	972	461	73	21,924	0	0
<b>Turners Falls</b> (Connecticut- MA)	0/0	30,206	-	0	0	0	4,777	-	-
<b>Vernon</b> (Connecticut- VT)	0/0	16,461	-	0	0	0	924	-	-
<b>Bellows Falls</b> (Connecticut- VT)	0/0	0	-	0	0	0	207	-	0
<b>Wilder</b> (Connecticut- VT)	0/0	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0
<b>Other</b> (all sites)	0/0								
<b>TOTALS=</b>	52/0	374,461	9,597++	1,022++	478	73	24,596	18	0
<b>(last year's totals)</b>	47/10	499,935	>25,000++	>7,039++	504	303	15,193	11	0

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:

Well it seems that Ken and Darleen at the Connecticut River Coordinator's Office survived their FOIA ordeal and Darleen is again sending-out daily updates for the mainstem fishways up north. Holyoke Gas & Electric started lifting again last Friday after the high and turbid flows subsided. Close to 49,000 American shad were passed over the weekend, so that's good news. While we won't beat last year's  $\frac{1}{2}$  million shad, this year's run is will end somewhere within the top ten of yearly totals going-back to 1967. We hope that translates into a couple of strong year-classes down the road. Shad counts continue to climb at Turners and Vernon, so the fish aren't done moving yet; fortunately the heat wave is behind us and the cool nights will lengthen the distance of the run. Holyoke was 19 degrees yesterday.

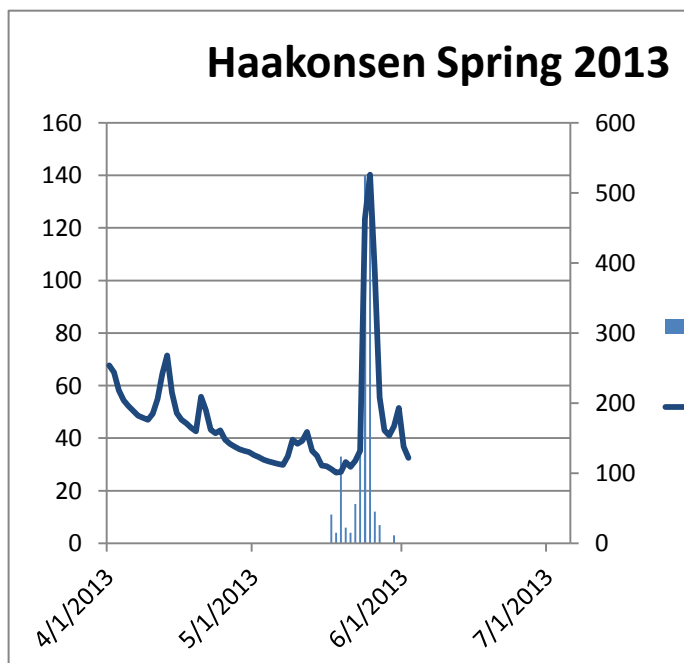
We finally have a working shad transport truck and Dave wasted no time in hauling fish out of Holyoke. Yesterday was a double run; one load to New Hampshire and the other to Rainbow Reservoir. Today he is stocking the Naugatuck. Very late start for us and I don't think we'll catch-up, but good to get some fish out there.

I've got an interesting graph and observations to share regarding Steve's hypothesis that the lack of flow was contributing to the lack of blueback seen in tributaries. Last Friday, Steve and Dave went to Leesville after work to snorkel. The river was still too discolored and the visibility was not good enough to snorkel, so they decided against it. But the blueback were finally in. And in a big way. Not like the 'good ole days', but thousands from the dam downstream as far as they could see. They were having a great time (yeah, the fish too!). Male blueback chasing females in the shallows, spawning and darting-back into the deeper, darker water. Striped bass were also charging about. Real 'Blue Planet' stuff. Sorry I missed it.

No onto the boring chart (see below).

Rainbow Fishway held the Annual Open House last Saturday and over 150 people came-out on that hot day to take the tour. Many were interested in seeing sea lamprey. It seems that a lot of people watch River Monsters and wanted to see a "River Vampire" in person. Bruce and the crew happily obliged, all-the-while explaining the ecological benefits of sea lamprey. Great opportunity for us to get that message out.

As of June 1, the fish counts for the Essex Fishlift (Merrimack River, MA) were 14 salmon and 25,543 shad, 17,358 river herring, and 469 sea lamprey. As of June 3, Maine DMR had trapped 62 salmon at Veazie Dam on the Penobscot River (and passed 11,636 river herring).



As you can see, once we got a slug of water, we saw some fish. While this is the Quinnipiac River and not a Connecticut River

tributary, it still makes the point. Hypothesis accepted

## 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)	3,501	713	21	111	3	0	2	5
<b>Taftville*</b> (Shetucket R., Norwich)	81	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Occum*</b> (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Versailles Pond</b> (Little R., Sprague)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Tunnel*</b> (Quinebaug R., Preston)	120	56	0	74	0	0	0	7,581
<b>Kinneytown*</b> (Naugatuck R., Seymour)	14	70	0	68	0	130	2	0
<b>Hallville Pond* **</b> (Poquetanuck Br. Preston)	-	6	0	0	-	0	0	0
<b>Latimers Brook+</b> (Latimers Br., E.Lyme)	-	33,065	FINAL					
<b>Gorton Pond</b> (Pattagansett R., E.Lyme)	-	16,992	FINAL					
<b>Brides Brook**</b> (Brides Brook, E.Lyme)		363,224	FINAL					
<b>Clarks Pond</b> (Indian River, Milford)		179						
<b>Branford Supply Pond Dam**</b> (Queach Br., Branford)		563						
<b>Haakonsen Fishway*</b> (Shetucket R., Norwich)	1	4,407	403	46	0	185	1	0
<b>Bunnells Pond</b> (Pegonnock R., Bridgeport)		~20,000 estimated						
<b>Wood Dam**</b> (Saugatuck R., Westport)		31,759						
<b>Mianus River Pond**</b> (Mianus R., Greenwich)		69,074	27,810	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=5/25 Taftville=5/?? Occum=x/xx Tunnel=5/30 Kinneytown=6/2 Haakonsen=5/30 Hallville=6/2*

**\*\***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:

Alewife runs in the east are over. Some juvenile alewife are starting to show themselves along the shoreline of Brides Lake as well as Hyde Pond (Whitford Brook). Strong numbers of alewife were still being reported in the Housatonic and a decent number of fish were spotted in the Mill River (Fairfield). We passed a few hundred bluebacks at Haakonsen as you saw from the boring chart, and a few additional bluebacks were passed at StanChem and Moulson Pond.

On the Shetucket River, we're still a bit behind on our counts for the Greeneville Fishlift but we're seeing a few more shad trickle in. We've been experiencing some serious fouling problems at Taftville, so 'catch-up' is going to be slow. A few more shad have passed Tunnel Fishlift adding to a new record.

Eel Counts: Fishing Brook= 6,591 (mostly glass), Greeneville= 1,250 (395=glass), Occum= 782, lower Millpond= 6,137 (mostly glass), Byram River= 14 (not operated due to high flows), Mill River= 140.

I know this may come-across as a bit hokey, but sometimes you make a discovery that will improve your day-today existence. I'm revealing this in the hope that many of you on this massive email address list have shared in the grueling task of cleaning fishway windows. If you are lucky enough to have never done this, don't volunteer! It's worse than shoveling snow off your roof. Once that brown algae starts to take hold, it just doesn't come-off. A losing battle; especially on windows that because of digital imaging no one is there and the window only gets cleaned once or twice a week. For my fishway window cleaning comrades I have a gift. The latest discovery for us in the diadromous group is the 'Magic Eraser'. It was actually discovered by one of our seasonals, John Bair, who just knew there had to be a better way. Apparently there are Aquarist forums (who knew) and within one such forum the Magic Eraser was recommended for cleaning aquariums. The result of this discovering appears below.



*Haakonsen Fishway. Yeah, there is a blueback in the window, can you spot it? Hours spent with inferior tools to get it looking this clean!*



*Haakonsen Fishway. After a 10 minute cleaning with the Magic Eraser. Thank-you John Bair. Thank-you Mr. Clean.*

