

CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT

Report Date: June 11, 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. 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)	2	92	0	19	0	1	2,038*	4	lots
Leesville (Salmon)	4	-	-	0	-	-	0***	3	0
StanChem (Mattabesset)	-	3	460	33	18	-	13	11	1
Moulson Pond (Eightmile)	0	1	~550	~2,200	0	0	0***	0	-
Mary Steube⁺ (Mill Brook)	-	-	9,137 (final count)		-	-	-	-	-
West Springfield (Westfield- MA)	9	4,829	0	0	0	0	669	0	0
Holyoke (Connecticut- MA)	49/0	380,783	0	976	548	109	22,042	0	0
Turners Falls (Connecticut- MA)	0/0	30,206	-	0	0	0	4,777	-	-
Vernon (Connecticut- VT)	0/0	16,461	-	0	0	0	924	-	-
Bellows Falls (Connecticut- VT)	0/0	0	-	0	0	0	207	-	0
Wilder (Connecticut- VT)	0/0	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0
Other (all sites)	0/0								
TOTALS=	64/0	385,704	9,597++	1,028++	566	110	24,762	18	0
(last year's totals)	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:

Holyoke Fishlift was closed last Sunday, but had been lifting fish on Monday and Tuesday. They are still passing American shad and trapping Atlantic salmon. Dave is on his way up as I type for another load of shad to truck to the Naugatuck. Reports out of Holyoke indicate that though the numbers of shad are dwindling fast, the shad look fresh. This is good news since the last load that Dave trucked to the Naugatuck (6/5) seemed a bit tired. Dave just got back from Holyoke. No shad to truck and flows are climbing. The fishlift is shutting-down again.

In preparation for the rain, Farmington River Power Company (FRPC) drew the Rainbow Reservoir down last Friday below the exit of the Rainbow Fishway. FRPC staff alerted staff before starting the draw-down, so any and all fish in the fishway were removed and returned to the river. Not a lot had been going-on at Rainbow in terms of fish passage (a few more shad and lamprey), so it was mostly netting sunfish that had taken-up residency in the fishway. The fishway was operational as of Saturday evening through much of today; although I'm told that the reservoir will be drawn-down again today, but might not be enough to dewater the fishway. Sal (Rainbow seasonal) tells me that he is looking at a largemouth bass and schoolie striper through the fishway window (which he'll net-out if needed). They have also been seeing 'lots' of elvers passing the window. We don't individually count juvenile eel at Rainbow and so 'lots' is far better than 'a few'.

South of Rainbow, at the StanChem Fishway (Mattabesset River) staff removed the monitoring equipment in case of flooding. This is our first season of operation at StanChem and we didn't know what to expect. It appears that the counting house did not flood, but we do have some debris within the fishway that needs clearing. Don't think we'll get the equipment back-in this season - it had been slow prior to the rain and it will take some time before the water clears to the point that we could see any fish; thinking the season's over there.

Continuing south, Bruce trapped a salmon at Leesville (Salmon River) on Friday. From experience we know that salmon will attempt to move through Leesville during the rising limb of the Salmon River hydrograph. Just the case here; Bruce put-off the check until on his way home at the end of the day to catch the 'lift' and caught a salmon. He trucked that fish via Holyoke, picking-up an additional two salmon that were trapped and retained there. All three fish are gilling peacefully at Cronin Salmon Station. As you know, these adult salmon will be spawned this fall and their progeny will represent the last cohort of sea-run origin salmon held for broodstock at Kensington (as part of the Legacy Program). The New Haven Register is running a story about the Legacy Program which appears in today's edition: <http://www.nhregister.com/articles/2013/06/11/news/doc51b6481ccc0f1703707787.txt?viewmode=fullstory>



Holyoke last Thursday



Holyoke today.

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)	3,756	713	22	113	4	0	2	6
Taftville* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	81	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)	143	56	0	74	0	0	0	14,900
Kinneytown* (Naugatuck R., Seymour)	14	70	0	68	0	130	2	0
Hallville Pond* ** (Poquetanuck Br. Preston)	-	6	0	0	-	0	0	0
Latimers Brook+ (Latimers Br., E.Lyme)	-	33,065	FINAL					
Gorton Pond (Pattagansett R., E.Lyme)	-	16,992	FINAL					
Brides Brook** (Brides Brook, E.Lyme)		363,224	FINAL					
Clarks Pond (Indian River, Milford)		179						
Branford Supply Pond Dam** (Queach Br., Branford)		563						
Haakonsen Fishway* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	1	4,407	440	46	0	186	2	3
Bunnells Pond (Pegonnock R., Bridgeport)		~20,000 estimated						
Wood Dam** (Saugatuck R., Westport)		31,761						
Mianus River Pond** (Mianus R., Greenwich)		69,074	28,147	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=5/30 Taftville=5/?? Occum=x/xx Tunnel=6/6 Kinneytown=6/9 Haakonsen=6/6 Hallville=6/9

******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:

High turbid flows were encountered throughout the state since the last report was issued, so no huge changes in numbers. Staff are busy cleaning and checking fishways for damage (none to report); if you have a fishway in CT, you should do the same.

River herring runs are dwindling fast across the state. No sightings in the eastern drainages (as previously reported). Blueback runs are tapering-off in the Mianus River (337 since last report) and at the Haakonsen Fishway (Quinnipiac River). A late-running river herring was captured in a basket trap at the base of Wood Dam (Saugatuck River), but a hungry predator got to it before The Nature Conservancy staff did. As a result, the contents of body cavity swam-off in the belly of an eel. We cannot make a definitive identification, but to my eyes it looks like an alewife. Could be a post-spawn drop-down that wound-up in the trap.

On the Shetucket River, the Greeneville Fishlift hopper became wedged and Norwich Public Utilities were hoping to get a look at it last Friday. Well, we received a lot of rain since then and it still remains out of commission. We might be done for the year there. The backlog of visual data remains at Taftville, and we haven't yet tackled the backlog up at Occum. Over on the other side (Quinebaug River) the shad count stands at 143 for the Tunnel Fishlift. Very good eels numbers (see preceding table) are reported from the Tunnel Eel Pass.

Eel Counts: Fishing Brook= 6,520 (mostly glass), Greeneville= 1,464 (474=glass), Occum= 864, lower Millpond= 6,137 (no report this week), Byram River= 51 (not operated much of last week), Mill River= 283.



Hallville Fishway last Saturday. Fishway Project Partner (Land Owner) Joseph Piela emailed us this photo with the caption "nature takes over". Well put!



Eel-eaten herring, Wood Dam (credit: TNC). OK; I know we must be getting low on photos for me to run this one!