

# CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT

Report Date: June 19, 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	88	0	16	0	1	2,103*	4	0
<b>Leesville</b> (Salmon)	4	-	-	0	-	-	0***	3	0
<b>StanChem</b> (Mattabesset)	-	3	460	33	18	-	13	11	1
<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)	9/2	4,865	0	0	0	0	705	0	1
<b>Holyoke</b> (Connecticut- MA)	53/0	381,436	0	976	556	111	22,045	0	0
<b>Turners Falls</b> (Connecticut- MA)	0/0	35,124	-	0	0	0	6,972	-	-
<b>Vernon</b> (Connecticut- VT)	0/0	18,165	-	0	0	0	1,019	-	-
<b>Bellows Falls</b> (Connecticut- VT)	0/0	0	-	0	0	0	271	-	0
<b>Wilder</b> (Connecticut- VT)	0/0	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0
<b>Other</b> (all sites)	0/0								
<b>TOTALS=</b>	68/2	386,393	9,597++	3,225++	574	112	24,866	18	2
<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.

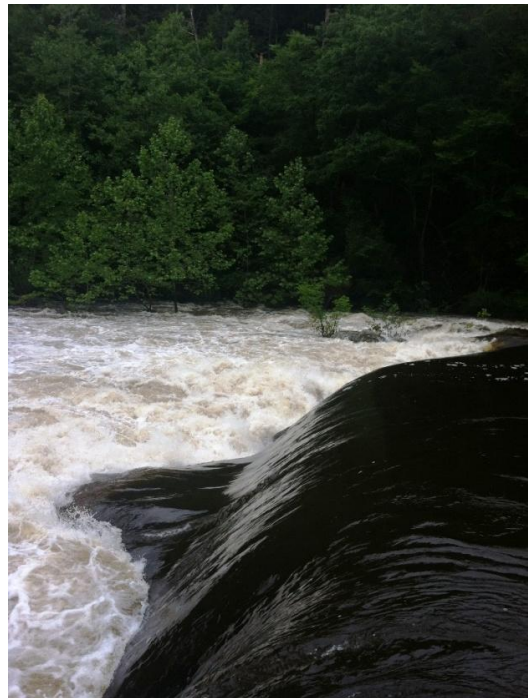
NOTE: All fish that pass through the Turners Falls, Vernon, Bellows Falls, and Wilder fishways had to first go through the Holyoke Fishlift where they were counted. Therefore those fish are not included in the totals at the bottom.

## COMMENTS:

Welcome to New England. We go from a drought (~7,000 cfs) to floods (70,000 cfs) in a few days. Holyoke remained shut down for many days due to the high water but was able to resume lifting on Monday. They saw a few fresh shad still coming in and although we thought we were done trucking for the season, Dave Ellis is back up there today hoping to get enough for a truckload for transplantation into the Naugatuck River. I just got a phone message from Mickey Novak at Cronin National Salmon Station and he reports one salmon was captured at Holyoke yesterday and so far three today. The water is still cool so fish that are in the river but delayed due to the floodwaters are probably still doing okay. The forecast now looks like it will be dry until at least Monday. If that results in dropping river levels, the next few days could be a good opportunity to lift one last slug of fish, passing the last of the shad and capturing any lingering salmon. I suspect that the blueback herring and sea lamprey runs are over but we still could see a few stray stripers and gizzard shad. In addition to the numbers above, Holyoke has lifted two shortnose sturgeon. You never know when they might show up. By the way, if you look in yesterday's edition of *The Hartford Courant*, you'll see a photo of an angler unhooking a ~20" shortnose sturgeon with the East Haddam Swing Bridge (Happy 100<sup>th</sup> birthday to the bridge!) in the background. The caption made it clear that the angler released the fish.

The trap at the West Springfield Fishway on the Westfield River (MA) developed a hole that was discovered and fixed but not before two salmon passed through and continued upstream. It was our intent not to release any salmon this year but these got past us and are listed as 'released' in the table above, although it would be more accurate to call them 'escaped'. The numbers at the Vernon Dam fishway in Vermont continue to look good and at yesterday's meeting of the Technical Committee for CRASC, the shad numbers were described as being in the 'top five' of all time. The sea lamprey numbers are good, too. It was reported that the new fishlift near the mouth of the Ashuelot River in New Hampshire is operating but has not passed any shad, yet. The Farmington River continues to roar and we have not passed fish at the Rainbow Fishway in many days. The dam is spilling and many fish could be attracted to below the spillway where there is no fishway. Most of the reservoirs in the upper watershed are spilling and the MDC and Army Corps of Engineers are dumping water, which is keeping the river very high. Sadly, two rafters have been lost in the Satan's Kingdom area of the river in two separate incidents in the last couple of days. The Salmon River had started to come down and clear up (and smallmouth bass resumed using the Leesville fishway) but the cloudburst last night brought it back up another foot! If you don't know the site, the photos below may not impress, but the one to the left was taken at a flow level already high. The one to the right is current with all of the far ledges (where our eel pass is) completely inundated. The spillway in the foreground is usually 12 ft above the water below and now is about 5 ft. The Connecticut River (about 4 miles downstream) is backed up to the dam. While much of the fish runs in Connecticut appear to be over, fish will likely continue to move in the upper three states for another week or so and we'll keep you posted.

Merrimack River (Essex Fishlift, MA)- 19 salmon, 33,120 shad, 17,359 river herring. Saco River (Cataract Fishlift, ME)- 1 salmon. Androscoggin River (Brunswick Fishway, ME)- 2 salmon, >70,000 river herring. Kennebec River (Lockwood Fishlift, ME)- 1 salmon. Penobscot River (Veazie Fishway, ME)- 224 salmon 12,595 river herring. St.Croix River (Milltown Fishway,ME)- 16,568 alewives (welcome back!!!!)



## 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)	3,800	713	24	154	6	0	2	9
<b>Taftville*</b> (Shetucket R., Norwich)	84	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)	145	56	0	74	0	0	0	14,900
<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	FINAL					
<b>Branford Supply Pond Dam**</b> (Queach Br., Branford)		563	FINAL					
<b>Haakonsen Fishway*</b> (Shetucket R., Norwich)	1	4,407	440	46	0	186	2	0
<b>Bunnells Pond</b> (Pegonnock R., Bridgeport)		~20,000+ estimated	FINAL					
<b>Wood Dam**</b> (Saugatuck R., Westport)		31,763	10	FINAL				
<b>Mianus River Pond**</b> (Mianus R., Greenwich)		69,074	27,810	FINAL	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=6/3 Taftville=6/11 Occum=x/xx Tunnel=6/11 Kinneytown=6/14 Haakonsen=6/5 Hallville=6/13*

**\*\***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:

Things are pretty much over along the Connecticut coastline. We did not see any fish anywhere this past week except for some young-of-year alewives exiting the Bride Brook system. It's possible that as the flows subside that we might pass a few more fish at Kinneytown on the Naugatuck River. I'd normally say the same thing for the Greeneville Fishlift on the Shetucket River but that lift is out of commission for the season. Norwich Public Utilities had some mechanical problems and the run was about over so they shut it down and will repair it over the summer. It's possible that Tunnel and Taftville (experiencing their best seasons yet) may pass an additional fish or two that already passed Greeneville but things are pretty much wrapped up. Besides what is listed, Greeneville also passed 27 Atlantic salmon broodstock adults (hatchery fish stocked for the fishery) and 53 white perch. What happened to the sea lamprey run on the Shetucket River? We still hope to get to viewing the Occum Fishway video, which we have not started yet. With 84 shad through Taftville, it will be interesting.

Most fishways fared OK in the high water. Joe Cassone reports that the eel pass at the Pemberwick Dam on the Byram River in Greenwich got washed away but he is in the process of replacing it. The counting house at the Haakonsen Fishway on the Quinnipiac River in Wallingford got rain water through the top hatch and our computer station took a hit. Counting is over for the year at that location. We pulled the equipment out of the counting house at StanChem before the storm, wondering if the Mattabasset River would pour down the steps but the place stayed dry. Ray Baldwin reports two weirs in the Clarks Pond Fishway got washed out so we'll be replacing them (again) this summer.

Eel Counts: Fishing Brook= 6,610 (mostly glass), Greeneville= 1,464 (474=glass), Occum= 864, lower Millpond= 6,137 (mostly glass), Byram River= 14 (not updated), Mill River= 419.

I don't expect that numbers will change much for next week. We'll try to provide a season wrap up in the next report, providing our impressions of the fish runs along the shoreline for 2013.



*Dave Ellis giving a tour to UConn students at the Bride Lake trap earlier in the season.*



*Sometimes you see more than fish on the video for fishway windows. Can you identify this species in the Hallville Fishway viewing window? Answer next week.*