

CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT

Report Date: June 24, 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	88	0	16	0	1	2,103*	4	0
Leesville (Salmon)	4	-	-	0	-	-	0***	3	0
StanChem (Mattabesset)	FINAL	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)		-	-	-	-	-
WestSpringfield (Westfield- MA)	10/2	4,865	0	0	0	0	705	0	1
Holyoke (Connecticut- MA)	65/0	391,240	0	976	760	158	22,089	0	0
Turners Falls (Connecticut- MA)	0/0	35,124	-	0	0	0	6,972	-	-
Vernon (Connecticut- VT)	0/0	18,165	-	0	0	0	1,019	-	-
Bellows Falls (Connecticut- VT)	0/0	0	-	0	0	0	271	-	0
Wilder (Connecticut- VT)	0/0	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0
Other (all sites)	0/0								
TOTALS=	81/2	396,197	9,597++	3,225++	778	159	24,910	18	2
(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:

A little bump in salmon captures this week. Holyoke has been getting some daily, including over a half dozen over the weekend. There are five sitting up there now (included in this count) that I will be picking up this afternoon. Mickey's truck is out of commission so CTDEEP has been hauling all salmon from all locations to Richard Cronin National Salmon Station. Bruce Williams normally does the trucking but he's unavailable so I'll go up. Steve Leach at the lift reports that they just hit 20 C (68 F) for the first time this season and may reach 22 C (71.6 F) by the end of the day. Rich Murray of Holyoke Gas & Electric reports that the inflatable weir on the crest of the spillway still has a leak (one section) so spill continues. They hope to patch the leak on Thursday which will enable them to re-inflate that one section and stop spill. If there are more fish hanging out below the spillway, this could reduce false attraction and increase the odds of those fish finding the spillway entrance to the fishlift. When this happens each year, we usually get a last slug of fish moving upstream. But at this time, there are not many shad moving. That run, along with everything else is probably just about over. I will be unavailable the next two days so I needed to get this report out today but since I'm leaving soon, I had no time to check in with the West Springfield Fishway (Westfield River, MA) to get an update on their numbers. Similarly, I have not seen an update on upriver fishways (Turners Falls, Vernon, Bellows Falls) so those numbers are not current, either. Rainbow and Leesville numbers are current. I'll try to get the most up-to-date numbers for next week's report, which may be our last of the season.

I snorkeled Leesville yesterday and found very little activity other than eels. The spring species have left but the summer species have not really set up housekeeping yet. Maybe it is due to the relatively cool temperatures (those should be gone by the end of tomorrow!) and relatively high flows. But the elver run at Leesville is impressive this year. We have thousands using the eel pass and I'm sure they'll be passing in large numbers tonight—particularly if we have evening rain. The Rainbow Fishway is pretty quiet. The flows on the Farmington River have been up and down as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the MDC manage the water levels in their upstream reservoirs and accommodate requests by police to lower the river to assist for looking for bodies.

Merrimack River (Essex Fishlift, MA)- 21 salmon, 34,939 shad, 17,359 river herring. NO UPDATES ON MAINE FISHWAYS. ALL THESE NUMBERS ARE FROM LAST WEEK: 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!!!!)

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A special note for today's report. Many of us received a message from **Mike Hendricks** of the Pennsylvania Boat and Fish Commission that he is retiring after 31 years. Mike spent 29 years working with shad on the Susquehanna River and saw that river's run go from single digits to six digits during his career. He was very active with the shad hatchery program and fish passage facilities along the river. He served on the Shad and River Herring Technical Committee for the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and was a valuable resource for all working with American shad. It was always good to see Mike at meetings. We wish him well in retirement (even if only semi-retirement for a while.)



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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)	3,800	713	24	154	6	0	2	9
Taftville* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	84	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)	145	56	0	74	0	0	0	14,900
Kinneytown* (Naugatuck R., Seymour)	14	70	0	68	2	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	FINAL					
Branford Supply Pond Dam** (Queach Br., Branford)		563	FINAL					
Haakonsen Fishway* (Quinnipiac R., Wallingford)	1	4,407	440	46	0	186	2	0
Bunnells Pond (Pegonnock R., Bridgeport)		~20,000+ estimated		FINAL				
Wood Dam** (Saugatuck R., Westport)		31,763	10	FINAL				
Mianus River Pond** (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=6/21 Haakonsen=6/5 Hallville=6/17

******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:

Really not anything to report except the addition of two stripers passing Kinneytown. Most runs are over and we're starting to shut down fishways. No river herring activity other than young-of-year leaving Bride Brook.

Fishway operators- feel free to shut down. If you have any last comments, impressions, photos, send them along next week. (Yeah, I said that last week but I don't have time for it this week.)

Eel Counts: Fishing Brook= 6,610 (mostly glass), Greeneville= 1,464 (474=glass)[not operated due to high water levels], Occum= 878, lower Millpond= 6,137 (mostly glass), Byram River= 14 (not updated), Mill River= 582.



Young-of-year eels being sampled



*Sometimes you see more than fish on the video for fishway windows. Can you identify this species in the Hallville Fishway viewing window? Answer- river otter, *Lontra canadensis*.*