

CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT

Report Date: July 3, 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)	6	91	0	19	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)	11/2	4,897	0	0	0	0	726	0	1
Holyoke (Connecticut- MA)	67/0	392,407	0	976	796	204	22,092	0	0
Turners Falls (Connecticut- MA)	0/0	35,293	-	0	0	0	6,010	-	-
Vernon (Connecticut- VT)	0/0	18,215	-	0	0	0	1,002	-	-
Bellows Falls (Connecticut- VT)	0/0	0	-	0	0	0	215	-	0
Wilder (Connecticut- VT)	0/0	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0
Other (all sites)	0/0								
TOTALS=	88/2	397,399	9,597++	3,228++	814	205	24,934	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:

Most of the activity is over. While a few shad have been lifted at Holyoke and passed at Rainbow, most fish have spawned. In fact, the lower river has a few dead shad floating seaward—post-spawning mortality. There's a similar story for lampreys. One or two are still being sighted but for the most part all fish have spawned and—in their case—all have died. But you won't see dead lamprey floating in the Connecticut River. The carcasses get hung up on rocks and branches in the spawning tributaries and scavengers clean them up quickly. The upriver fishways had been passing only shad and lamprey so they are now starting to close. Holyoke will stay open for a while until we are confident we have collected all of the salmon out there. Holyoke Gas & Electric still has not been able to fix the deflated spillway bag (see below) so there is still a lot of spill. Besides, which the river surged back up to 50,000 cfs and lifting was suspended over the weekend. If it ever stops raining (weren't we just complaining about a drought?), they can get a barge out there and patch the hole. Many of us are predicting one last group of salmon using the spillway lift entrance once all spill ceases and the only flow available is that emanating from the lift. I trucked salmon from Holyoke to Cronin last week and all but one was 'dark', indicating an extended stay in freshwater. The other salmon was not bright but what we term 'intermediate'. However, of the four salmon captured at Rainbow this past week, Bruce reports one of them was 'bright' (fresh from the ocean). The river flows have been so high that it is full of trash. Add to that this week's tornado that crossed the river in Windsor Locks, ripping apart tobacco fields and an inflatable sports dome and you have a mess. The dome pieces ended up on I-91 but there is tobacco netting strewn everywhere—in trees, on houses, on power lines—and I bet some of it ended up in the river. If you go out on the river in during the holiday weekend or to see fireworks, be very careful. The amount and size of the trash in the river is amazing, and dangerous.



Spill at the Holyoke Dam where the bag is deflated.



Steve Leach of Normandeau Associates bagging a salmon from the Holyoke holding tank to move to the transport truck to transport to Richard Cronin National Salmon Station.



Salmon in a small tank at Cronin waiting to be processed and transferred to a larger tank.

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)	4	70	0	68	2	120	2	0
Hallville Pond* ** (Poquetanuck Br. Preston)	-	6	FINAL	0	-	0	0	1
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=6/24 Haakonsen=6/5 Hallville=6/26

******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:

Everything along the shoreline and interior streams has been shut down or is being shut down this week. No further fish passage to report. We saw one solitary alewife this past week below Bunnells Pond Dam—probably a spent fish going back to the sea. We are starting to look at Occum video and hope to have some numbers to report next week.

Eel Counts: Fishing Brook= 6,666 (mostly glass), Greeneville= 1,485 (474=glass)[not operated due to high water levels], Occum= 1,138, lower Millpond= 6,137 (mostly glass), Byram River= 14 (not updated), Mill River= 1,212.

This week saw excellent conditions for elvers to move upstream at barriers. Snorkeling revealed they were staging below the barriers during the day and climbing up and over at night. We saw more elvers in the Salmon River than we've seen in years. Thousands of them working their way over dam and falls to upstream habitat. See photo below.

The effort to have the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook drainage in Connecticut designated as a Wild & Scenic River is picking up steam. Yesterday, members of the Connecticut Congressional Delegation met along the river in Tariffville with folks from the Farmington River Watershed Association, the Wild & Scenic Study Committee, the DEEP, and interested citizens to announce their intention to introduce a bill in the Senate that would allow for such a designation. This press conference was held about 3 miles upstream from the Rainbow Dam Fishway and a short distance upstream of where the FRWA recently removed the Spoonville Dam. All of this area is important diadromous fish habitat. Incidentally, there was 2,300 cfs going down the Tariffville Gorge past the old Spoonville Dam site and it looks *great!* A new channel is forming, as was predicted.



Above: This past week there were a lot of elvers moving upstream at falls and dams. Conditions were excellent on the Salmon River in East Haddam. Here is a photo of eels moving up wet bedrock at night (taken with flash). We have an eel pass about 10 feet to the right that helps them with their journey.

To Right: Members of Congress from Connecticut at a press conference along the Farmington River to announce their intention to introduce a bill to designate 62 miles of the Farmington River (and Salmon Brook) as a National Wild and Scenic River. Left to Right starting with blue dress: Representative Elizabeth Esty, CTDEEP Commissioner Daniel Esty, Senator Richard Blumenthal (at podium), Senator Chris Murphy, State Senator Kevin Witkos, First Selectman Town of Canton, Dick Barlow.

