

CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT

Report Date: May 22, 2018



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/r5crc. 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	STURGEON/ TROUT++	AMER. EEL
Rainbow* (Farmington)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leesville (Salmon)	0	-	-	0	-	-	0**	0	0
StanChem* (Mattabesset)	0	0	321	0	0	-	0	1	0
Moulson Pond* (Eightmile)	0	0	8	1	0	0	0	0	-
Mary Steube* (Mill Brook)	-	-	6,989	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rogers Lake+ (Mill Brook)	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Springfield (Westfield- MA)	0	2,622	0	2	0	0	72	0	0
Holyoke (Connecticut- MA)	0	142,486	0	752	30	2	1,403	2	0
Manhan River* (Manhan- MA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turners Falls* (Connecticut- MA)	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
Vernon* (Connecticut- VT)	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	0
Bellows Falls* (Connecticut- VT)	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	0
Wilder* (Connecticut- VT)	0	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0
Other (all sites)	0								
TOTALS=	0	145,108	7,318	755	30	2	1,475	2	0
(last year's totals)	20	541,637	922	800	230	452	23,955	85	20

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.

*There is a video camera that records passage. 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. ++Shortnose Sturgeon (Holyoke)/Sea-run Trout (other locations) 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:

The USGS gage at Holyoke is approximately 13,500 cfs at 17°C (low 60s). Last week was a decent week for American Shad at Holyoke Fishlift although things are off to a slow start this week (6,000 lifted yesterday). Ken reports low numbers of Bluebacks in the Massachusetts tribs yesterday. Hopefully things will pick-up as the weather stabilizes the rest of this week. Retired Kensington Hatchery Manager Al Sonski reports good shad fishing at Holyoke. He had a 40-fish day up there this past week and heard of friends catching (and releasing) 100 shad.

One last dam removal project from over the winter is now finishing up: the Blackledge Dam on the Blackledge River in Glastonbury (and Hebron). The only remaining dam on the Blackledge is the small dam at Gay City State Park. This was the last significant barrier within the historic range of anadromous fish in the Salmon River watershed (Blackledge and Jeremy rivers). The Town of Glastonbury had to dump large amounts of rock into Connecticut River to protect its new riverfront development and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which issued the permit, required mitigation for impacts to diadromous fish habitat. The Blackledge River Dam, which the Town owned, was blocking and degrading historical diadromous fish habitat so for mitigation the Town removed the dam, reconnecting over 2 miles of habitat. The project was designed by Milone & MacBroom and constructed by Suchocki Construction. The new stream is has log revetments and boulders along the banks, live stake plantings (upper right corner of lower right photo), three rock weirs at the top end, and many fish habitat boulders. The contractor will be off site soon after seeding and some tree planting occurs.



The Blackledge River Dam several summers ago, looking from east to west.



The pond above the dam in November of 2016.



What remains of the dam, east end.



The newly restored stream channel with a small tributary from Blackledge Falls entering from the left in the foreground. By looking at the edge of the woods in the background, you can see where the pond was.

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)	623	1,653	122	66	2	0	1	1
Taftville* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Occum* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tunnel* (Quinebaug R., Preston)	2	99	0	0	0	0	0	167
Kinneytown* (Naugatuck R., Seymour)	0	0	0	0	0	19	0	0
Hallville Pond* (Poquetanuck Br. Preston)	-	60	0	0	-	0	0	0
Jordan Brook ** (Jordan Brook, Waterford)	-	511	0	0	-	0	0	0
Latimers Brook** (Latimers Br., E.Lyme)	-	16,205	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brides Brook** (Brides Brook, E.Lyme)		(395,026)						
Chapmans Pond* (Menunketesuck R., Clinton)		23	0	0	0	0	0	0
Branford Supply Pond Dam** (Queach Br., Branford)	694		0	0	-	-	-	-
Lower Guilford Lake** (East River, Guilford)		904	0	-	-	-	-	-
Haakonsen Fishway* (Quinnipiac R., Wallingford)	0	2,601	0	4	0	88	0	0
Hanover Pond Fishway* (Quinnipiac River, Meriden)		14	0	1	-	2	-	1
Clarks Pond Fishway*** (Indian River, Milford)		4,013						
Bunnells Pond* (Pegonnock R., Bridgeport)	-	15,629	0	0	0	0	0	-
Wood Dam** (Saugatuck R., Westport)		passing fish	0	-	-	-	-	-
Mianus River Pond* ** (Mianus R., Greenwich)		31,058	398	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= 5/18 Taftville= 5/15 Occum= 5/06 Tunnel= 5/15 Kinneytown= 5/06 Haakonsen= 5/16 Hallville= 5/21 Hanover= 5/10
Bunnells= 5/06 Chapmans= 5/14*

******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. *******These are counts made by a volunteer when he is present and represents an index not a census. *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 continued to be sampled across the state as late as last Friday (Dave at Greenville – and Sarah at Mianus), although the run's seem to be over in most eastern-to-mid coastal streams. Greenville had the highest Alewife numbers past the window in at least the last five years and the Blueback numbers, though very small, may also be higher than recent years. John continues to trap and release Alewife in Whitford Brook though the run at Latimer seems to be over. We are still catching-up on video review and our efforts are made more difficult by the number of Alewife being counted at Bunnells Fishway. As stated last week it started the year with good numbers, then went quite. We were starting to think that it may be an off-year until we got to around May 4th when thousands were passing each day. We are now past 15,000 for the season with plenty of files left to review.

Shad passage at Greenville Fishlift this past week slowed down with the rainy weather. We trucked more fish up to the Scotland Dam to support FirstLight's evaluation study. No shad have shown up yet at Taftville Fishway, but Tunnel Fishway did count the first two of the season.

The recent tornadoes and wind storms that swept through Connecticut snapped a lot of trees and many ended up in streams. We've had calls about removing these trees from streams. First of all, removing trees from streams is no one's responsibility-- not the DEEP, the Towns, or anyone else. Secondly, we don't recommend removing trees from streams unless they pose some special risk (e.g. blocking a culvert). Large woody debris is good for streams, both for stream channel formation and fish habitat. Historically, our streams had lots of downed trees in them. We tend to remove them for aesthetic reasons or out of some obsessive need to keep our streams free of objects. When we remove dams or otherwise reconstruct stream channels, we often ADD trees and logs to improve the habitat.

Steve received word from Ed Baum in Maine of the passing of Al Meister, who retired as the Chief Biologist of the Atlantic Sea-run Salmon Commission in 1988. He joined the Commission, which is now part of Maine DMR, in 1955 shortly after its formation. While there are many people still working that worked alongside Al, Steve remembers him as a very prominent figure in the Atlantic Salmon community of New England. Al was 90 years old.

Eel Counts- Fishing Brook = 34,046 glass/152 yellow; Chapmans Pond= 15,789 glass/192 yellow; Mill River Eel Trap= 1,087 glass/161 yellow; Hanover Pond= 4 yellow; Greenville Eel Lift= not operational yet. The number shown on the previous page for Tunnel is for its eel pass, not the lift, and all fish are elvers or yellow.

My weekly Diadromous Fish Radio show is live on iCRV (www.iCRVradio.com) at 8:00 am on Wednesdays. If you can't tune in at 8:00 am, listen to it at any time: www.icrvradio.com/programs/program/50.



A wall of Alewife surge past the window at Bunnells Fishway. These are a few of the over 15,000 that have crowded their way past the Bunnells Fishway viewing gallery and into Bunnells Pond.