

CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT

Report Date: June 5, 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	343	5	0	0	0	228	0	0
Leesville (Salmon)	0	-	-	0	-	-	0**	0	0
StanChem* (Mattabeset)	0	1	325	11	29	-	23	0	0
Moulson Pond* (Eightmile)	0	1	8	2	0	0	0	0	-
Mary Steube+ (Mill Brook)	-	-	(6,989)	FINAL	-	-	-	-	-
Rogers Lake+ (Mill Brook)	-	-	0	FINAL -	-	-	-	-	-
West Springfield (Westfield-MA)	0	4,560	0	4	0	0	94	0	0
Holyoke (Connecticut-MA)	1	251,901	0	1,058	54	118	9,149	5/0	0
Manhan River* (Manhan-MA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turners Falls* (Connecticut-MA)	0	1,971	-	0	0	0	16	-	-
Vernon* (Connecticut-VT)	0	3,749	-	0	0	0	35	-	0
Bellows Falls* (Connecticut-VT)	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	0
Wilder* (Connecticut-VT)	0	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0
Other (all sites)	0								
TOTALS=	1	256,806	7,327	1,075	83	118	9,494	5/0	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 Connecticut River continues to drop and at 4,780 cfs, it is way below normal (~14,000 cfs) for this time of year. The overcast weather has kept the water cool. This past week was rather slow and not many shad were lifted at Holyoke. All other species seem low, too, except for Blueback Herring, which are a bit higher than last year. Bellows Falls Fishway is now open but Lael with VTFW has not reported any anadromous fish through yet. We've seen some pretty good waves of Blueback Herring in the Salmon River at Leesville, especially the middle of last week. Rowan Lytle is seeing lots of Bowfin in the Salmon River and catching a few. As the water warms, I'm seeing a handful of large Brown Trout come up the Leesville Fishway, seeking cooler water. For some reason the large hatchery breeders are very red this year. I've never seen so much red coloration on Brown Trout before. Snorkeling reveals that not much is going on other than the Bluebacks. The sucker run is over, the Tessellated Darter run never really got going, the Smallmouth Bass are now present in typical summer numbers, but there have been no minnows seen this year (e.g. Common Shiners, Spottail Shiners, Fallfish, etc.), very few sunfish yet, and so far I've only seen one Sea Lamprey and only one nest. Perhaps they all went upstream already.

Hopefully the shad run will continue for another couple of weeks. The lift was shut down today for maintenance but Dave is hoping to begin trucking shad out of Holyoke to Connecticut rivers tomorrow, if the work is done and they resume lifting. If not tomorrow, then Thursday when he will take a load down to the Farmington River upstream of Rainbow.

For those of you who visit Leesville from time-to-time, you may be surprised at your next visit. You'll recall that the neighboring piece of property (where the old mill burned down) has been somewhat, shall we say, *junky*. The Town of East Haddam has just taken possession of that land and has already initiated a major clean-up. Dead and fallen trees have been removed, junk hauled away in a dumpster, old building debris buried, and land graded. It is not done yet, but already looking better. The Salmon River at Leesville is very scenic and people love to visit it and watch the fish and birds below the dam. Cleaning up this eyesore will be a positive step. Kudos to Town Planner Jim Ventres and the Public Works staff for their efforts. Next, they hope to eradicate a nasty stand of kudzu (yes, *kudzu!*) that has become established there.

The runs at the Milford Fish Lift on the Penobscot River continues to ramp up with a count of 89 Atlantic Salmon. They have also passed 616 American Shad, 1.9 million river herring, and 435 Sea Lamprey. Only a handful of salmon have shown up at other rivers in Maine, so far.

Speaking of Atlantic Salmon, I will be away next week attending the annual meeting of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO), which is in Portland, Maine. Obviously, there will be a lot of talk about the endangered Maine Atlantic Salmon and we will be touring facilities along the Penobscot so I hope to return with a few photos. As mentioned last week, there is a lot of buzz around the announcement that the Atlantic Salmon Federation and the North Atlantic Salmon Fund "bought out" the commercial fishery in West Greenland for 12 years. We'll learn the details of that agreement at NASCO and learn more about the subsistence fishery, which will still be allowed.



The USFWS Electrofishing crew on the lower Farmington River.



Pool 24 and 25 of the Rainbow Fishway, Farmington River.

OTHER LOCATIONS WITHIN CONNECTICUT

FISHWAY (RIVER)	AMER. SHAD	ALEWIFE	BLUEBACK HERRING	GIZZARD SHAD	STRIPED BASS	SEA LAMPREY	SEA-RUN TROUT	AMER. EEL
Greenville* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	944	1,653	122	87	4	0	1	1
Taftville* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Occum* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Scotland* (Shetucket R. Windham)	5	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tunnel* (Quinebaug R., Preston)	4	119	0	0	0	0	0	848
Kinneytown* (Naugatuck R., Seymour)	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	
Hallville Pond* (Poquetanuck Br. Preston)	-	61	0	0	-	0	0	0
Jordan Brook ** (Jordan Brook, Waterford)	-	(512)	FINAL	0	-	0	0	0
Latimers Brook** (Latimers Br., E.Lyme)	-	(16,210)	FINAL-	-	-	-	-	-
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)		(738)	FINAL	0	-	-	-	-
Lower Guilford Lake** (East River, Guilford)		(942)	FINAL	-	-	-	-	-
Haakonsen Fishway* (Quinnipiac R., Wallingford)	0	3,007	37	8	0	104	0	0
Hanover Pond Fishway* (Quinnipiac River, Meriden)		24	0	2	-	9	-	1
Clarks Pond Fishway*** (Indian River, Milford)		4,041						
Bunnells Pond* (Peqonnock R., Bridgeport)	-	32,260	0	0	0	0	0	-
Mianus River Pond* ** (Mianus R., Greenwich)		32,978	6,093	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:

Greenville= 5/29 Taftville= 5/29 Occum= 6/04 Tunnel= 5/29 Kinneytown= 5/30 Haakonsen= 6/1 Hallville= 6/1 Hanover= 5/29
Bunnells= 5/16 Chapmans= 5/18

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:

Last week we reported that the Alewife run is over and we believe that to be the case but you'll still see a few more numbers added to some counts, notably Bunnells Pond Fishway, a real bright spot this year. We're still about two weeks behind there on video review because of the size of the files. Our software only saves images to disk that has movement detected. So if we pass one fish every minute, those other ~58 seconds are deleted and we don't have to review as much. But the run at Bunnells has been so strong that lots of images are saved and we have to pour through them all. It has been so chaotic with lots of Alewives and cormorants chasing Alewives that they've managed to scare two Sea Lamprey back down the fishway before they even got through. The last of the streams that have exclusively Alewives seem to have seen a bunch of zeros, signaling the end of the runs: West River in New Haven, Whitford Brook in Stonington, Indian River in Milford, etc. The runs have shifted from Alewife to Blueback Herring in several locations and we're sampling fish to determine what is what. On the Quinnipiac, we sample river herring below the Wallace Dam (see photo below).

We've added Scotland Dam to the table above. You'll see that they have passed a few shad and Alewives but Occum has not. Those fish that went through Scotland did not come up the river through the Taftville and Occum fishways but pulled a Rosie Ruiz and leap-frogged past those dams in our transport truck. They were taken out of the Greenville Fishlift and the shad were outfitted with radio tags and released below the Scotland Dam as part of FirstLight Power's required evaluation study of their new lift. They and their consultant Kleinschmidt Associates will be tracking tagged shad both below and above the dam to see how the new upstream and downstream passage facilities work. In addition to the fish that we have trucked to assist FirstLight, Norwich Public Utilities has also trucked 205 shad out of Greenville and released them above Taftville. And yes, Bill, I think there is an E in Greenville. ☺ And extra credit to those of you who got my obscure Rosie Ruiz reference.

Eel Counts- Fishing Brook = 38,787 glass/185 yellow; Chapmans Pond= 25,098 glass/376 yellow; Mill River Eel Trap= 1,895 glass/365 yellow; Hanover Pond= 4 yellow; Greenville Eel Lift= not operational yet. Occum= 32 yellow eels. 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.



Seasonal Jake Perfetto wades out below the Wallace Dam by the Haakonsen Fishway to sample river herring.



A sea-run Brown Trout caught in Long Island Sound off of Avery Point, in Groton. Thanks to angler T.G. for this report and photo.