

CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT
 Report Date: June 12, 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/r5cfc. For more information about Atlantic salmon, visit the Connecticut River Salmon Association at www.ctiversalmon.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	370	5	0	0	0	414	0	0
Leesville (Salmon)	0	-	-	0	-	-	0**	0	0
StanChem* (Mattabesset)	0	2	322	10	26	-	22	0/2	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	5,581	0	5	0	0	135	0	0
Holyoke (Connecticut- MA)	2	262,488	0	1,060	64	219	10,146	9/0	0
Manhan River* (Manhan- MA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0
Turners Falls* (Connecticut- MA)	0	18,844	-	0	0	0	92	-	-
Vernon* (Connecticut- VT)	0	7,766	-	0	0	0	80	-	0
Bellows Falls* (Connecticut- VT)	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	0
Wilder* (Connecticut- VT)	0	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0
Other (all sites)	0								
TOTALS=	2	268,442	7,324	1,077	90	219	10,717	9/2	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 Connecticut River continues to drop and at 3,080 cfs, it is way below normal (~10,000 cfs) for this time of year. Cool nights are keeping the water temperature down which could help prolong the shad run. The shad run had a bit of a better week than last so hopefully things continue to pick up. Dave was not able to transport last week due to lack of fish on his scheduled Thursday run. Valinn continues to report empty water at Moulson Pond Fishway with this year being one of the worst on record (if not the worst). I think that the blueback run was not large to begin with this year there and most of the herring that did choose the Eightmile River seemed to have over-shot the fishway entrance and ended their migration in the plunge pool below the dam. We need to roll a few rocks there later this year to help coax the fish out of the river and into the fishway. We are still see some bluebacks below Leesville Pond Fishway in the Salmon River. Steve reported Sea Lamprey spawning below Leesville before his departure to NASCO.



Sorry.....no new photos, so here's a nice shot of a school of shad..



Another of my favorite photos: Eightmile River bluebacks making a surge up Moulson Pond Fishway..

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)	1,193	1,653	122	88	5	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)	11	10	0	0	0	0	0	18
Tunnel* (Quinebaug R., Preston)	4	119	0	0	0	0	0	1,471
Kinneytown* (Naugatuck R., Seymour)	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	
Hallville Pond* (Poquetanuck Br. Preston)	-	61	FINAL	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)	FINAL					
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:*

Greeneville= 6/6; Taftville= 6/5; Occum= 6/04; Scotland= 6/5; Tunnel= 6/5; Kinneytown= 6/8; Haakonsen= 6/7; Hallville= 6/7; Hanover= 5/29; Bunnells= 5/20; Chapmans= 5/20

***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:

With the Alewife run over we are closing tributary fishways; starting in the east and moving towards the west (Hallville is being closed today). The last fishway of this sort to be closed will be Bunnells Pond....probably early next week. We are still behind Bunnells video review due to the large file sizes generated due to sooooo many fish (as Steve said in last week's report. The last two files reviewed however were much smaller and subsequently we only counted a couple hundred Alewife those days, so I think the run is probably over there by now. The Blueback's are still around, at least in the Salmon River (as late of yesterday); Quinnipiac (last week); and Mianus Pond Fishway in the east to Mianus Pond Fishway (passed 1,192) last week.

The American Shad run at Greeneville Dam Fishlift is a disappointment this year. We did a bit of housecleaning and added the 205 shad that were transported upstream by Norwich Light and Power (NPU) staff or by Diadromous (Dave Ellis) for passage studies at the upstream Scotland Fishlift (see photo below). Greeneville fishway (as with many others in the state) is designed to operate with flashboards installed on the crest of the dam - unfortunately those were swept away during a pre-season high flow event resulting in very poor attraction flows at the fishway entrance. The curious thing is that the river herring seemed to have found the entrance non-the-less, while some shad trickled in, but in numbers below expected. NPU will be able to replace the flash boards over the course of the low-flow summer period.

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; Greeneville Eel Lift= 1 yellow; 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.



A view from Mianus Pond Fishway last week. Being observant of fish-eating species such as these Great egret – their presence almost always indicate a feeding opportunity.



From Robert Stira of Firstlight and Power Resources: "It's from a survival test at the Scotland Fish Lift. The fish (shad) were tagged, released in the lift hopper and put through a lift cycle; the image was taken at the end of the cycle, at the discharge of the exit pipe. The fish were then held in a net pen for 24h for observation."