

CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT
 Report Date: May 7, 2019



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 visit the USFWS website at www.fws.gov/r5cr. 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	38	0	0	0	0	85	0	0
Leesville (Salmon)	0	-	-	0	-	-	0**	0	0
StanChem* (Mattabesset)	0	0	53	0	11	-	6	0	0
Moulson Pond* (Eightmile)	0	0	13	44	0	0	0	0	-
Mary Steube* (Mill Brook)	-	-	11,085	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rogers Lake+ (Mill Brook)	-	-	285	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Springfield (Westfield- MA)	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holyoke (Connecticut- MA)	0	1,479	0	1	0	0	0	0	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	1,524	11,436	45	11	0	91	0	0
(last year's totals)	2	281,328	7,326	1,079	99	268	23,955	91/0	2,083

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.

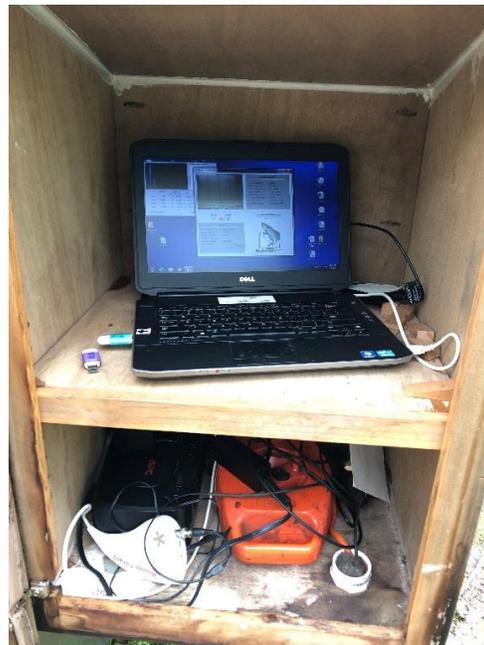
COMMENTS:

The Connecticut River has dropped quickly and is now hovering around 40,000 cfs. The Holyoke Dam Fishlift started operation yesterday and passed no fish but as of this afternoon, they started seeing shad and one blueback herring. They will be lifting from 8 to 5 tomorrow. Bruce reports that the tailrace at Rainbow is full of shad and Blueback Herring but we're over a week behind in reviewing that video so we're sure more fish are passing than we indicate in the table above. Ken Sprankle has been sampling the lower Farmington and the Mattabeset and getting mostly Bluebacks. I received late word yesterday from alert rивerrat Rowan Lytle that the Bluebacks were in strong on the Salmon River and so ran up to snorkel Leesville in the early evening. Visibility was not great but the river was full of Bluebacks, many quite small, but very little of anything else. It appears that the White Sucker run is over, at least there. The river is still very powerful and turbid. The Alewife run in the Connecticut River seems to be just about over. Mary Steube picked up an additional 248 fish last week but none have passed through the Rogers Lake fishway and we think all fish are now just spawning wherever they are. We have yet to see any downrunners. When we build fishways, we try to locate the entrances as close to the dam as possible so the fish can easily find them. In Connecticut, good examples of this include the Mianus Pond, Branford Supply Ponds, Chapmans Pond, StanChem, and Hallville fishways. But that is not always possible and sometimes there is a considerable distance between the entrance of the fishway and the dam (the so-called bypass reach). To address this, particularly with fishways on small streams, we build 'fish guidance dams' or 'diversion berms' to discourage fish from continuing upstream to the dam and guide them over to the fishway entrance. In Connecticut, good examples of this include Moulson Pond, Mary Steube, Jordan Brook, and Upper Millpond fishways. For the April 9 report, we highlighted one berm that we built on the Eightmile River for the Moulson Pond Fishway. The high water, however, has drowned out these walls and made it easier for fish to get past them and overshoot the fishway entrance. See photo left below.

This is the International Year of the Salmon (IYS) and we should be talking more about this. There have been events already in Maine and Massachusetts and we hope to have more locally later this year. For a great short video about IYS featuring Sir David Attenborough, go to YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZ2IRp9NRjo> Today we stocked Atlantic Salmon fry into the Pequabuck River and later this week it will be West Branch Salmon Brook. Speaking of salmon—Maine DMR and Brookfield opened the Milford Dam Fishlift on May 3rd. It is probably a bit early to expect Atlantic Salmon there yet but they should be passing Alewives very soon. One the places that Alewives swim up to from Milford is the Blackman Stream, using the fishway at the Maine Forest and Logging Museum in Bradley, Maine There will be a special Alewife Day celebration there on Saturday, May 18 so anyone planning to be in Maine should swing by and check out this great fishway, fun museum, and very strong Alewife run. I have attached the poster for this with this email. There's another open house a lot closer to us in southern New England this Saturday. The annual Open House for the West Springfield Fishway on the Westfield River will occur from 10 am until 3 pm at 100 Front St., West Springfield, MA. Hopefully some shad will be running. And we have our annual Rainbow Fishway Open House on May 18 from 10 til 3 at 400 Rainbow Road, in the Pequonock section of Windsor. Come by and see Tim Wildman and the gang from the Connecticut River Salmon Association, who promise some IYS information. Hopefully you'll see fish there, too, at our underground viewing window.



This fish diversion berm for the Moulson Pond Fishway is little more than a speed bump for fish in high water.



The SalmonSoft set-up for Moulson Pond. Images from an underwater camera are sent to this laptop and our crew routinely visits to download the files onto a memory stick. Files are transferred to the Cloud where volunteer Vallin reviews them and compiles data.

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)	170	656	0	1	0	0	0	0
Taftville* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Occum* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scotland* (Shetucket R. Windham)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tunnel* (Quinebaug R., Preston)	0	33	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kinneytown* (Naugatuck R., Seymour)	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	
Hallville Pond* (Poquetanuck Br. Preston)	-	15	0	0	-	0	0	0
Jordan Brook ** (Jordan Brook, Waterford)	-	109	0	0	-	0	0	0
Latimers Brook** (Latimers Br., E.Lyme)	-	26,390	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brides Brook** (Brides Brook, E.Lyme)		293,802	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fishing Brook** (Fishing Brook, OSaybrook)		13,906	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chapmans Pond* (Menunketesuck R., Clinton)		5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Branford Supply Pond Dam** (Queach Br., Branford)	335		0	-	-	-	-	-
Lower Guilford Lake** (East River, Guilford)		293	0	-	-	-	-	-
Haakonsen Fishway* (Quinnipiac R., Wallingford)	1	1,667	0	10	1	162	0	0
Hanover Pond Fishway* (Quinnipiac River, Meriden)		2	0	0	-	2	-	0
Clarks Pond Fishway*** (Indian River, Milford)		10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bunnells Pond* (Peqonnock R., Bridgeport)	-	7,047	0	0	0	13	0	-
Mianus River Pond* ** (Mianus R., Greenwich)		6,030	0	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= 5/05 Taftville= 4/16 Occum= na Tunnel= 4/16*

*Scotland= 4/22 Kinneytown= 4/30 Haakonsen= 5/02 Hallville= 4/27 Hanover= 5/04 Bunnells= 5/2 Chapmans= 5/2**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:

Heavy spawning of Alewives has occurred for two weeks in Bride Lake—there are eggs everywhere in the shallow water. Lots of fish have moved up the Beaver Swamp Fishway out of Bride Lake (a little known fishway located entirely inside the state prison) and they're spawning up there, too, as well as continuing up Bride Brook upstream of the lake. So far, no fish have tried to leave the lake and water temperatures are still moderate at 14C (57F). We have pulled the counter and but the trap is still in and we're counting by hand—the same for Latimer Brook, where we added only 64 fish in the past week. A few fish were seen in Poquetanuck Cove on the Thames but the Thames has remained eerily quiet. However, the birds are now starting to show up so maybe the shad and Blueback Herring are coming in. The midcoast area remains quiet with places like Lower Guilford Lake and Branford adding just handfuls to their seasonal counts, although there has been a lot of bird activity downstream at the Capello Pond Fishway. The Quinnipiac is heating up with quite a few fish passing Haakonsen Fishway but curiously, not many passing up the fishway at Hanover Pond. I suspect there is just so much water coming over the entire spillway there that fish have problems locating the fishway entrance. A similar problem at the Kinneytown Dam on the Naugatuck River where there is a considerable bypass reach. Fish are likely overshooting the fishway entrance like we talked about in the other section about Moulson Pond Fishway. Lots of these fishways are passing White Suckers and Hanover Pond is passing quite a few trout. The number of Sea Lamprey at Bunnells is already a record for that fishway. We transplanted a few lampreys in that stream a couple of years ago and it seems to have taken hold. Sarah reports a good open house last weekend at Mianus Pond Fishway in Greenwich but no Alewives showed up. However, they had a good run of glass eels. The next day, 300 Alewives passed. See article in local paper: <https://www.greenwichtime.com/local/greenwichtime/article/Fish-climb-the-ladder-on-the-Mianus-in-Greenwich-13820927.php#photo-17348948> which has some great photos including kids netting glass eels (but not keeping them).

Eel Counts- Fishing Brook = 40,588 glass/141 yellow; Chapmans Pond= 1,018 glass/22 yellow; Mill River Eel Trap= 3,018 glass/18 yellow; Hanover Pond= 0 yellow; Greenville Eel Lift= 0 glass/0 yellow. Occum= 0 yellow eels; Kinneytown= 0 yellow, Lower Millpond= 18 glass/0 yellow. Hanover had electrical problems with their eel pass, which they hope they have resolved. The water is too high to effectively operate Greenville and Kinneytown. The eel count at Fishing Brook is the second highest in the time series.

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.



As the run at Brides Brook winds down, we'll share some favorite photos of Alewives entering the fish counter. Look closely at this photo on the left to see the fish shooting up the plunging water.



This Alewife was so eager to get upstream it leaped out of the water like a salmon! Another one can be seen in the rushing water below.