

# CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT

Report Date: April 21, 2020



This is a report generated by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection/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/r5crc](http://www.fws.gov/r5crc). For more information about Atlantic salmon, visit the Connecticut River Salmon Association at [www.ctriversalmon.org](http://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	54	0	0	-	3	0	1
Moulson Pond* (Eightmile)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Mary Steube* (Mill Brook)	-	-	21,928	-	-	-	-	-	- -
Rogers Lake+ (Mill Brook)			1,437						
West Springfield (Westfield- MA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holyoke (Connecticut- MA)	0	0	0	0	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								
<b>TOTALS=</b>	0	0	21,982	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>(last year's totals)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>318,707</b>	<b>11,308</b>	<b>5,113</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>20,479</b>	<b>20/0</b>	<b>0</b>

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. The same for Rogers Lake—they first pass through Mary Steube and therefore won't be counted as part of the total.

## COMMENTS:

The Connecticut River came up but is now back down to 24,000 cfs, which is below seasonal levels but the water temperatures is still below 8 C (46 F). Last week, I reported anglers catching shad in the lower Farmington River but I've since learned that the netters in the lower river have been catching them since the first week of April. I've already had my first shad dinner! Holyoke has resumed lifting but has not yet lifted any shad, which is not surprising since the water is only 7C (45F) there. Rainbow is opened and we've seen six Atlantic Salmon smolts go down but only White Suckers and Brown Trout going up. We're having issues with the bypass right now but hopefully the Farmington River Power Company will have that sorted out soon. Flows remain high on the Farmington River and the MDC reports that the reservoir behind the Colebrook Flood Control Dam is beginning to enter the "flood zone", which means they'll want to dump a lot of water when they can. StanChem registered the first lamprey of the season, although we saw some on the Quinnipiac, as well (see next section). The West Springfield Fishway is scheduled to open May 5, due to lack of personnel. The week was cold, and runs did not pick up much steam. The cold weather, now becoming typical for Aprils, continues and Kevin reported getting hailed on three times today while in the field checking fishways. Despite the cold, we continued to pass Alewife on Mill Brook in Old Lyme. Alewives were again seen in Hamburg Cove but none reported passing up Moulson Pond Fishway.

The CTDEEP Fisheries Division has developed an Instagram page at <https://www.instagram.com/ctfishandwildlife>... Check it out.

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**UPPER COLLINSVILLE DAM FISHWAY-** This week's featured fishway is still under construction. It is part of a big project to revive hydroelectrical generation at the Upper Collinsville Dam on the Farmington River in the Collinsville section of Canton. . As part of this project, which is licensed to the Canton Hydroelectric Company by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the licensee is required to install upstream and downstream fish passage as well as separate facilities for upstream and downstream passage of American Eels. The Denil fishway, which is likely to be completed by July, will have its entrance at the end of the existing tailrace on the river side, will cross over the upper tailrace, pass below grade on the road side of the powerhouse, pass under the Rt. 179 bridge, and exit through the dam upstream of the bridge. There will be an underground window at the top end to allow the videographic documentation of fish moving through. There will always be some water passing over the spillways and flowing down the 'bypass reach' between the dam and the tailrace. To discourage fish from 'overshooting' the fishway entrance, a concrete weir will be built across the river channel to block passage and to guide fish toward the fishway entrance. Fish moving downstream from above will be guided toward a gate in the power canal by an angled rack. Fish (including eels) will drop a few feet into a deepened plunge pool in the bypass reach and then pass downstream over the concrete weir. A separate upstream eel pass will be constructed in the far corner of the dam. The fishway, located between two Trout Management Areas, will provide immediate passage to trout and other residents species and eventually American Shad, River Herring, Sea Lamprey and an occasional Atlantic Salmon.



*The Collinsville powerhouse will be re-used. A cofferdam was set at the end of the tailrace, which was de-watered so they could dig out accumulated sediment. The lower portion of the future fishway will emerge from the dark hole to the left and cross below the powerhouse and the entrance will be off photo to the right.*



*The footing/floor of the upper fishway is poured and this shows the walls being formed. Those walls have been poured by now. The upper fishway will pass under the Rt. 179 bridge.*

## OTHER LOCATIONS WITHIN CONNECTICUT

<b>FISHWAY (RIVER)</b>	<b>AMER. SHAD</b>	<b>ALEWIFE</b>	<b>BLUEBACK HERRING</b>	<b>GIZZARD SHAD</b>	<b>STRIPED BASS</b>	<b>SEA LAMPREY</b>	<b>SEA-RUN TROUT</b>	<b>AMER. EEL</b>
<b>Greeneville*</b> (Shetucket R., Norwich)	42	35	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Taftville*</b> (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Scotland*</b> (Shetucket R. Windham)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Tunnel*</b> (Quinebaug R., Preston)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Kinneytown*</b> (Naugatuck R., Seymour)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Hallville Pond*</b> (Poquetanuck Br. Preston)	-	6	0	0	-	0	0	0
<b>Jordan Brook **</b> (Jordan Brook, Waterford)	-	104	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Latimers Brook**</b> (Latimers Br., E.Lyme)	-	14,480	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Gortons Pond*</b> (Pattaganset R., E.Lyme)		71		(no additional data expected; had to take counter to Brides)				
<b>Brides Brook**</b> (Brides Brook, E.Lyme)		338,034						
<b>Fishing Brook**</b> (Fishing Brook, OSaybrook)		9,470						
<b>Chapmans Pond*</b> (Menunketesuck R., Clinton)		180	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Branford Supply Pond Dam**</b> (Queach Br., Branford)	65		-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Lower Guilford Lake**</b> (East River, Guilford)		140	0	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Haakonsen Fishway*</b> (Quinnipiac R., Wallingford)	0	200	0	4	0	9	0	0
<b>Hanover Pond Fishway*</b> (Quinnipiac River, Meriden)		0	0	0	-	0	-	0
<b>Bunnells Pond*</b> (Pegonnock R., Bridgeport)	-	~1,000	Open and operating but no videography this season due to COVID-19					
<b>Mianus River Pond* **</b> (Mianus R., Greenwich)		1,833	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:

Greeneville= 4/20 Taftville= na Occum= na Tunnel= na Kinneytown= 4/20 Haakonsen= 4/20 Hallville= 4/16 Hanover= 4/20

Bunnells= na Chapmans= 4/20\*\* 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.

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:

Brrrrrrrrrr. These cold nights and cool days are keeping water temperatures low and the run counts only inched up during the past week. Bright spots continue to be Latimers, Fishing Brook, and Brides, where if we get some warm-up and one more big push, we could reach 400,000! All other counts only added a handful of fish. Kevin Job reports seeing hordes of Alewives below the Greeneville dam during his last three visits—numbers that he hasn't seen in nearly 20 years. But few have been lifted to date. Dennis Bennett is keeping a close eye on those lower Quinnipiac tributaries and is seeing ospreys and other birds but no Alewives. Although the numbers have ticked up a bit at the Haakonsen Fishway, no anadromous fish have passed up the Hanover Pond Fishway yet. Kevin saw ospreys catching Alewives in Poquetanuck Cove. Ray Baldwin has been seeing the osprey fishing in Gulf Pond, downstream of the Clarks Pond Fishway on the Indian River in Milford, where he not logged any Alewives yet but in his spare time he's erected four more tree swallow nests. Hey, they're migratory! Rick Newton of Avalonia sent in a photo of an osprey with a fish from the Wequetequock area but since the upper half was half eaten, it was hard to identify definitively. Looked to me like a menhaden. We had no problem identifying the fish from a photo an angler sent in from Northford on the Farm River: an Alewife that we trucked in and released above Pages Millpond. That fish apparently ran up about four miles in its new river. You'll see that while we don't have official counts for the Bunnells Pond Fishway, for the second week in a row, Gregg from Beardsley Zoo has estimated around 500 fish below the fishway. Last week we reported strong runs in Rhode Island. This week, the run on Martha's Vineyard is making the news for being early and large: <https://www.mvtimes.com/2020/04/16/aquinnah-herring-return-early-year/>. We would like to join the crowd in declaring this year to be a strong run on the road to recovery but we can't do that until we see runs west of the Connecticut River take off. For that, we need some warm weather.

**Eel Counts-** Fishing Brook = 6,413 glass/44 yellow; Chapmans Pond= 2,322 glass/27 yellow; Mill River Eel Trap= 0 glass/0 yellow; Hanover Pond= 0 yellow; Greeneville Eel Lift= 0 glass/0 yellow. Occum= 0 yellow eels; Kinneytown= 0 yellow.

My weekly Diadromous Fish Radio show is back live on iCRV ([www.icrvradio.com](http://www.icrvradio.com)) at 8:00 am on Wednesdays. Due to the COVID situation, I call in rather than sit in the studio. If you can't tune in at 8:00 am, listen to it at any time: [www.icrvradio.com/programs/program/50](http://www.icrvradio.com/programs/program/50). They archive the shows.



*We had reports that the sandbar off the mouth of Bride Brook at Rocky Neck State Park might be blocking fish passage. But this photo taken at low tide shows that the high water from the brook has carved a nice channel through the beach and fish are able to enter. With the count at over 300,000, we're not too worried about fish entering the brook.*



*This is the long view of the trap at the head of Bride Brook, in Bride Lake. The weir forces fish through a notch and they enter the trap, first passing through an electronic fish counter. The long length allows the trap to retain tens of thousands of fish overnight without mortality. We remove some from the trap to be trucked to other deserving watersheds and then release the rest to enter the lake and spawn.*