

**CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT**  
 Report Date: May 19, 2010



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](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	SEA-RUN TROUT	AMER. EEL
<b>Rainbow</b> (Farmington)	2	96	8	7	0	0	1,604**	2	0
<b>Leesville</b> (Salmon)	0	-	-	0	-	-	0***	2	0
<b>Moulson Pond</b> (Eightmile)	0	-	10,000s	10,000s	0	0	0***	0	-
<b>Mary Steube+</b> (Mill Brook)	-	-	1,070	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>WestSpringfield</b> (Westfield- MA)	0	1,352	0	0	0	0	351	0	0
<b>Holyoke</b> (Connecticut- MA)	22/7	86,103	0	38	206	8	7,460	0	0
<b>Turners Falls</b> (Connecticut- MA)	0/0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
<b>Vernon</b> (Connecticut- VT)	0/0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
<b>Bellows Falls</b> (Connecticut- VT)	0/0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	0
<b>Wilder</b> (Connecticut- VT)	0/0	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0
<b>Other</b> (all sites)	0/0								
<b>TOTALS=</b>	<b>24/7</b>	<b>87,551</b>	<b>10000s</b>	<b>45++</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9,415</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
(last year's totals)	74/10	161,095	-----	39++	67	649	21,403	5	5,602

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.

\* The number before the slash indicates the total number of salmon seen at the fishway that were not counted at downstream fishways. The number after the slash is the number of those fish that were allowed to continue upstream of the dam. The others were captured for breeding.

\*\*Many of these species move at night. There is a video camera that records overnight passage when staff is not present. So this count is a combination of real-time counts and video counts. 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. ++This total does not include the imprecise estimates at Moulson Pond Fishway.

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:

Much of the past week has been 'slow' due to the cold nights and dropping water temperatures. However, the warm weekend warmed things up and got things going again at least for one day. Yesterday's much-needed rain and today's overcast weather may continue that slow down a bit but when Thursday's predicted 80 degree weather hits on top of the increased flows from the rain, I expect big pulses of fish moving upstream. The salmon captures are starting to ramp up, mostly at Holyoke. They captured #22 about an hour ago and have already tagged and released 7 salmon to resume their upstream migration. I helped handle salmon R-02-10 at Rainbow yesterday—a large powerful male (?) from a hatchery smolt. It had two teeth marks in its belly but seasonal Peter Dimoulas will attest to the fact that they were there before I touched it, so it wasn't me. I think it was a seal. The Merrimack River reports 14 salmon back so far to the Essex Dam Fishlift. In Maine, 124 salmon have been trapped at Veazie and one passed at Cherryfield on the Narraguagus River. Of course, it is still very early for Maine.

The salmon smolt run at Rainbow was pretty small Thursday night and we were thinking the run was about over. But it came roaring back on Monday night with lots of smolts moving (all but one were fry-stocked) so it's not over yet. We'll be back sampling the bypass on Thursday night. In regard to fry stocking, I was mistaken in last week's report—we don't expect to finish our fry stocking until the middle of next week.

Shad and blueback herring runs slowed down last week due to the cooler temperatures but shad continue to come in at Holyoke, West Springfield, and Rainbow. They're probably passing at Turners Falls by now but we have not received any reports from FirstLight Power. Jay reports no anadromous fish at Vernon fishway yet. We have begun shad trucking for the season. Yesterday, Dave Ellis picked up a load from Holyoke for the Quinnipiac River and today he will be doing a double load—one for New Hampshire and one for the Naugatuck River. There was a good wave of spawning blueback herring in the tributaries (e.g. Salmon River) on Sunday and Monday. On Monday, we joined forces with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the intrepid Ken Sprankle to net bluebacks out of Wethersfield Cove and transplanted them into the Farmington River in Farmington. I thought Ken was going to net up a couple of anglers during one sweep. I haven't seen the final numbers but with two trips for three trucks, we may have moved 4,000 fish. I hope to have video to share next week. The alewife run is probably over.

Sea lampreys are also moving and I expect those numbers to pick up during the next week. The Rainbow Fishway numbers for lamprey are probably larger than this time for most years because at this point, most of the fish are moving up the fishway at night and we don't get around to reading the video until later in the season. But this year, we are up to date on video so the total includes both daytime and nighttime counts. It is difficult to count lampreys in the window when their numbers are high so as the run accelerates, we will get behind on the video watching. We also count down-running smolts at night—this past week we counted 266. Most use the bypass instead of the fishway.



*A fat, ~20" long sea-run brown trout hanging out at the viewing window at the Rainbow Fishway.*

## OTHER LOCATIONS WITHIN CONNECTICUT

FISHWAY (RIVER)	AMER. SHAD	ALEWIFE	BLUEBACK HERRING	GIZZARD SHAD	STRIPED BASS	SEA LAMPREY	SEA-RUN TROUT	AMER. EEL
<b>Greeneville*</b> (Shetucket R., Norwich)	1,589	1,569	0	239	1	0	0	2
<b>Taftville*</b> (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Occum*</b> (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Versailles Pond</b> (Little R., Sprague)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Tunnel*</b> (Quinebaug R., Preston)	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	18
<b>Kinneytown*</b> (Naugatuck R., Seymour)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Whitfords Brook</b> (Whitfords Br., Groton)	0	no report						
<b>Trading Cove Brook</b> (Trading Cove Br., Montville)		fishway destroyed in flood						
<b>Latimers Brook+</b> (Latimers Br., E.Lyme)		2,558						
<b>Gorton Pond</b> (Pattagansett R., E.Lyme)		present (not enumerated)						
<b>Brides Brook**</b> (Brides Brook, E.Lyme)		164,167						
<b>Fishing Brook</b> (Fishing Br., O.Saybrook)		present (not enumerated)						12,178
<b>Capello Pond**</b> (East River, Guilford)		10,396						
<b>Branford Supply Pond Dam**</b> (Queach Br., Branford)		50,668						
<b>Bunnells Pond</b> (Peqonnock R., Bridgeport)		1000s						
<b>Wood Dam**</b> (Saugatuck R., Westport)		1,350 (missed much of run due to counter malfunction)						
<b>Mianus River Pond**</b> (Mianus R., Greenwich)		77,340	1,532	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= 5/13. Taftville= 5/16 (?). Occum= n.a. Tunnel= 5/13. Kinneytown= 4/26.

\*\*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.

+This location has a fish trap and fish are enumerated prior to release.

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.

