

CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT

Report Date: June 15, 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. 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	SEA-RUN TROUT	AMER. EEL
Rainbow (Farmington)	4	560	8	15	0	0	3,100**	3	16
Leesville (Salmon)	0	-	-	0	-	-	0***	2	0
Moulson Pond (Eightmile)	0	-	10,000s	10,000s	0	0	0***	0	-
Mary Steube ⁺ (Mill Brook)	-	-	1,259	(closed June 9)	-	-	-	-	-
WestSpringfield (Westfield- MA)	3	3,306	0	1	0	0	485	0	291
Holyoke (Connecticut- MA)	36/10	161,325	0	76	346	278	39,782	0	0
Turners Falls (Connecticut- MA)	0/6	9,218	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
Vernon (Connecticut- VT)	0/8	267	-	0	0	0	3,179	-	-
Bellows Falls (Connecticut- VT)	0/4	0	-	0	0	0	390	-	0
Wilder (Connecticut- VT)	0/2	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0
Other (all sites)	0/0								
TOTALS=	43/10	165,191	10000s	92++	346	278	43,367	5	307
(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:

The river had really gone into the doldrums, with flows well below seasonal average and high water temperatures. Recent rains have freshened things up. The Connecticut River has been bouncing around between 15,000 and 20,000 cfs and the temperature at Holyoke was 66 F (19 C). Both the Farmington River (1,200 cfs) and the Salmon River (350 cfs) shot up after the thunderstorms moved through and both fishways have been opening the mornings at about 64 F (18 C). Given the way the season is going, I figure this next week is our best shot for more fish, as the flows drop and clear up and the temperatures move up in response to hot days. We got a bright salmon yesterday at Rainbow and hopefully another one or two may show up before the weekend, when the weather is predicted to be in the 90s. At that point, the water temperatures may again surpass 77 F (25) and put us out of the salmon business. You'll notice a couple more salmon moved through the Bellows Falls Fishway. Many of these 'upstream salmon' may have entered their natal tributary by now. During the summer, Jay McMenemy of the VTFW and others will tromp around the watershed with radio receivers to determine more exact location of these released salmon.

Over the weekend, Holyoke lifted over 2,600 shad, but many may have already spawned. Rainbow didn't see any shad and staff report seeing down-running shad and blueback herring. Since few blueback herring came UP the Rainbow Fishway this year, many of the down-runners could be part of the 4,000+ fish we and the USFWS trucked above the dam and released. We are not seeing any more schools of bluebacks and feel that run is also over.

The sea lamprey run also appears over. No more fish have been seen at Rainbow or nesting below Leesville. Linda with the Lyme Land Conservation Trust reported seeing a couple below the first dam on the Eightmile River. Due to the early cessation of nesting, we have scheduled our annual lamprey nest survey early this year, June 24.



The Wilder Dam Powerhouse and fishway in Wilder, VT, 217 miles upstream of Long Island Sound. This is the most upstream dam on the Connecticut River that has a fishway for upstream passage of migratory fish. Two adult salmon tagged and released at Holyoke Dam have passed through this fishway this year. The spillway is on the other side of the powerhouse. The whitewater spill seen in the photo is provided for downstream passage of salmon smolts. The upper series of pools of the fishway is seen descending in front of the powerhouse. Below the superstructure is the countinghouse and window (can't be seen in this photo). The turn pool with a public viewing window is barely seen below the landing of the staircase. Then the fishway turns 180 degrees and descends down to the water level in front of the powerhouse, where there is an entrance gallery. The public viewing window is rarely opened to the public these days.

OTHER LOCATIONS WITHIN CONNECTICUT

FISHWAY (RIVER)	AMER. <u>SHAD</u>	<u>ALEWIFE</u>	<u>BLUEBACK HERRING</u>	<u>GIZZARD SHAD</u>	<u>STRIPED BASS</u>	<u>SEA LAMPREY</u>	<u>SEA-RUN TROUT</u>	AMER. <u>EEL</u>
Greeneville* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	2,453	156	0	850	1	0	0	8
Taftville* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	7	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Occum* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Versailles Pond (Little R., Sprague)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tunnel* (Quinebaug R., Preston)	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	83
Kinneytown* (Naugatuck R., Seymour)	0	0	0	38	0	3	30	455
Mill River Eel Pass (Mill River, Hamden)								1,084
Trading Cove Brook (Trading Cove Br., Montville)			fishway destroyed in flood					
Latimers Brook+ (Latimers Br., E.Lyme)		2,558	(season over)					
Gorton Pond (Pattagansett R., E.Lyme)		present	(season over)					
Brides Brook** (Brides Brook, E.Lyme)		164,167	(season over)					
Fishing Brook (Fishing Br., O.Saybrook)		present	(season over)					18,287
Capello Pond** (East River, Guilford)		10,976	(season over)					
Branford Supply Pond Dam** (Queach Br., Branford)		50,668	(season over)					
Bunnells Pond (Pegonnock R., Bridgeport)		1000s	(season over)					
Wood Dam** (Saugatuck R., Westport)		2,247	(missed much of run due to counter malfunction)					
Mianus River Pond** (Mianus R., Greenwich)		93,007	6,328	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= 6/10. Taftville= 5/28 (?). Occum= 5/24 Tunnel= 5/13?. Kinneytown= 6/6.

***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.

COMMENTS:

This report is really identical to last week's report: "bluebacks continue to trickle in here and there (e.g. Mianus Pond in Greenwich and Wood Dam at the Saugatuck River) but that seems to be winding down". We didn't get reports of juvenile river herring at the Mianus Pond fishway this week but our staff found many juvenile river herring at the Bunnells Pond Fishway in Bridgeport. We continue to close many of the smaller coastal fishways.

FirstLight is still a bit behind in their tape reviews for Tunnel and Taftville fishways. A new camera set up at Taftville is still struggling with excessive bubbles in the field of vision, which makes fish viewing difficult. However, not a lot of fish activity has been noted.

There may not be much to report here for the last two weeks of the season. We encourage partners to send in any end-of-season wrap-ups or observations that they wish to share and if anyone has any good photos to share, send them along, too.



A male common shiner (*Luxilus cornutus*) in breeding colors over a clean bed of gravel. While this minnow species is not diadromous, it schools in areas where diadromous fish congregate and spawns over sea lamprey nests. The males, which can get up to 5 inches long, develop red fins and almost iridescent green lateral bands, are quite attractive. It is common throughout Connecticut and much of New England. (photo by Sara Strassman)