

CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT
 Report Date: June 7, 2016



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)	0	150	0	0	0	0	485	2	0
Leesville (Salmon)	0	-	-	0	-	-	0***	0	0
StanChem* (Mattabeset)	0	36	303	0	87	-	12	3	0
Moulson Pond* (Eightmile)	0	10	83	3,418	0	0	32	0	-
Mary Steube* (Mill Brook)	-	-	406 - FINAL	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rogers Lake+ (Mill Brook)	-	-	0 - FINAL-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Springfield (Westfield- MA)	2	5,639	0	0	0	0	416	0	1
Holyoke (Connecticut- MA)	2	367,096	0	131	478	97	35,107	SNS=20	17,466
Manhan River* (Manhan- MA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	57	0	0
Turners Falls* (Connecticut- MA)	0	7,056	-	0	0	0	150	-	-
Vernon* (Connecticut- VT)	0	13,634	-	0	0	0	578	-	1
Bellows Falls* (Connecticut- VT)	0	0	-	0	0	0	6	-	0
Wilder* (Connecticut- VT)	0	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0
Other (all sites)	0								
TOTALS=	4	372,931	792	3,549	565	97	36,052	5	17,468
(last year's totals)	22	416,355	237	11,822	93	21	24,573	9	20,305

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.

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:

Holyoke is still passing shad, but the daily count continues to fall as the shad run at that facility slowly comes to an end. The river temp is about where you'd expect it to be for this time of year, but the upper river is in need of some rain. Down here, rain has been at times spotty, but most of the tributaries are doing ok. After last week's reports of tremendous numbers of sea lamprey, we were hoping to see our lamprey runs pick-up here in CT; we certainly got more fish, but our cumulative counts are still disappointing. Certainly the runs south of Holyoke are all but over, so the focus is on the fish headed north and will be the main focus of discussion in the coming weeks of this section of this report.

The monitoring equipment has been re-installed at Moulson Pond Fishway. I don't expect the numbers to change much, but we could still pick-up a few stragglers.

The Irish elver ramps at Holyoke experienced a similar wave of eel the Steve reported seeing at Leesville two weeks ago. These events are probably only related by the similar environmental conditions that prompted the eels to move - stream flow and water temperature. Most of these elvers have been making their way upriver for at least a full year; likely pausing their migration last fall as the winter set in and are just now continuing on to points further north. Last Friday and Saturday were big eel days at Holyoke with the elver ramps passing 4,000 and 5,000 each day, respectively. The eels are no longer amassed at Leesville. Let's see how long the big numbers persist at Holyoke.

We got our first reports from Vernon (open on 5/13) and Bellows Falls (open on 5/25). At Vernon, the number of American Shad is climbing quite quickly, with multiple 1,000+ fish days (4,000+ on 5/27 alone). The number of lamprey will certainly climb as those tens of thousands of fish passed Holyoke last week continue upriver.

No report from Turners this week.

Ken Sprankle of the USFWS has finished his river herring population electrofishing assessment work for this season in the watershed, concluding that relative abundance was poor/low for blueback herring. While we don't have many fishways on mainstem tributaries (Eightmile, Mattabesset and Farmington rivers) in the lower river, our blueback counts at these sites agree with this assessment.



Last week USFWS helped move shad to the Raonbow headpond. Their new truck releasing fish is show here. Thanks for the photo and the fish Ken!!!

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)	2,578	1,456	113	113	5	0	0	7
Taftville* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	33	0	2	0	0	0	0
Occum* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tunnel* (Quinebaug R., Preston)	5	39	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kinneytown* (Naugatuck R., Seymour) (out of order)	0	5	0	11	0	44	0	0
Hallville Pond* (Poquetanuck Br. Preston)	-	15	0	1	Lots of trout		5	0
Trading Cove Brook** (Trading Cove Brook, Montville)				open/not counting				0
Jordan Brook ** (Jordan Brook, Waterford)	-	109	FINAL	0	-	0	0	0
Latimers Brook** (Latimers Br., E.Lyme)	-	4,226	FINAL	-	-	-	-	-
Brides Brook** (Brides Brook, E.Lyme)		148,596	FINAL					
Branford Supply Pond Dam** (Queach Br., Branford)		1,514		FINAL-	-	-	-	
Lower Guilford Lake** (East River, Guilford)		4,820	?	-	-	0	0	-
Haakonsen Fishway* (Quinnipiac R., Wallingford)	0	1,240	102	44	0	119	2	2
Hanover Pond Fishway* (Quinnipiac River, Meriden)		5	0	0	-	3	-	0
Bunnells Pond* (Peqonnock R., Bridgeport)	-	4,097	0	16	0	0	1	
Wood Dam** (Saugatuck R., Westport)		1,666	2,951	0	-	-	-	-
Mianus River Pond* ** (Mianus R., Greenwich)		11,940	3,413	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= 6/5 Taftville= 5/14 Occum= n.a. Tunnel= 5/29 Kinneytown= 6/2 Haakonsen= 6/5 Hallville= 6/5

***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:

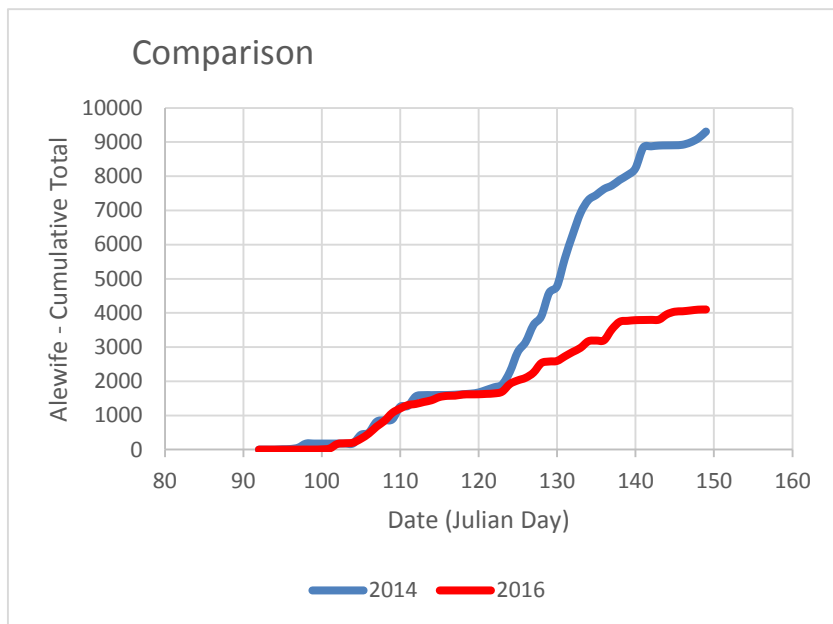
Nothing earth-shattering to report along the coast. The increase in shad at Greenville this week can be attributed to a whole lot of review time by our staff (thanks Kirk, Pat, and Nate!!!) to tackle the back-log. We had been relying on Norwich Public Utilities (NPU) for fishway imaging to make counts (they have been really supportive of our efforts over the years) but the type of files they generate are great for their purposes...but not the best for ours. We recently made the switch to SalmonSoft (we use this software at most of our other locations) at Greenville so we shouldn't fall that far behind there again. Other than a few more counts at Guilford Lakes and Mianus Pond fishways this past week has been quiet. Bunnells Pond Fishway passed about 800 alewife since the last report which seems encouraging before you look at the figure below.

Glass eels- Fishing Brook = 6,463 glass eels/214 elvers; Mill River Eel Trap= 72 glass eels/269 elvers; Greenville Eel Lift= 10 glass eels/403 elvers, Lower Millpond (Old Lyme)= 177 glass.

Bunnells Pond Fishway in Bridgeport, streaming video : <http://www.ctenvironment.org/#!fish-cam/cleil>

Hallville Fishway in Preston, streaming video: <http://conservect.org/eastern/CurrentProjects/tabid/528/Default.aspx>

My weekly Diadromous Fish Radio show is live on iCRV (www.iCRVradio.com) at 8:00 am on Wednesday and re-played at 3:00 and 7:00 pm that day 8 am on Saturday. In addition to updates on fish runs, this week we'll be talking about American Eel.



Comparing cumulative Alewife counts passed at the Bunnells Pond Fishway this year with what was passed up to this date in 2014. Early-on it was fairly remarkable how closely this year was tracking with 2014 (which was a 'good' year for alewife in CT). The first wave of fish was nearly identical in timing and magnitude. The second wave just never seemed to materialize this year.



A snapping turtle has to eat to you know! We never know what is going to pass a fishway viewing window. This strange sight (dubbed a 'birtle' by Kirk) is a large snapping turtle with breakfast (unknown species of wading bird) entering Hallville Pond.