

CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT
 Report Date: June 14, 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	152	0	0	0	0	490	2	0
Leesville (Salmon)	0	-	-	0	-	-	0***	1	0
StanChem* (Mattabeset)	0	36	303	0	87	-	13	3	0
Moulson Pond* (Eightmile)	0	10	83	3,421	0	0	40	0	-
Mary Steube* (Mill Brook)	-	-	406 - FINAL	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rogers Lake+ (Mill Brook)	-	-	0 - FINAL-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Springfield (Westfield- MA)	2	5,773	0	0	0	0	438	0	1
Holyoke (Connecticut- MA)	3	378,861	0	137	589	410	35,224	SNS=30	17,696
Manhan River* (Manhan- MA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	57	0	0
Turners Falls* (Connecticut- MA)	0	10,641	-	0	0	0	378	-	-
Vernon* (Connecticut- VT)	0	25,104	-	0	0	0	3,384	-	1
Bellows Falls* (Connecticut- VT)	0	0	-	0	0	0	6	-	0
Wilder* (Connecticut- VT)	0	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0
Other (all sites)	0								
TOTALS=	5	384,832	792	3,558	676	410	36,205	5	17,696
(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:

As you can see, Holyoke continues to pass 1,000 or so American Shad daily. Even though we are at the tail of the run, the fish that are passing appear gravid, so we plan to transplant more fish this week. Tomorrow we will make the trip to the Mattabesset River and with Ken's help hope to release fish from two trucks. The Sea Lamprey run has dropped-off as well. We are planning to send our seasonal staff out to conduct lamprey nest survey of the Salmon River Watershed while all the full-time staff are at the International Fish Passage Conference being held next week at UMASS Amherst (there will be no Diadromous Fish Report issued). In preparation of this, staff have been looking for lamprey activity below the Leesville Dam. We don't want to conduct the survey too early - we could miss counting yet-to-be constructed nest; or too late - high river flows may destroy nests or algae may obscure nests. We did see a lamprey on a nest today....but all other data suggest that next week should provide accurate data.

American Shad and Sea Lamprey numbers from fishways above Holyoke continue climb as video data is reviewed. You can see that the fishway above Turners (Vernon) seems to have passed more shad than Turners (which is impossible, of course). Please note that video for those upstream fishways have been reviewed up to this date: Turners (5/22); Vernon (6/1); Bellows Falls (5/26). I have not received confirmation that Wilder has opened as so I have left that in the Grey font indicating that it has not opened. The cool temperatures should help shad reach further up the watershed, so I expect the numbers up north to reflect this in the coming weeks.

Shortnose Sturgeon continue to be lifted and trapped at Holyoke; four were trapped from one lift last Tuesday. All Shortnose Sturgeon that are trapped are carefully netted, checked for tags, tagged (if not tagged previously), and released downstream (see photo below of the largest of the four).



The largest of the four Shortnose Sturgeon trapped from one lift at Holyoke. Workers inspect the fish and as you can see this individual appears to be in very good condition.ow 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.



A Sea Lamprey on a nest below Leesville today (6/14). Not a great photo, but the difference in substrate size between the 'pit' under the animals head and nest by it's tail (circled) is obvious.

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)	2,648	1,456	114	118	6	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)	3	5	0	11	0	44	0	0
Hallville Pond* (Poquetanuck Br. Preston)	-	15	0	1	FINAL	trout!	5	2
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	?	FINAL	-	0	0	-
Haakonsen Fishway* (Quinnipiac R., Wallingford)	0	1,246	113	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	3,455	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= 6/13 Taftville= 5/14 Occum= n.a. Tunnel= 5/29 Kinneytown= 6/13 Haakonsen= 6/12 Hallville= 6/9

***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:

Small numbers of blueback herring continue trickle-in at Mianus Fishway. Quiet elsewhere. We did pass a few shad at Kinneytown, which is always a welcomed sight. Nothing earth-shattering to report along the coast. We also passed a few more shad at Greenville (single digits each day). Hallville closed last week and Lower Guilford Lake closed yesterday, so those numbers are final. We suspect that there is a small blueback herring run at Lower Guilford Lake, but we were unable to sample fish at the approach to the fishway this year to determine what percent of the late-running fish were in-fact herring and not alewife. The question mark in the blueback column for this site denotes our uncertainty. We suspect that post-spawn fish may have used the counting tubes of the electronic fish counting system as a mean of egress, so the FINAL count may be adjusted to reflect this.

No new report for Taftville or Tunnel.

We are planning to close both StanChem and Haakonsen fishways later this week, so those counts are close to being finalized.

Glass eels- Fishing Brook = 6,810 glass eels/226 elvers; Mill River Eel Trap= 78 glass eels/322 elvers; Greenville Eel Lift= 10 glass eels/525 elvers, Lower Millpond (Old Lyme)= 177 glass (no report this week).

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. This week Sally Harold from The Nature Conservancy will be the guest; explaining her role in improving fish passage for diadromous fish. Sally is a great partner to many organizations in the region so be sure to 'tune-in'.



An American Shad sprints past the Kinneytown Viewing Window on Saturday, June 11.



A beautiful brown trout passing the Kinneytown Fishway. Difficult to determine the origin or life history of this fish; the fins indicate a possible wild fish and the brightness hints at a possible sea-run. One thing is certain: a heavily spotted trout is elegant (Kirk McPherson, personal communication, 2016).