

CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT
 Report Date: April 30, 2019



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/r5crr. For more information about Atlantic salmon, visit the Connecticut River Salmon Association at www.ctriversalmon.org.

CONNECTICUT RIVER LOCATIONS

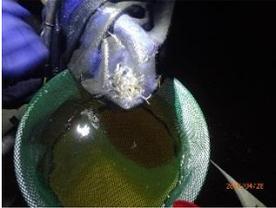
FISHWAY (RIVER)	ATLANTIC SALMON	AMER. SHAD	ALEWIFE	BLUEBACK HERRING	GIZZARD SHAD	STRIPED BASS	SEA LAMPREY	STURGEON/ TROUT++	AMER. EEL
Rainbow* (Farmington)	0	26	0	0	0	0	running	0	0
Leesville (Salmon)	0	-	-	0	-	-	0**	0	0
StanChem* (Mattabesset)	0	0	53	0	8	-	5	0	0
Moulson Pond* (Eightmile)	0	0	8	3	0	0	0	0	-
Mary Steube* (Mill Brook)	-	-	10,837	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rogers Lake+ (Mill Brook)	-	-	285	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Springfield (Westfield- MA)	0	7	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								
TOTALS=	0	33	11,187	3	8	0	5	0	0
(last year's totals)	2	281,328	7,326	1,079	99	268	23,955	91/0	2,083

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.

COMMENTS:

This week's report is similar to the last two weeks'. Rain and snow melt has kept the Connecticut River very high. It approached 90,000 cfs a few days ago but is now at 72,000 cfs. There are American Shad in the river—fish markets have had them for a few days but catches are small. Two nights ago, one netter in Old Saybrook fished all night and caught 12 fish. The high river is full of trees and debris, which is hard on the nets. You can see that we've passed only a handful at Rainbow and, of course, Holyoke still has not begun lifting due to the high water. Counts at the other tributaries are very low due to high water. But we passed 13 fish through the new Tiley-Pratt fish counter on the Falls River in Essex (featured in last week's report), so that's a start. Keep in mind that video review for Rainbow and Moulson are two weeks behind. I drove to Maine this past weekend and all of the big rivers—Merrimack, Saco, Androscoggin, Kennebec—are in flood with more snow in the mountains. Good for Atlantic Salmon smolts heading to sea but not so good for shad and river herring coming in. Maybe the high water is good for the glass eel runs. I learned that it has been a good run in Maine and many eelers already have their quota. Our eel run seems to be going well, also. Back to the Connecticut River—Ken Sprankle sampled three tributary systems and saw no shad. He collected only Alewife in the Mattabeset, mostly Blueback Herring in Wethersfield Cove, and only Bluebacks in the lower Farmington River.



*Glass eels legally harvested in Maine.
Glass eel fishing is illegal in Connecticut*

Alicea Charamut has been the Connecticut River Steward for the Connecticut River Conservancy (formerly the CT River Watershed Council) for the past few years and has taken the lead on organizing river herring volunteers, invasive species control, river clean-ups, and more. Today is her last day in that position and she will begin as the new Executive Director of the Rivers Alliance of Connecticut tomorrow. We thank Alicea for all her hard work while at the CRC and are glad to know that she will still be advocating for rivers and fish as part of her new position. We would be remiss if we did not take this opportunity to thank retiring Rivers Alliance Executive Director Margaret Miner for all of her tireless service on behalf of our state's waterways. <http://www.riversalliance.org/about.php#Staff> We wish both of these devoted conservationists well.

Another barrier removal project to report and this one was just completed last week. Its nickname has been the **Q River Pipe Removal Project**. It was an old 30 inch steel pipe that delivered drinking water from the plant on the south side of the Quinnipiac River to the Meriden distribution system on the north side of the river. It had been replaced but abandoned in the river. When the Carpenters Dam was in place about 750 feet downstream, the impoundment backed up to the pipe and fish were able to get past it. When the dam was removed, the pipe was perched and became not only a barrier to fish but a threat to the new active water pipe underneath because the cascading water began to scour away the streambed and risked exposing the active pipe. Gwen MacDonald and Save the Sound managed this project (they removed the Carpenters Dam in 2016) and it was funded by a mitigation fund from the Southington Landfill settlement, administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The project was designed by Stantec (engineers) and implemented by Schumack Engineered Construction. The project challenges included designing the removal so the active water line below would not be disturbed, ensuring the final grade would be both fish passable and stable over the years, complicated permitting, and water control. The project was delayed from last summer due to high water and Schumack did the project during a brief window of reduced flow, getting out just before the heavy rains last Friday.



The abandon water pipe before its removal. The little tree in the middle of the snowy lawn can be seen in both photos. The flowering tree in the photo to the right is new, part of site restoration.



The same site after pipe removal. Boulders were placed in the stream to help guide flows and to provide velocity blocks for migrating fish. They were spaced to reduce conflicts with paddlers.

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)	44	534	0	1	0	0	0	0
Taftville* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Occum* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scotland* (Shetucket R. Windham)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tunnel* (Quinebaug R., Preston)	0	33	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kinneytown* (Naugatuck R., Seymour)	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	
Hallville Pond* (Poquetanuck Br. Preston)	-	10	0	0	-	0	0	0
Jordan Brook ** (Jordan Brook, Waterford)	-	95	0	0	-	0	0	0
Latimers Brook** (Latimers Br., E.Lyme)	-	25,885	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brides Brook** (Brides Brook, E.Lyme)		292,770	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fishing Brook** (Fishing Brook, OSaybrook)		13,621	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chapmans Pond* (Menunketesuck R., Clinton)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Branford Supply Pond Dam** (Queach Br., Branford)	315		0	-	-	-	-	-
Lower Guilford Lake** (East River, Guilford)		283	0	-	-	-	-	-
Haakonsen Fishway* (Quinnipiac R., Wallingford)	1	777	0	3	1	71	0	0
Hanover Pond Fishway* (Quinnipiac River, Meriden)		2	0	0	-	2	-	0
Clarks Pond Fishway*** (Indian River, Milford)		10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bunnells Pond* (Peqonnock R., Bridgeport)	-	2,377	0	0	0	4	0	-
Mianus River Pond* ** (Mianus R., Greenwich)		5,624	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= 4/24 Taftville= 4/16 Occum= na Tunnel= 4/16*

*Scotland= 4/22 Kinneytown= 4/23 Haakonsen= 4/23 Hallville= 4/18 Hanover= 4/29, Bunnells= 4/18 Chapmans= na **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.*

****These are counts made by a volunteer when he is present and represents an index not a census.*

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:

When looking at the fish count data above, remember that all of the Shetucket/Quinebaug facilities are shut down due to high water and that we are way behind on reviewing video recordings for most fishways with video stations. For example, the number at Bunnells seems really low but we are ahead of where we were this time last year. We're only up to April 18th for Bunnells and Hallville fishways. We are a week behind at Haakonsen, Kinneytown, and Greenville fishways. Tim is still having problems at the Chapmans Pond Fishway, where the laptop keeps shutting down. We hope we have resolved that problem, but it is clear that we've lost some data. He did see one of the Finnish sea-run Brown Trout smolts move down past the window, heading for the ocean. We don't have space to report non-anadromous species, but many of these fishways are passing many White Suckers and Greenville and Haakonsen are passing White Perch. The birds are back at Greenville, working the river hard over by the fishway, which tells us that fish are in. Kevin reports seeing active spawning by Alewives in Bride Lake and in Latimer Brook. We haven't seen a push by spent fish to get out of Bride Lake yet, so we hope to keep the counter in for a few more days and break 300,000. The cold water temperatures is helping. Pat Wendt with NEHC reported the water temperature at Hanover Pond had been up to 15C (59F) but now has dropped down to 11C (52F). That's comparable to April 1 in past years. Little or no activity at Whitfords, small tributaries off the Connecticut River, West River, Clarks Pond (one Yellow Perch), Silvermine and Norwalk rivers. But there are river herring in the lower tributaries of the Quinnipiac, e.g. Watermans Brook and Muddy River. Dennis couldn't see any herring in the Muddy River but while he was there, an osprey grabbed one. I think we need to replace volunteer monitor Dennis with a local osprey. ☺ Further down the coast, Captain Ian reports great numbers of Alewives on the Mill River. He also reliably saw them in Mianus River and Bruce Park but Sarah at the Conservation Commission reports a pretty quiet week for the Mianus Pond Fishway. Long term weather forecast calls for a drier and warmer May. We can hope.

REMINDER: The Town of Greenwich will be hosting an Open House for the Mianus Pond Fishway this coming Saturday, May 4th, 11-1. <https://www.greenwichct.gov/Calendar.aspx?EID=1199>. Also on the 4th, the Quinnipiac River Watershed Association will be holding its Spring River Cleanup, 9- 12 and will provide gloves and trash bags to volunteers. Either meet at 540 Oregon Road, Meriden or contact Liz at qrwainfo@att.net for more information.

Eel Counts- Fishing Brook = 37,881 glass/120 yellow; Chapmans Pond= 381 glass/13 yellow; Mill River Eel Trap= 1,840 glass/16 yellow; Hanover Pond= 0 yellow; Greenville Eel Lift= 0 glass/0 yellow. Occum= 0 yellow eels; Kinneytown= 0 yellow, Lower Millpond= 18 glass/0 yellow.

My weekly Diadromous Fish Radio show is live on iCRV (www.iCRVradio.com) at 8:00 am on Wednesdays. If you can't tune in at 8:00 am, listen to it at any time: www.icrvradio.com/programs/program/50.



Kevin Job has finished his trucking of Alewives for the year. Here he is releasing fish from Bride Brook into Johnson Cove in Aspinoak Pond, upstream of the dam on the Quinebaug River.



We have been very pleased with the run size in Fishing Brook in Old Saybrook. The stream is quite small but a few years ago, Alewives gained access to Lake Rockview, shown above. This old borrow pit for I-95 has provided excellent spawning and nursery habitat about 5 feet above sea level and a quarter mile from the head-of-tide.