

Connecticut River Basin Fishway Passage Counts

Connecticut River Migratory Fish Restoration Cooperative
 Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, New Hampshire Fish and Game Department,
 Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
 U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries

4/26/2024



This report is compiled by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, CT River Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office using fishway count data provided by several agencies as well as power companies and is dependent in most cases on the review of video counts, that have an associated time lag for updates. Please visit <http://www.fws.gov/r5crc> for more information.

Fishway, River - State	Data as of:	American Shad	Alewife	Blueback Herring	Atlantic Salmon	American Eel	Sea Lamprey	Striped Bass	Gizzard Shad	Shortnose Sturgeon	Other/ comment
Rogers Lake-CT	open										
Mary Steube, Mill-CT	4/24		19,103								
Mill Pond, Falls -CT	open										
Moulson Pond, Eightmile-CT	open										
Leesville, Salmon-CT	no counts										
StanChem, Mattabesset-CT	open										
Rainbow, Farmington-CT	closed										will not be operated
W. Springfield, Westfield-MA	open										
Holyoke, Connecticut-MA	4/25	143		1							
Easthampton, Manhan-MA	open										operated in season
**Turners Falls-Gatehouse, Connecticut-MA	open										
Vernon, Connecticut-VT	yet to open										
Bellows Falls, Connecticut-VT	yet to open										
Total to basin, only <u>first</u> barrier counts		143	19,103	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Last year totals		279,840	8,026	2,228	0	11039 ^A	22,681	116	60	64	

* CTDEEP will not operate the Rainbow Fish Ladder due its documented poor performance and the lack of suitable downstream fish passage protection measures at the Stanley Works owned dam/project. Fish passage at this project has been the responsibility of the CTDEEP, due to FERC legal rulings.

** *Spillway Fish Ladder - ; Cabot Station Ladder, base of canal, . Note that at Turners Falls Project (Dam/Canal) fish must use one of these two fishways first before having the opportunity to pass the final required ladder (Gatehouse).*

A - total collected from 3 eel ramp/traps at Holyoke in 2023

Since the start of April, the basin has had typical river discharge(s) and seasonally cool water temperatures (next page). River herring (detected occurrences) have been low and delayed to date based on our river herring population assessment work as well as with netting efforts at the river mouth to implant acoustic tags, both projects starting the first week of April. Holyoke Fish Lift opened this week with Sierra providing the following passage counts 4/22 (10 American shad), 4/23 (24 shad), 4/24 (34 shad), and 4/25 (75 shad and 1 blueback herring); water temp 9C (49F) and the dam's rubber bladders now up (minimal spill). Steve Leach at FirstLight reported the Cabot ladder is running, with Spillway and Gatehouse ladders to be opened today. The Connecticut River Conservancy has been running the angler surveys since mid-April (total of 4 seasonals), anglers are catching shad in target survey areas. The USGS Conte Lab has several research studies that have started or soon will be dealing with fishway entrance designs, swimming performance and other behavioral studies. This week, Corey and seasonals for my office sampled increased numbers of Blueback and Alewife after 3 weeks of zero to single catch rates. Our netting work at the mouth with the CTDEEP biologist and third study partner Conte Lab, produced moderate blueback catch rates last week and this week, staying on our release targets. We have had very low Alewife catch rates but had a slight increase this week - with water temps at 10-11C (50-51F).

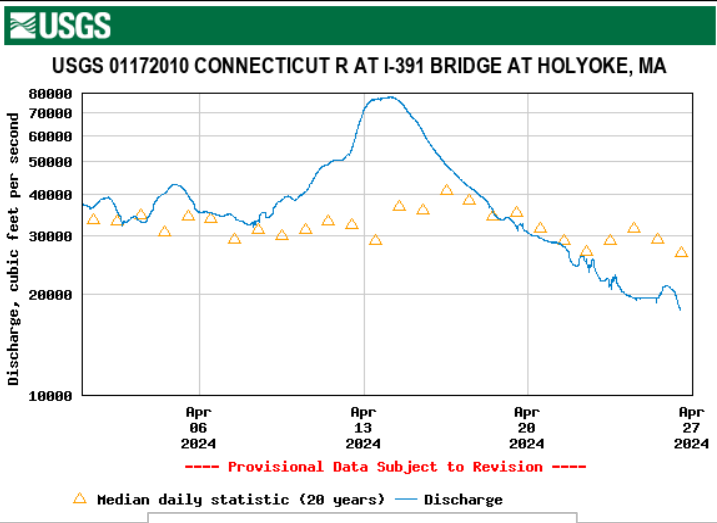


Figure 1. USGS river discharge data



Image 1. Setting drift net at river mouth.



Image 2. Removing a Blueback Herring for the live well tank.

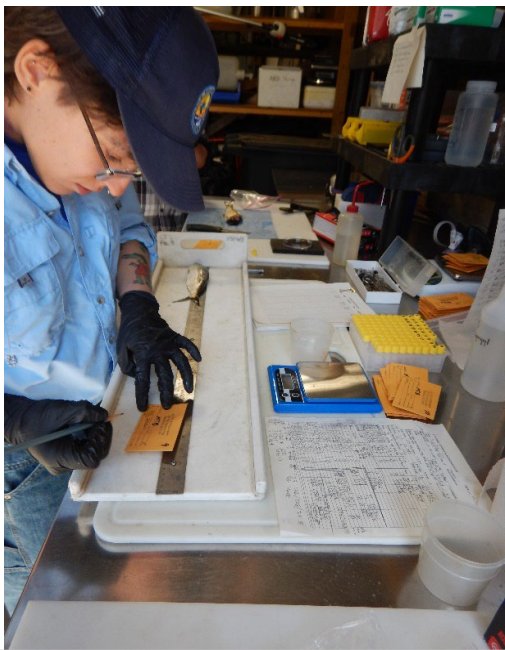


Image 6. Gab shown here lab processing our river herring samples.



Image 3. Inserting the acoustic tag.



Image 7. River Herring population monitoring project.



Image 4. Single suture applied.



Image 5. Release of tagged and untagged fish, as a school.