

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

5/2/2024



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	5/1		11,505								
Mary Steube, Mill-CT	5/1		26,138								
Mill Pond, Falls -CT	5/1		74								
Moulson Pond, Eightmile-CT	open										very few river herring seen
Leesville, Salmon-CT	no counts										very few river herring seen
StanChem, Mattabesset-CT	open										very few river herring seen
Rainbow, Farmington-CT	closed										will not be operated
W. Springfield, Westfield-MA	open										
Holyoke, Connecticut-MA	5/1	7,825	0	1	0	0	10	1	2	0	
Easthampton, Manhan-MA	open										operated in season
**Turners Falls-Gatehouse, Connecticut-MA	open										
Vernon, Connecticut-VT	open										
Bellows Falls, Connecticut-VT	yet to open										
Total to basin, only first barrier counts		7,825	26,138	1	0	0	10	1	2	0	
Last year totals		279,840	8,026	2,228	0	11,039^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 last report, Sierra at Holyoke reports the following daily American Shad passage counts; 4/26 (231), 4/27 (441), 4/28 (104), 4/29 (2,176), 4/30 (4,412), and 5/1 (1,237). Main stem river discharge and many of the lower basin tributaries are within a normal (lower) range of variability, with water temperatures in a seasonal (to warm) range (next page). Vernon Dam fish ladder and the facilities downstream fish passage were all opened yesterday, following diver inspections and some repairs work. Note that the Alewife count at Mary Stube (then to Rogers Lake) is attributed to substantial pre-spawn stockings 3 and 4 years ago by CTDEEP. The USFWS Fish Passage Engineer Jessica Pica is setting up inspections of passage facilities at this time with hydro-operators. Our FWS river herring assessment work has had similar low catch rates this week, though the staff did not sample any in the MA tribs, with our switch to assess the Chicopee and Westfield rivers. Working with CTDEEP this week we were able to get target number of acoustic tags out at the river mouth (170 out, 30 remaining). At USGS Conte, lab based research studies are under way (next page) with river herring and entrance gate designs and species swimming performance studies. Micah Keiffer has been on the river downloading receivers and will soon deploy egg mats to monitor for sturgeon spawning downstream of Holyoke as well as netting near the Rock Dam. The CT River Conservancy, Angler Survey in MA and CT is going very well with data collection (next page).

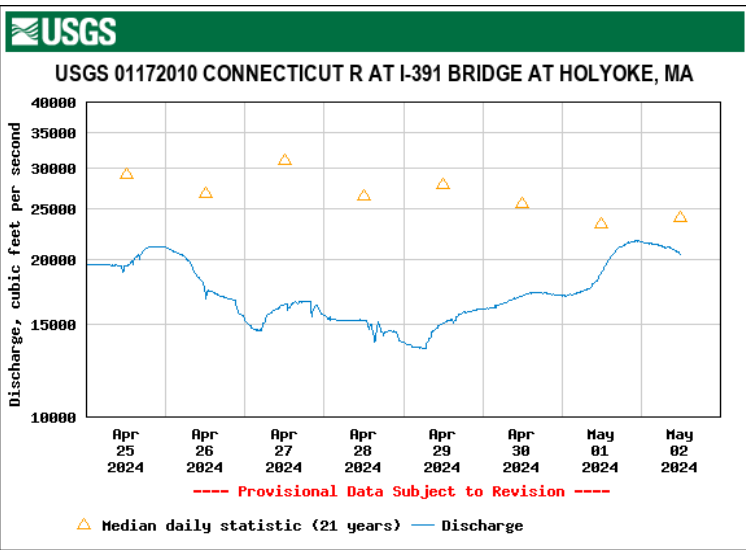


Figure 1. USGS river discharge data



Image 4. The USGS Conte lab, facility to test fish swimming performance of migrating fishes (Ted Castro-Santos lead). The long flume (left) can adjust rates of flow, velocities and fish leave the tanks on right under their own volition, when test trials are run.

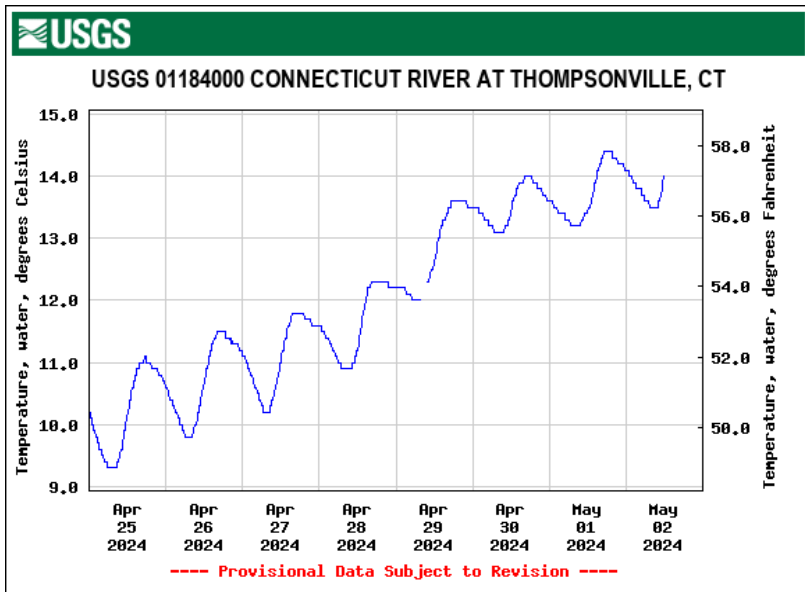


Figure 2. USGS water temp data for Thompsonville CT (at MA border).



Image 5 and 6. Angler surveys by CRC to gather data for the Migratory Fish Cooperative on the spring rec fishery (MA and CT). Total of 220 interviews since start of survey.



Image 1, 2, 3. Tagged Alewife in experimental flume (USGS Conte) to test entry and movement of weir (left) and vertical slot (new approach) under different conditions. Fish are PIT tagged with bluebacks planned next (Kevin Mulligan lead).