

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

5/10/2024



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 Stuebe passed
Mary Steube, Mill-CT	5/1		26,138								
Mill Pond, Falls -CT	5/1		74								alewife observed
Moulson Pond, Eightmile-CT	open										bluebacks observed
Leesville, Salmon-CT	no counts										bluebacks observed
StanChem, Mattabesset-CT	open										very few river herring seen
Rainbow, Farmington-CT	closed										will not be operated
W. Springfield, Westfield-MA	5/7	942					1,191				539 white suckers
Holyoke, Connecticut-MA	5/9	48,290		10		8	460	6	6		
Easthampton, Manhan-MA	open										operated in season
**Turners Falls-Gatehouse, Connecticut-MA	open										shad passing and a few lamprey
Vernon, Connecticut-VT	open										
Bellows Falls, Connecticut-VT	yet to open										
Total to basin, only first barrier counts		49,232	26,138	10	0	8	1,651	6	6	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; 5/2 (5,009), 5/3 (2,971), 5/4 (6,222), 5/5 (1,737), 5/6 (622), 5/7 (3,064) and 5/9 (16,908). Steve Leach reported that first shad passed Gatehouse on 5/3 and the numbers have been increasing with counts expected for next report. Main stem river discharge and many of the lower basin tributaries are within a normal (higher) range with water temperatures also seasonal for favorable environmental conditions. Our FWS river herring assessment work by Corey and team had improved catch-per-effort stats for river herring in the four areas assessed over three days this week. However - these rates are still quite low relative to past 11 years time series, but we are at least getting fish for lab processed data objectives. Kevin Job CTDEEP reported the first observations of bluebacks up in some of the primary lower tributaries in past few days. Our annual shad fish health test work (from HFL) was done this week with the help of Katie, Tim, Jackie and our interns. Working with CTDEEP this week we were able to get more acoustic tags out into both species, leaving us with 7 tags (from the 200). We will look to get the last 7 tags out early next week. We also had an Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Comm, Tech Call, to review the Coastwide River Herring Stock Assessment yesterday. That report remains in draft form but is nearing its final version and is planned for peer review.

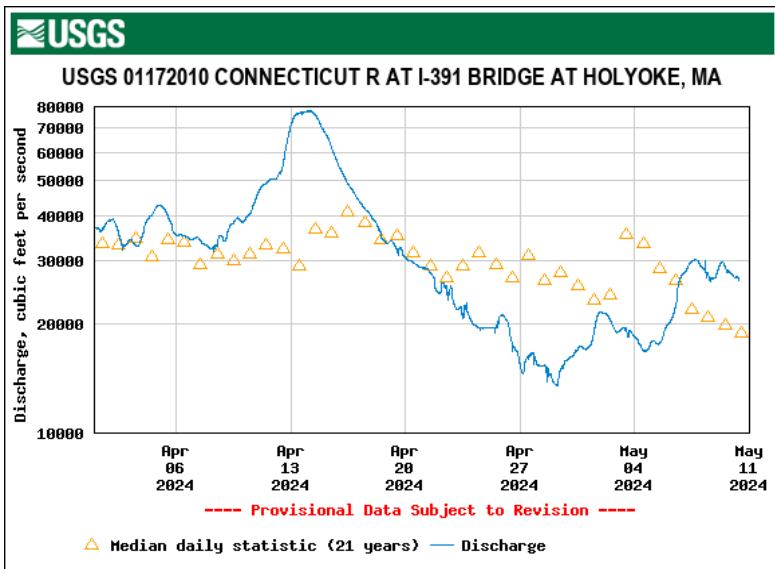


Figure 1. USGS river discharge data.

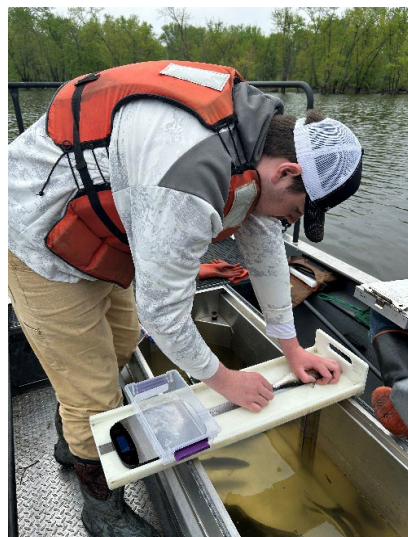


Image 1. FWS intern Jordan Shea, field processing Blueback Herring in Wethersfield Cove this week.

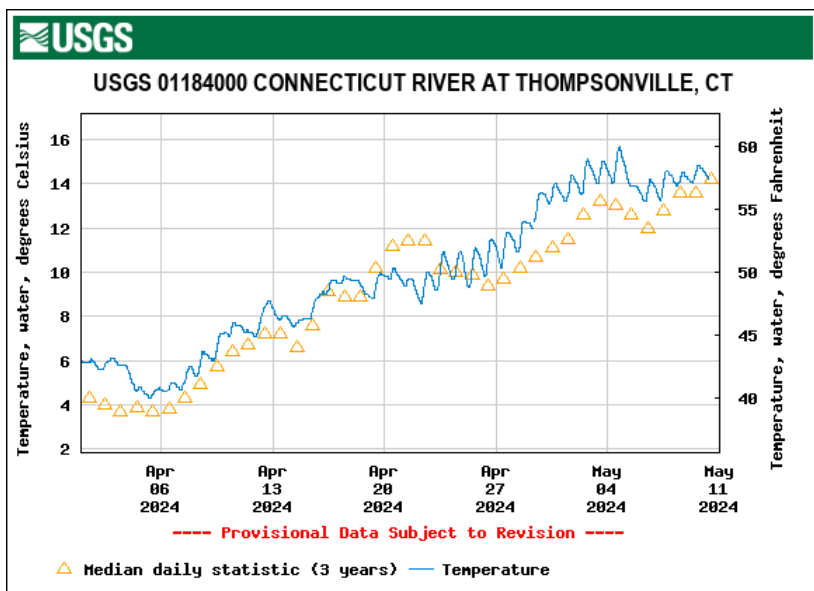


Figure 2. USGS water temp data for Thompsonville CT (at MA border).



Image 2. American Shad passing counting room window at HFL this week (Sierra).



Image 3. Preparing to tag 10 Alewife at Brides Lake, yesterday, as back-up plan given low captures of this species in the CT River. We have tagged total of 60 in this lake. CTDEEP seasonals Marly and Jamie shown.