

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

5/17/2024



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	5/14	2,049					1,500				539 white suckers
Holyoke, Connecticut-MA	5/16	150,590		15		9	2,425	11	23		
Easthampton, Manhan-MA	open										operated in season
**Turners Falls-Gatehouse, Connecticut-MA	5/8	1,491									shad passing and a few lamprey
Vernon, Connecticut-VT	open										
Bellows Falls, Connecticut-VT	yet to open										
Total to basin, only first barrier counts		152,639	26,138	15	0	9	3,925	11	23	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 to 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; 5/10 (6,087), 5/11 (6,217), 5/12 (3,951), 5/13 (6,771), 5/14 (23,152), **5/15 (48,304)** and 5/16 (7,818). The long-term passage data at Holyoke shows - on average - ~ 25% of the run has passed by this date (since 1976). As we all know, shifts in run timing (from climate change) is occurring for many species and is the subject of pending research publications that I hope to share in the future. 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 similar catch per effort rates this week. I was at Weth Cove yesterday and was the same case - approximately 25% the catch rates for this time of run vs long-term average, we still obtained 80 fish for lab processing today. Tim Wildman (CTDEEP) has the eDNA gear for our COOP and was taking samples this week and next in select tribs of the CT River where river herring historically ran to see if their presence can be detected (the need to rely on this technique for data is quite troubling). Micah Keiffer also has deployed egg mats in known Shortnose Sturgeon spawning areas below Holyoke Dam and has additionally been netting near the Rock Dam at Turners Falls Dam. He capture one female in that area that he applied an acoustic tag to. The several research studies at USGS Conte Lab are going very well and are providing some interesting results

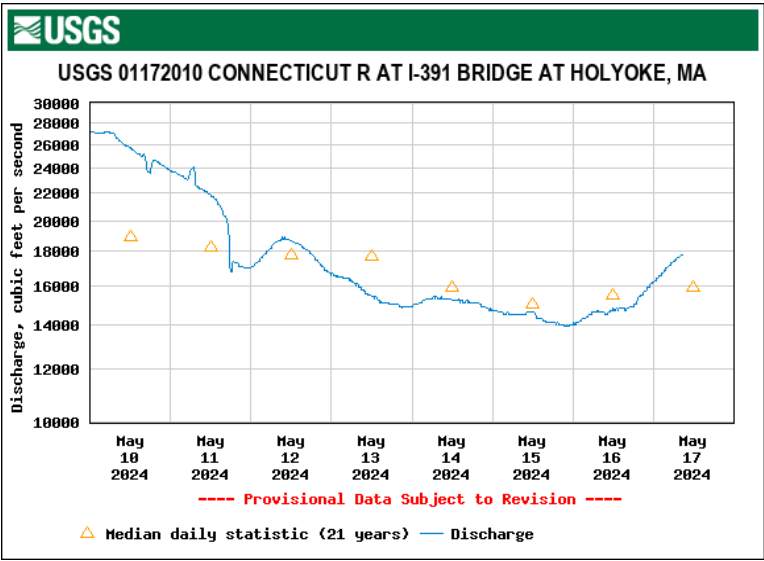


Figure 1. USGS river discharge data.



Image 1. American Shad on the fly with Jeff. Conditions for fishing and the action was great this morning early.

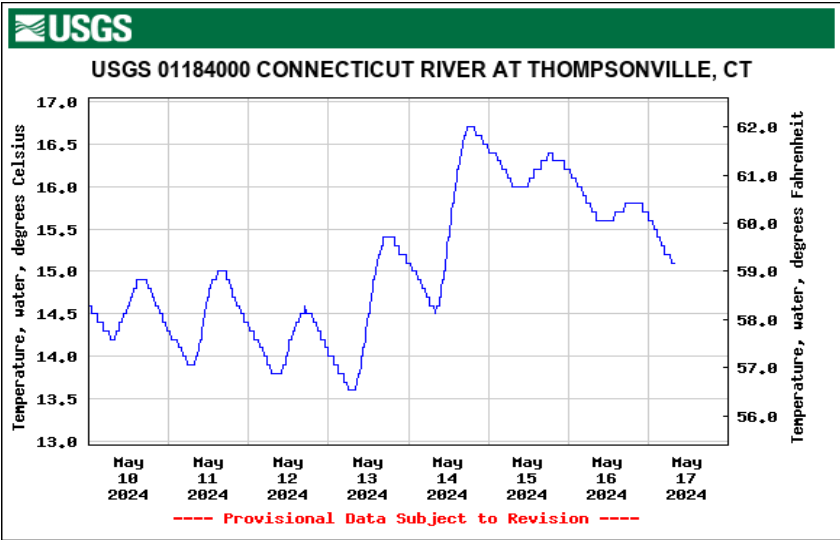


Figure 2. USGS water temp data for Thompsonville CT (at MA border).



Image 2. Aaron Heisey with one of a number of shad taken and released on a fly.