

## 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

5/23/2024



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	5/19	2,363					1,938				539 white suckers
Holyoke, Connecticut-MA	5/22	313,090		363		20	17,958	26	44		
Easthampton, Manhan-MA	open										operated in season
**Turners Falls-Gatehouse, Connecticut-MA	5/15	5,998					53				shad passing and a few lamprey
Vernon, Connecticut-VT	open										
Bellows Falls, Connecticut-VT	yet to open										
<b>Total to basin, only first barrier counts</b>											
		315,453	26,138	363	0	20	19,896	26	44	0	
<b>Last year totals</b>											
		279,840	8,026	2,228	0	11,039 <sup>A</sup>	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

Sierra at Holyoke Fish Lift and team reports the following daily American Shad passage counts; 5/17 (5,606), 5/18 (10,972), 5/19 (17,225), 5/20 (40,213), 5/21 (44,590), and 5/22 (43,894). These daily shad passage counts are obviously large numbers and are consistent with high past daily values in prior years. The highest single passage count day in my records for HFL was 76,000 shad on 5/19/17. The good news is how these daily values have been sustained over many dates along with the strong showing of Sea Lamprey passage counts too. We have surpassed the "long-term" annual mean passage count for American Shad (at HFL) which is encouraging. This week the USFWS river herring assessment program had reduced catch rates in MA tribs, improved (doubling of rate) in Wethersfield Cove and a low but consistent rate over the day today on the Farmington River. Next week USFWS' Jessica Pica will be conducting fishway inspections at several larger facilities including Holyoke.

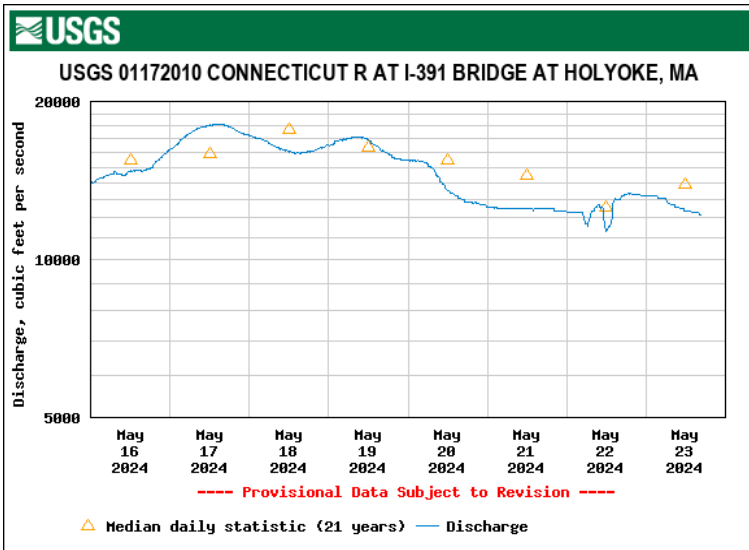


Figure 1. USGS river discharge data.



Image 1. FWS Fish Passage Engineer Jessica Pica and Melissa Grader (Hydropower Team) setting the proper entrance conditions at the Manhan River Fish Ladder this week.

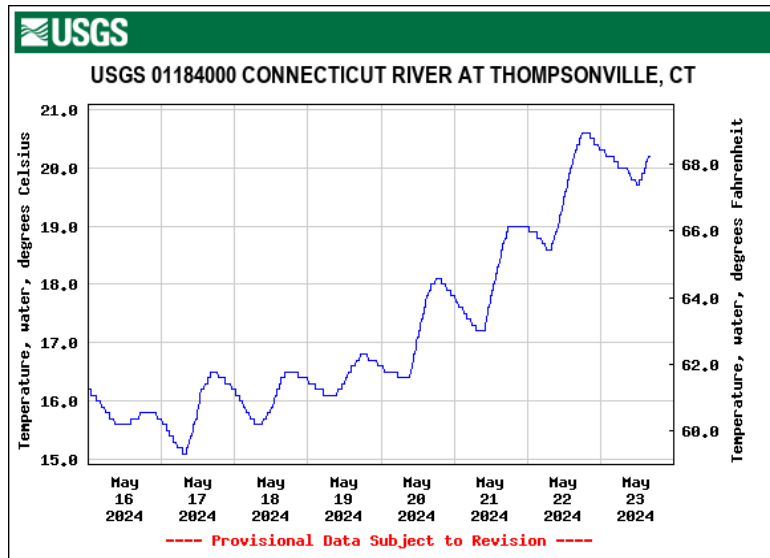


Figure 2. USGS water temp data for Thompsonville CT (at MA border).

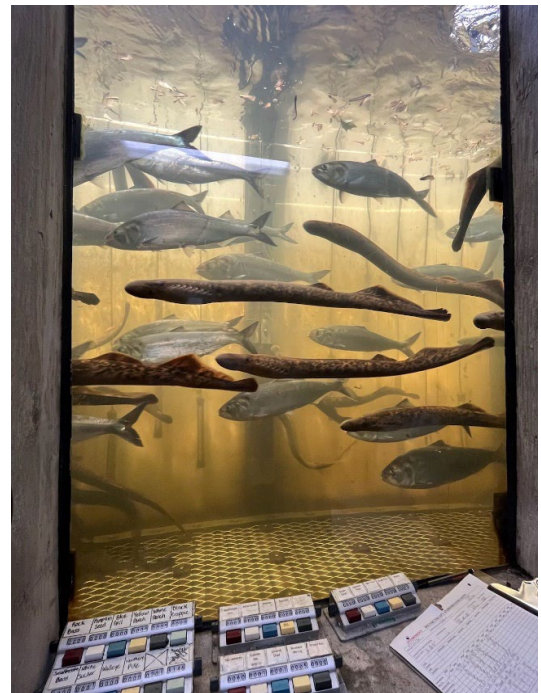


Image 2. Fish counting room window at Holyoke Fish Lift this week, from Sierra.