

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

6/6/2024



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	5/28		13,545								Mary Stuebe passed
Mary Steube, Mill-CT	5/28		27,415								
Mill Pond, Falls -CT	5/28		500								
Moulson Pond, Eightmile-CT	open										bluebacks observed
Leesville, Salmon-CT	no counts										
StanChem, Mattabesset-CT	open										very few river herring seen
Rainbow, Farmington-CT	closed										will not be operated
W. Springfield, Westfield-MA	6/3	3,947					2,508				539 white suckers
Holyoke, Connecticut-MA	6/5	410,730		688			53,492	252	64	4	
Easthampton, Manhan-MA	open										passing sea lamprey
**Turners Falls-Gatehouse, Connecticut-MA	5/23	18,872					934				partial count data; 5/22 and 5/23
Vernon, Connecticut-VT	5/16	2,162					24				5/11-5/14 data issues
Bellows Falls, Connecticut-VT	open										passing sea lamprey
Total to basin, only first barrier counts		414,677	27,415	688	0	0	56,000	252	64	4	
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, the HGE Passage Crew led by Sierra reports the following daily shad totals; 5/30 (3,528), 5/31 (5,260), 6/1 (6,167), 6/2 (8,680), 6/3 (4,132), 6/4 (3,025), and 6/5 (2,791). We had four Shortnose Sturgeon captured and passed as news with other fishway leads providing some incremental count updates. The HFL Shad daily numbers are showing a consistent decline that comes as no surprise when considering the count data to this time and the environmental conditions. As managers, we value varied run timing (early, mid, late) in a stock as that contributes to population resilience. On the following sheet I have some figures taken from my report out at tomorrow's Tech Meeting that may be of interest. This week, Corey continued our River Herring Assessment Program sampling with zeros again in MA tribs (done sampling those), a substantial decrease in BBH at Wethersfield Cove (total of 49 for six runs) and today is on the Farmington R, where I am confident we will see no BBH. Darren has been updating the field and lab data that allowed me to share just how low our preliminary mean relative abundance rate for BBH is at this time (next page figure) - on course for a new record low since starting the monitoring in 2013. Next week we will only sample Weth Cove and see if we continue based on results. Shad fishing remains quite good in Turners Falls areas and up into VT and NH (below Bellows Falls). The ASMFC River Herring Benchmark Stock Assessment Peer Review was this week.

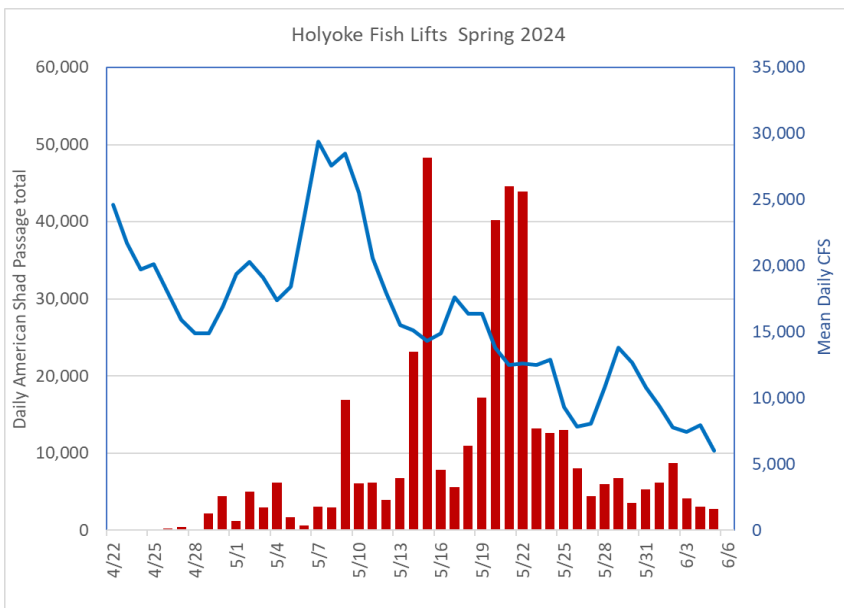


Figure 1. Daily American Shad passage counts (bars) for Holyoke Fish Lift with mean daily river discharge.

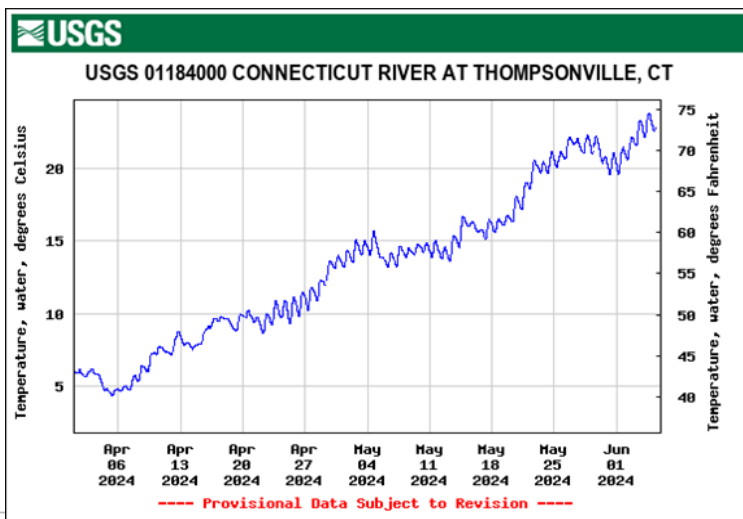


Figure 2. USGS water temp data for Thompsonville CT (at MA border).

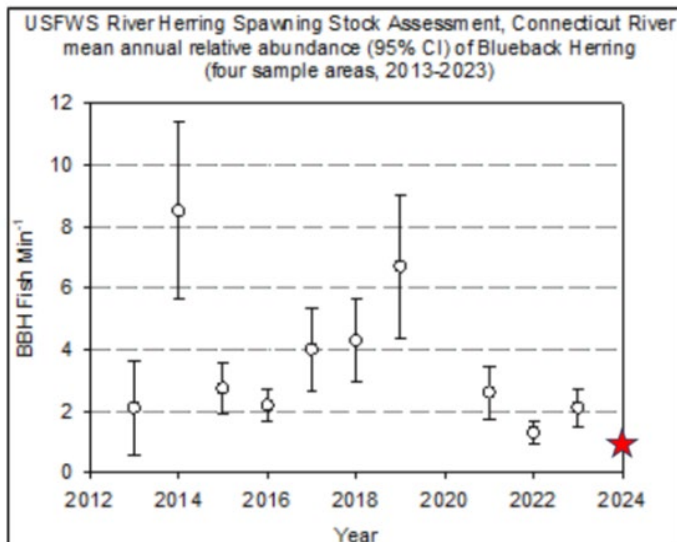


Figure 3. Preliminary, mean annual relative abundance for Blueback Herring, mid-April to May 30, 2024 (red star). Data for 2024 based on 96 sampling runs.