

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

6/13/2024



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	6/12	422,873		717			53,612	350	66	9	
Easthampton, Manhan-MA	open										passing sea lamprey
**Turners Falls-Gatehouse, Connecticut-MA	5/25	29,379					3,484				partial count data; 5/22 and 5/23
Vernon, Connecticut-VT	5/18	3,660					63				5/11-5/14 data issues
Bellows Falls, Connecticut-VT	open										passing sea lamprey
Total to basin, only first barrier counts		426,820	27,415	717	0	0	56,120	350	66	9	
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 HFL reports the following daily shad totals; 6/6 (971), 6/7 (1,254), 6/8 (1,804), 6/9 (1,527), 6/10 (2,238), 6/11 (1,590), and 6/12 (2,759). Five more Shortnose Sturgeon were captured and passed bring the total to 9 and it is notable given this fish in many years don't show in numbers until July. This week, we only sampled Wethersfield Cove given lack of bluebacks in other site and Corey with team sampled a single fish. We have concluded our river herring assessment program and as noted last week, the relative abundance (mean) for this year will be an expected record low for our 12 time series. Tomorrow, Lael Will (VTDFW) will lead a field training for agency and partners on our "COOP" procedures for eDNA sampling work as well as sea lamprey nest surveys. Starting next week, at the Holyoke Project, PIT tag reader systems and antennas will be installed and tested as part of the ongoing Shortnose Sturgeon (SNS) Upstream Passage Study. This year we worked to have a second antenna added to the study design to provide additional needed data on movements by SNS that enter the lower fish lift "flume area" - before reaching the "hopper bucket" that raises fish up to the "exit" flume. We are hopeful this and other study components will provide important data for the study objectives. There are also plans to do an evening visit to examine the HGE eelways and inspect activity before end of June.

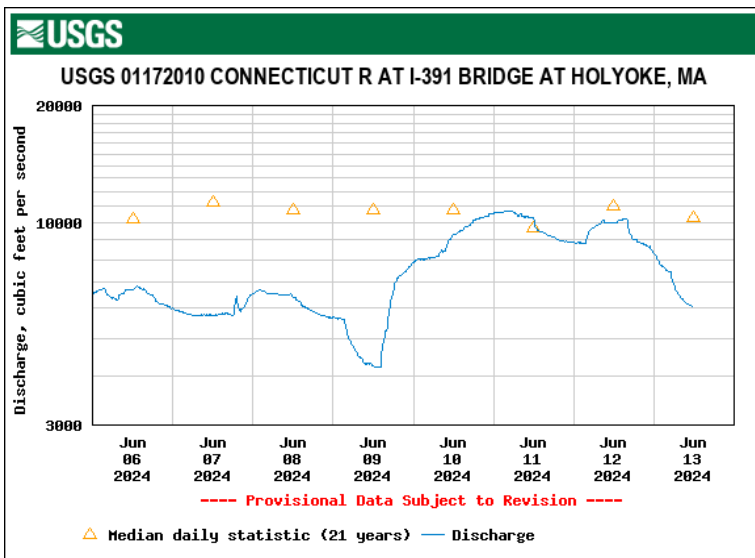


Figure 1. Daily river discharge for past week.

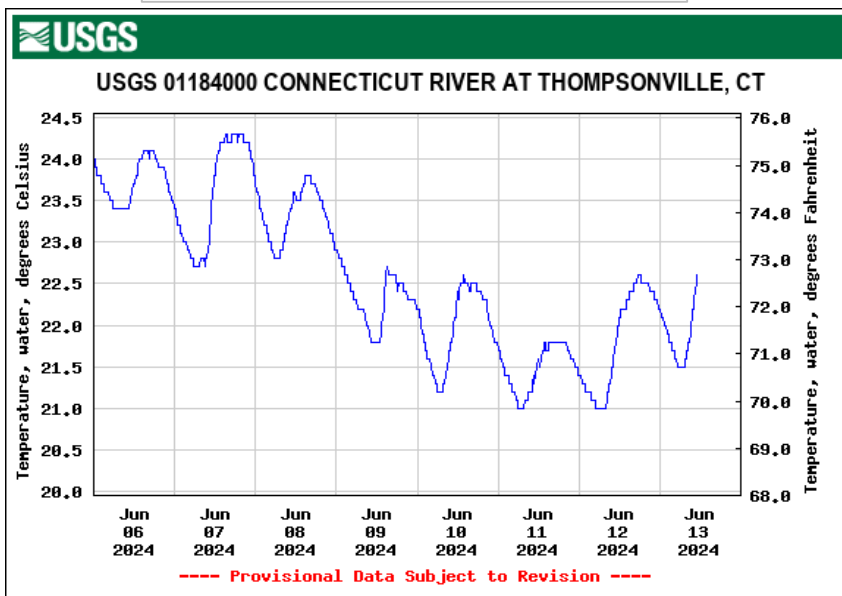


Figure 2. USGS water temp data for Thompsonville CT (at MA border).

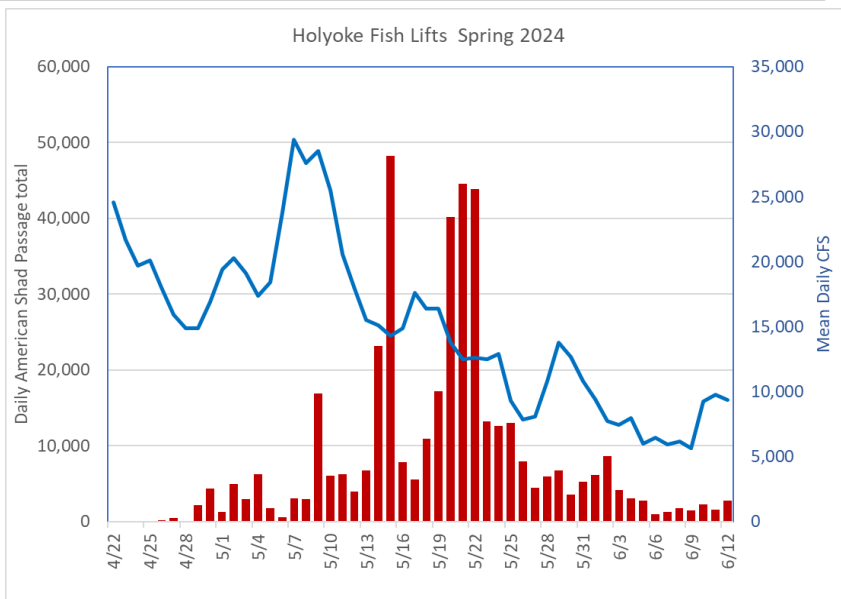


Figure 3. Daily American Shad passage counts for HFL with daily mean river discharge.