

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

6/21/2024



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	6/4	4,061					2,607				539 white suckers
Holyoke, Connecticut-MA	6/20	427,646		719			53,612	408	65	11	
Easthampton, Manhan-MA	open										passing sea lamprey
**Turners Falls-Gatehouse, Connecticut-MA	5/27	37,102					8,385				partial count data; 5/21 - 5/24
Vernon, Connecticut-VT	5/21	8,369					183				5/11-5/14 data issues
Bellows Falls, Connecticut-VT	open										passing sea lamprey
Total to basin, only <u>first barrier</u> counts											
		431,707	27,415	719	0	0	56,219	408	65	11	
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

Sierra at HFL reports the following daily shad totals since the past report; 6/13 (2,075), 6/14 (267), 6/15 (1,108), 6/16 (1,323), 6/17 to 6/20 closed for sturgeon study equipment installs and other related SNS measures. The lift was started today and has passed about 600 shad as of noon with fish appearing in good condition. Water temp was 26.5 C (or 80F) - that is outside the range of normal variability. The daily strong thunderstorm bands that are tied to this heat wave are increasing tributary discharges and now those increases are evident in the main stem that is moving back toward a long-term mean flow level. More Shortnose Sturgeon were captured and passed at HFL bringing the total to 11 fish. Next week we have an evening site visit planned with Sierra to check the three eel passes and associated systems (attraction water flow, collection boxes etc.) at Holyoke. SCUBA surveys by the USFWS Dive Team for young-of-the-year SNS in the West Springfield reach of the river are planned for this coming Monday and Tuesday dependent on river conditions. This is the same area YOY SNS were first observed two years ago by hired consultants working on the sewer line upgrade.

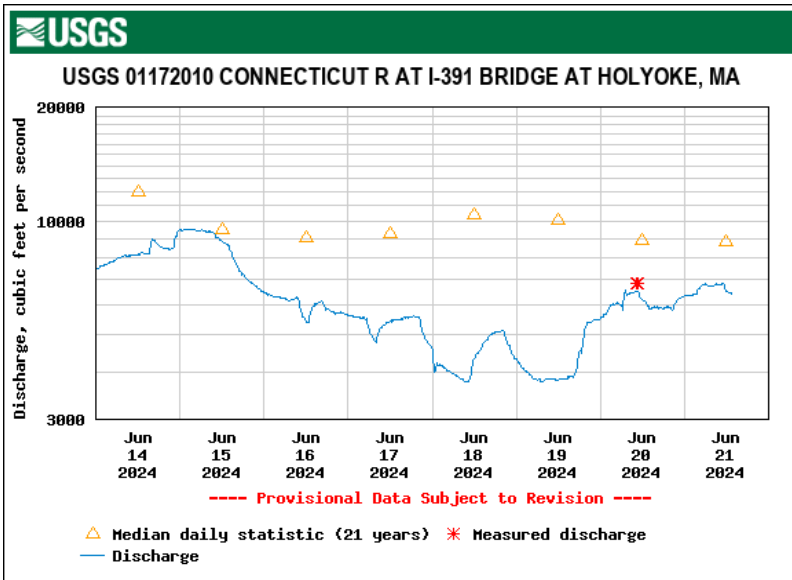


Figure 1. Daily river discharge for past week.

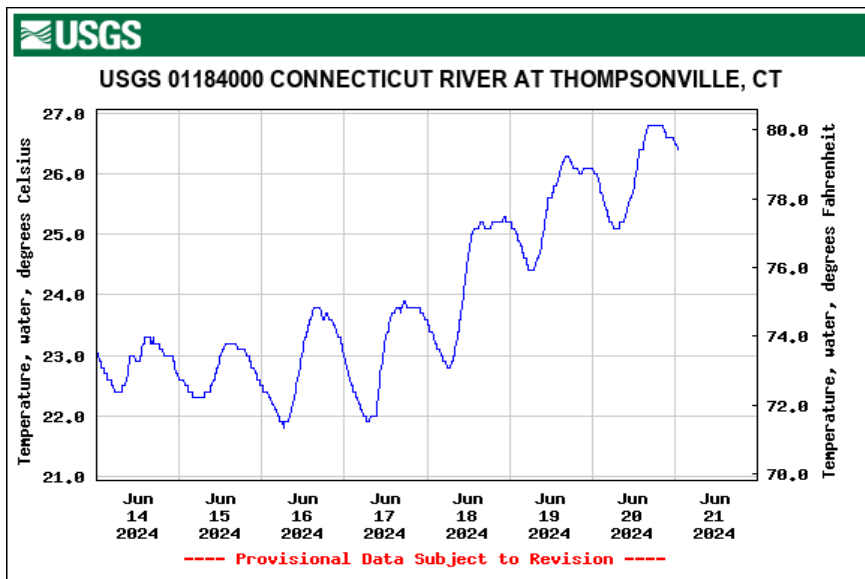


Figure 2. USGS water temp data for Thompsonville CT (at MA border).



Lael Will (VTDFW) gave a training to agency members and NGO partners of the CT River Mig. Fish Restoration Cooperative on eDNA sampling and sea lamprey nest surveys. Both of those activities are now underway.