

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

6/27/2024



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	6/21	4,516					2,801				582 white suckers
Holyoke, Connecticut-MA	6/26	430,009		723			53,596	437	65	11	
Easthampton, Manhan-MA	open										passing sea lamprey
**Turners Falls-Gatehouse, Connecticut-MA	5/28	43,486					11,268				partial count data; 5/23 and 5/24
Vernon, Connecticut-VT	5/22	10,723					308				5/11-5/14 data issues
Bellows Falls, Connecticut-VT	open										passing sea lamprey
Total to basin, only <u>first barrier</u> counts											
		434,525	27,415	723	0	0	56,397	437	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; 6/21 (1,275), 6/22 (454), 6/23 (69), 6/24 (107), 6/25 (120) and 6/26 (338). The decline in shad counts is expected but the rate of decline is clearly affected by the increased spill at the dam too. There were no sturgeon captured this past week. Water temps have decreased from the very high ~28C (82F) with the increased river discharge from the many storms and cooler weather (figures next page). Steve Leach's shad count data for Gatehouse Ladder, at Turners Falls Dam made a nice jump in counts from last week with additional data review and is at the common 10% of Holyoke at an early date. It will be interesting to see how that count changes with more data review into June. Holyoke fish lift operations will shift on July 1 to the shortened summer lifting schedule (frequency and duration), driven by sturgeon passage. This will be the last weekly update as I switch to a frequency of every other week, based on new information of potential interest. I want to thank Jordan Shea (unpaid intern, Westfield State U.) for the significant contributions to our field and lab work this spring, as his internship comes to an end - great job!

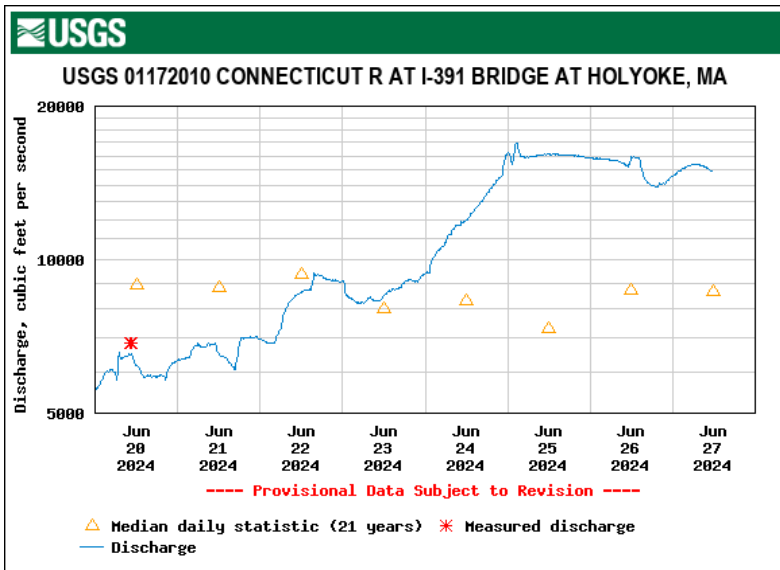
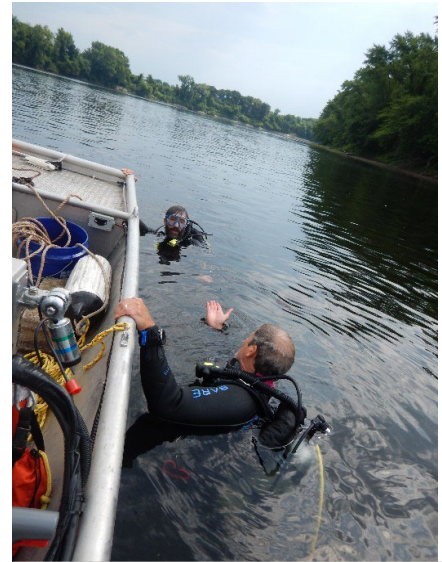


Figure 1. Daily river discharge for past week.



Corey and I did get into the water last Friday to run through some first dive of season drills. However the sturgeon suvery dives this week had to be aborted due to very low visibility and current velocities when we tried, with Dave Perkins our third member....

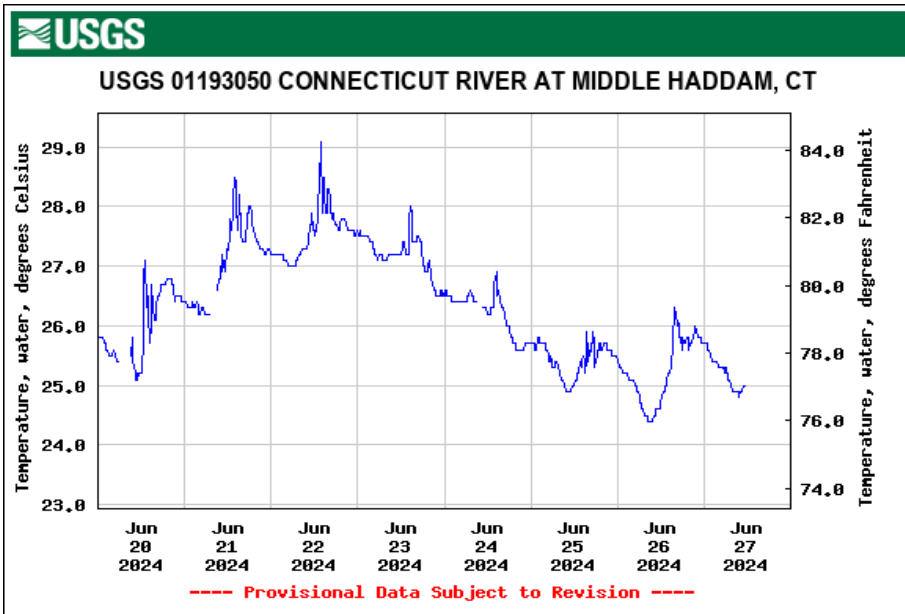


Figure 2. USGS water temp data for Middle Haddam, CT. The Thomsonville gage had temperature data issues so I had to move further down river - typically 1C higher at this next station.



Westfield State University intern Jordan Shea (left) cleaning and mounting river herring scales for spawn history determinations (n = 800). The interns, including Gab and Dylan (paid interns - right) have begun reading scales and now must remount those samples that have too many "regenerated" scales, which can affect our assignment abilities and confidence ratings.