



Connecticut River Basin Fishway Passage Counts



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	final		246								2,506 in 2021
Mary Steube, Mill-CT	final		3,944								20K in 2021
Mill Pond, Falls -CT (NEW Fishway)	final		280								
Moulson Pond, Eightmile-CT	final	1	4	87			9				
Leesville, Salmon-CT	final				1		90				SL based on nest census
StanChem, Mattabesset-CT	final		2,732	0			3				
Rainbow, Farmington-CT	final	11	1	0	3	4	104				setup to trap/pass eel
W. Springfield, Westfield-MA	final	1,288					603				ladder closed 7/15
Holyoke, Connecticut-MA	10/26	190,352		283		7,841	22,233	314	63	20	lift suspended on 10/5, eel passes operating
Easthampton, Manhan-MA	not available										
**Turners Falls-Gatehouse, Connecticut-MA	final	23,576					9,077				
Vernon, Connecticut-VT	final	13,763					5,105				
Bellows Falls, Connecticut-VT	final	896					1,561				
Total to basin, only <u>first</u> barrier counts		191,651	6,681	370	4	7,845	23,042	314	63	20	
Last year totals		237,355	26,863	3,019	4	12,952	20,620	352	54	11	

**** Spillway Fish Ladder - at the dam 6,250 shad, 8,492 sea lamprey; Cabot Station Ladder, base of canal, 32,753 shad, and 10,410 sea lamprey. 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**

A - total collected from 3 eel ramp/traps at Holyoke in 2021

This report reflects several final fishway count updates. Shortnose Sturgeon passed at Holyoke is similar to recent years 2021 (11), 2020 (18), and 2019 (20). Similar to our other species, the American Eel count among the three eel passes at Holyoke is also considerably down this year with numbers this low not seen since 2010. Those passes remain in operation at the time of this report with daily counts still running in the tens of fish. For a recently held meeting on 2022 river herring runs with RI, MA, CT biologists I updated some analyses of catch rates for Blueback Herring (next page). Low abundance was not expected as in 2018, CTDEEP had a "high" juvenile index that we have statistically correlated with our abundance rate, based on age-4 fish. Our CT River data was consistent with the fishway counts within our river system and along the southern New England coastline which all had greatly reduced run counts, with only a few exceptions reported for areas with less reliable monitoring measures. I also was disappointed by the fact only one of our "two" year tagged Blueback Herring (had 82 such tags out) returned as we examined the acoustic receiver data. We had tentatively expected ~20% based on repeat spawner data we monitor. The effort to deploy and retrieve the receivers this year (n=26) was a substantial effort. At a minimum, we had on many receivers other studies tags detections (CTDEEP Sturgeons) and others that are all shared with the Coastwide Acoustic Monitoring Network, with our data uploads.

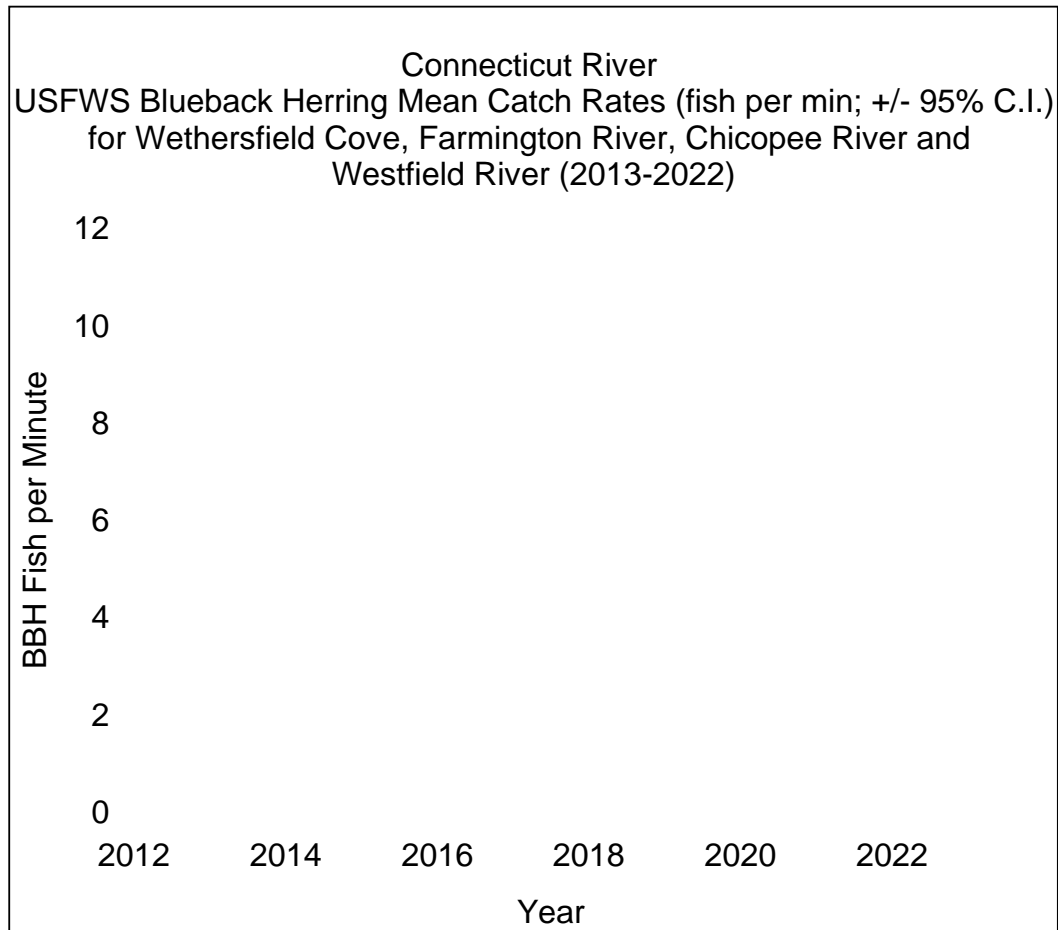


Figure 1. Annual relative abundance (fish/min) for Blueback Herring from assessments run April - June annually in the basin.