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Historical Comparison of Migratory Fish Returns to the Connecticut River from 2000-2007 Using GIS

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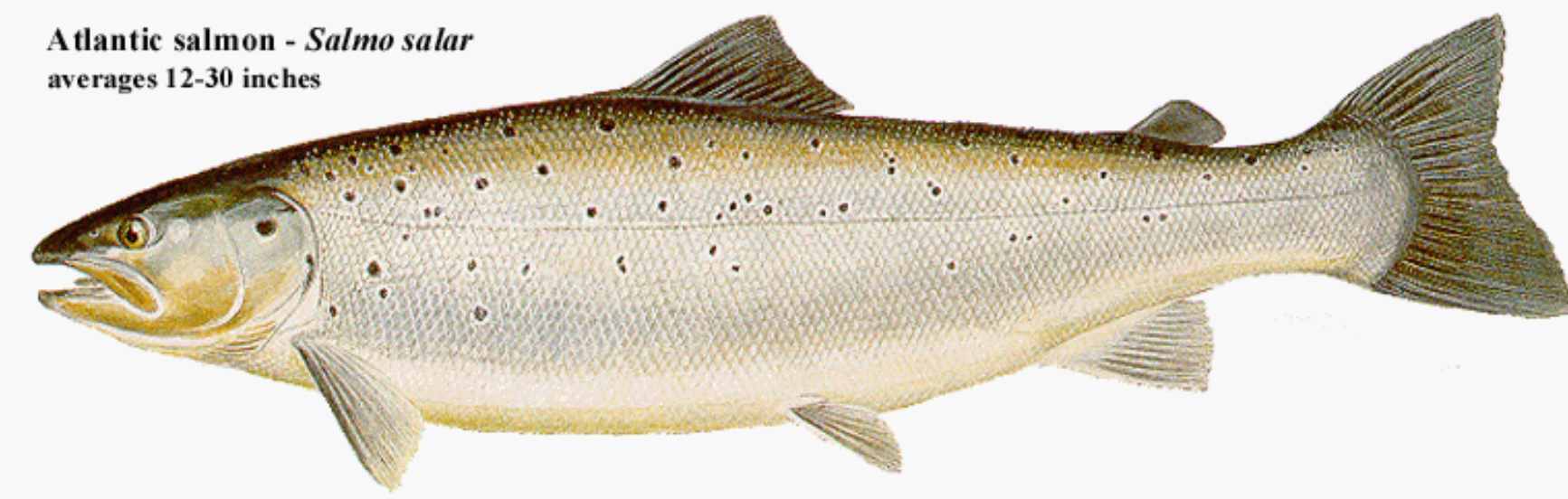
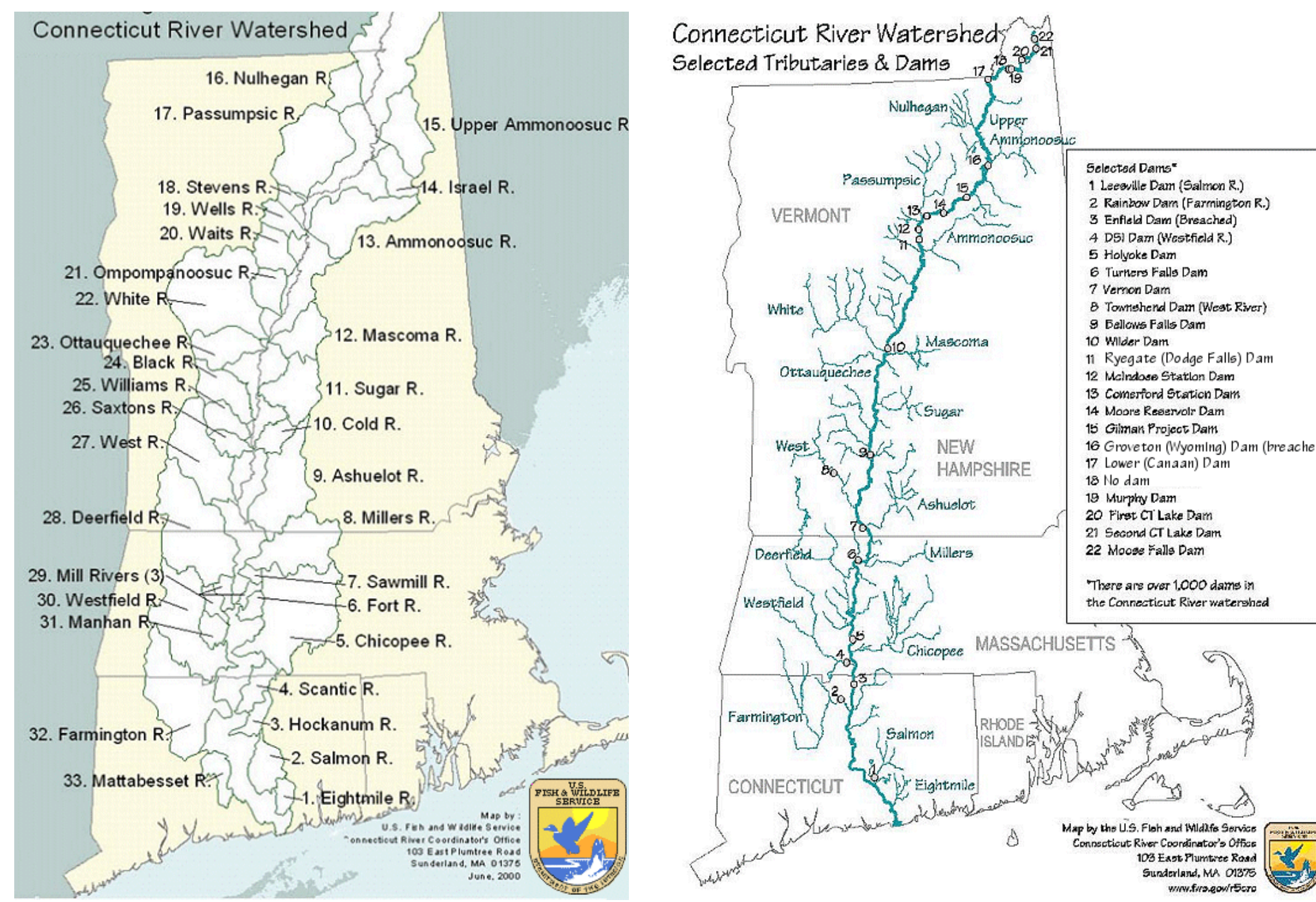
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Historical Comparison of Migratory Fish Returns to the Connecticut River from 2000-2007 Using GIS

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Introduction

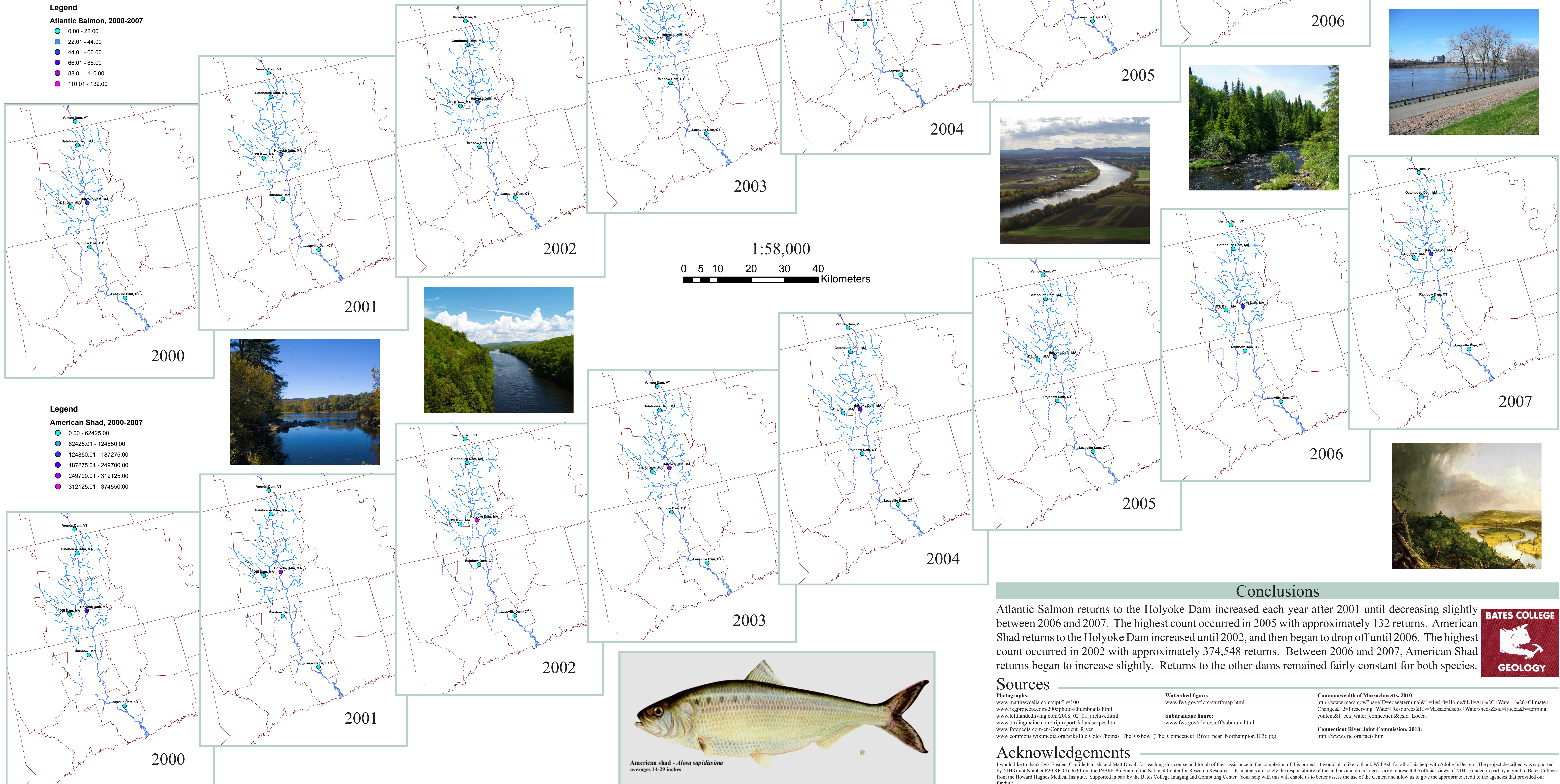
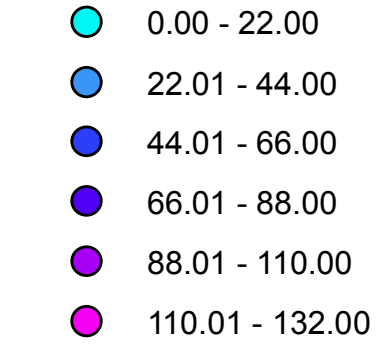
The Connecticut River Watershed encompasses approximately 28,500 square kilometers making it the largest river ecosystem in New England (Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 2010). The Connecticut River Watershed includes the states of NH, VT, CT, and MA (Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 2010). The Connecticut River begins at the Fourth Connecticut Lake on the border of Canada and flows approximately 660 km to Old Saybrook, CT where it empties into the Long Island Sound. By the time the river reaches the northern border of Massachusetts, it has descended approximately 58 meters (Connecticut River Joint Commissions, 2010).



Results

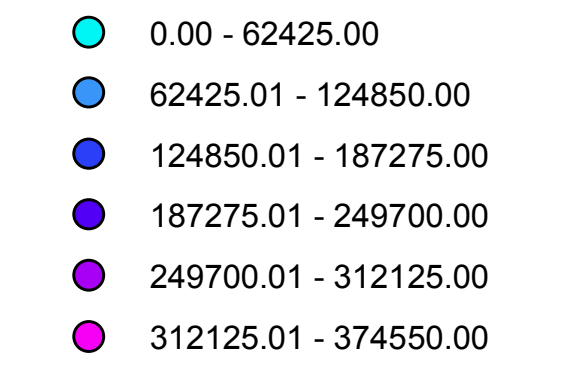
Legend

Atlantic Salmon, 2000-2007



Legend

American Shad, 2000-2007



Conclusions

Atlantic Salmon returns to the Holyoke Dam increased each year after 2001 until decreasing slightly between 2006 and 2007. The highest count occurred in 2005 with approximately 132 returns. American Shad returns to the Holyoke Dam increased until 2002, and then began to drop off until 2006. The highest count occurred in 2002 with approximately 374,548 returns. Between 2006 and 2007, American Shad returns began to increase slightly. Returns to the other dams remained fairly constant for both species.

Sources

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Watershed figure:
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Subdrainage figure:
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Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 2010:
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Connecticut River Joint Commission, 2010:
<http://www.crtc.org/facts.htm>

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