



In this one frame of Corey Bayrd's April 12, 2026 [drone video footage](#) showing American shad attempting to swim upstream of Brookfield's Brunswick-Topsham dam on the Androscoggin River in Maine, there are approximately 275 fish. During the entire shad run, the inadequate and ineffective fish ladder at the dam will pass only 0-90 shad. Using an underwater sonar video camera we have counted as many as 12,000 shad in one tide vainly attempting to pass the dam. The fish ladder is ineffective for other species as well. Blueback herring, similar to alewives, are below the dam in probably hundreds of thousands and none will enter the fishway. The two photos below show bluebacks stacked up shoulder to shoulder and nose to tail in the tailrace below the turbines (Photo: Mike Brown) and bluebacks milling about in an eddy below the bend in the fishway in the main channel just above the new bridge (Photo: Ed Friedman). The third photo shows bluebacks swimming around in the shallows below the bridge. (Photo: Ed Friedman)



Blueback herring filling Brunswick tailrace. 5/2026



Blueback herring (approximately 300) below the fishway corner. 6/5/26



Bluebacks in the shallows, 6/5/26