

FISHING REPORT NUMBER 9

6/21/2012



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INLAND REPORT

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is generally reported as good to very good. Areas to try for bass include Lake of Isles, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Shenipsit Lake (20 fish), Bantam Lake, Congamond Lake, Lake Wononskopomuc, Winchester Lake, Falls River (Essex-Westbrook), Squantz Pond, Baldwin Pond, Candlewood Lake, Maltby Lakes 2 & 3, Highland Lake, Lake McDonough, Lake Saltonstall, Wood Creek Pond, Lake Winnemaug, Pachaug Pond, Mamasasco Lake, Quonnipaug Lake, Lower Moodus Reservoir, Silver Lake (Meriden), Lower Bolton Lake, Batterson Park Pond, Holbrook Pond and Beseck Lake. **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake (largemouth fishing is good, and bags include a number of 4-5 lb fish), Gardner Lake (good action, lots of 1-2 lb bass), Lake Lillinonah (good), Highland Lake (decent action, mostly 1-2 lb fish), East Twin Lake (fair action, one 4 lb fish), Aspinook Pond (fair action for 1-2 lb fish, one 4 lb bass found), Mashapaug Pond (fair), Lake McDonough (fair action, nothing big), Pachaug Pond (fair action, catches include a 5.4 lb largemouth) and Mansfield Hollow Reservoir.

SHARE THE EXPERIENCE
Take someone fishing

SMALLMOUTH BASS are reported at Lake Lillinonah, Lake Zoar, Shenipsit Lake, Housatonic River, Rainbow Reservoir, Candlewood Lake, Highland Lake, Coventry Lake and Gardner Lake. **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake (very good, plenty of 3-4 lb fish), Gardner Lake (smallies are hard to find), Highland Lake (tough), Lake Lillinonah (fair at best), Mashapaug Pond (a few smallies are being caught) and Lake McDonough (some action).

NORTHERN PIKE fishing is reported to be good in Winchester Lake (13 lb, 37" pike among the catches), Bantam Lake and Mansfield Hollow Reservoir.

KOKANEE are being caught at East Twin Lake (17" fish) and West Hill Pond at 3 colors of lead line. Troll with corn and a mealworm behind a dodger for these silver rockets. Flash King lures (blue & silver) are also producing.

WALLEYE are being reported from Batterson Park Pond and Squantz Pond.

CATFISH fishing is reported to be very good in the newly stocked catfish areas with some 5 lbs fish being caught. Locations to try include Lakewood Lake

ZEBRA MUSSELS have been found scattered throughout the Housatonic River system-



The presence of adult zebra mussels in Lake Housatonic was confirmed in November, 2011. Earlier that summer, adult mussels were confirmed in the Housatonic River in Massachusetts and free-floating juveniles (veligers) were found at a number of sites in the river downstream to Lake Lillinonah. In 2010, adult zebra mussels were found in Lake Zoar and Lake Lillinonah. Prior to these discoveries, zebra mussels had been found (1998) in CT only in East Twin Lake and West Twin Lake (Salisbury). Anglers fishing in any of these waters and western Connecticut in general **should use extra care to avoid transporting water, aquatic vegetation, and possibly zebra mussels to new locations.**

(Waterbury), Bunnells Pond (Bridgeport), Keney Park Pond (Hartford), Mohegan Park Pond (Spaulding Pond, Norwich), Black Pond (Middlefield), Maltby Lakes 2 & 3 (Orange/West Haven), Lower Bolton Lake (Bolton), Pataconk Lake (Chester), Silver Lake (Meriden), Freshwater Pond (Enfield), Pickett's Pond (Derby) and Lake Wintergreen (Hamden/New Haven).

PANFISH are show up in big numbers and are easy to catch. Try the fishing area closest to you. Use worms, grubs and any type of inexpensive fishing pole or drop line and give these easy to catch fish a try. The kids love this non-stop action and it will keep them occupied for hours.

TROUT

Rivers & streams – Flows in many areas are a bit below typical late June levels. The current heat wave will push the fish into the remaining cooler waters. Good success is being found using worms or corn/mealworm combinations. Virtually every insect in the river is active and many are hatching right now. It's "River Insanity Time". Good reports last week from the West Branch Farmington River, Farmington River, Housatonic River (20 fish for 2 anglers), Willimantic River, Natchaug River, Hockanum River, Salmon River TMA, Saugatuck River, Farm River, Naugatuck River, Shetucket River, Eightmile River (East Haddam, Lyme), Blackledge River and Hammonasset River.

Farmington River – West Branch flows are clear and moderate, currently 304 cfs at Riverton plus an additional 45 cfs from the Still River. Water temperatures are in the low 60's °F.

Hatches include *Isonychia* (#12-14), *Vitreus* [a.k.a. pale evening dun] #14-16, from 5:00pm to dark, Tan Caddis (#16-18) good all day, Sulphurs, (*Invaria* #14-18 hatches mid-day and *Dorothea* #16-18). The fish show a preference for the males (#18). Successful patterns include: Light Cahill (#12-18), March Brown nymphs (#14-18), Gray Fox (#14, afternoon), Blue Wing Olives (#18-24, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; green #22-26, evening), Midges (#20-32) and Pale Evening Duns (*Epeorus vitreus* #14-16, afternoon & early evenings).

Housatonic River – Flows are clear and a bit low, currently 450 cfs at Falls Village and 760 cfs at Gaylordsville. Morning water temperatures are in the upper 60's °F (and rising through the day).

Major insect hatches are here and are providing excellent fly fishing. Alder/Zebra Caddis (#10-12) are hot right now, Sulphurs (#16-18, evening), Blue Wing Olive (#16-18, cloudy days, early morning; spinner fall in evening), *Isonychia* (#10-12 late afternoon & evening, just starting), Cahill (#12-14, evenings), Adams (#12-16, evening), March Brown (#10-12) and Gray Foxes (#14-16) are producing. Green caddis (#14-20, early morning & evening) are on the water. Midges and early stoneflies are also being seen at the mouths of streams on the Housatonic River.

Anglers are reminded that the thermal refuge areas on the Housatonic, Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers are closed to fishing as of June 15. These areas will reopen on September 1. There is no fishing within 100 feet of the mouths of posted tributaries to these rivers.

Lakes & Ponds – Areas to try include Crystal Lake (Ellington; fish at 20 feet, troll at 2 mph), Lake McDonough, East Twin Lake (20 fish for one boat; target 40-50 feet), Lake Wononskopomuc, Mt. Tom Pond, Mohawk Pond, Mashapaug Lake, Bigelow Pond, Long Pond, Squantz Pond, Beach Pond, Highland Lake, Coventry Lake and West Hill Pond (20 fish for one angler).

Reminder to anglers - Maps of all of the state's trout streams and rivers showing the many stocking and access points are now available online at www.ct.gov/deep/troutstockingmaps. Additionally, bathymetry maps of a number of lakes & ponds are now available online at www.ct.gov/dep/lib/dep/fishing/general_information/lakebathymetrymaps.pdf

CONNECTICUT RIVER – The river is currently somewhat lower than typical for early summer, limiting access through some shallow areas. Catches of **STRIPED BASS** at the river mouth continued to decline last week. Anglers in the Portland to Haddam Meadow area as well as in the lower portion of the river were having good luck with **CATFISH**. The **PANFISH** anglers are starting to show up, catching yellow perch and sunfish at various shore spots throughout the river. **WHITE PERCH** continue to be caught from Cromwell to Essex. **NORTHERN PIKE** are reported in Wethersfield Cove, Portland Bridge, White Oaks Cove and downstream from Hartford to Haddam (smaller fish). **LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing has been good, **SMALLMOUTH BASS** have been harder to find.

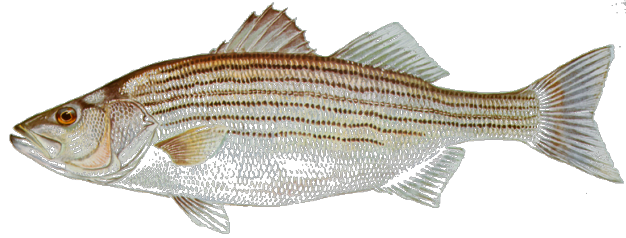
NOTES & NOTICES:

- ❖ **BEACHDALE POND** (launchable with care) and **WYASSUP LAKE** (impossible to launch) continue to be drawn down for dam repairs.
- ❖ The **FirstLight Power HOUSATONIC RIVER FLOW INFORMATION automated phone** (1-888-417-4837) is currently down and will remain out of service until early July. Until this line is reestablished, please call 860-350-3685.
- ❖ Anglers on the **SALMON RIVER** should be aware that the current work at the Lyman Viaduct (Colchester) reconstruction project on Dickinson Creek, which includes filling in a large scour hole below the twin culverts and restoring fish passage, may at times cause some noticeable turbidity, including in the Salmon River downstream of Dickinson Creek.
- ❖ **COVENTRY LAKE** – Swim sessions for a triathlon training program will be conducted on **June 23** from 7 to 9 am. The course runs from Patriot’s Park to the island in the northwest portion of the lake.
- ❖ **MUDGE POND** – The swim portion of a triathlon will be conducted from 8 am to 10 am on Saturday, **June 23**, in the northern end of the pond, with start and finish at the Sharon Town Beach.
- ❖ **LAKE LILLINONAH** - A water ski clinic for the disabled is scheduled for Saturday, **June 23** in the far upper end of the “Shepaug Arm.” This event run from 9 am to 4 pm, and boaters are asked to take care when passing through this area (marked by buoys) of the lake, and avoid interfering with the event.

TIPS & TRICKS – CARP, NIGHT FISHING

FINDING/ATTRACTING CARP To maximize your chances of catching a carp, you need to find the fish and then attract them. Look for any jumping or rolling fish. Also look for bubbles that appear to be moving slowly along. Often carp will stir up the bottom and give their presence away with rising bubbles or even clouds of silt. To attract them, try chumming. The best starter chum is plain old sweet corn. Tossing by hand, using a sling shot or lashing a throwing scoop to the end of a broom stick will get the chum to the fishing area. Chumming both attracts the fish and creates a competitive feeding frenzy. Carp competing with each other are less cautious and more easily caught.

NIGHT FISHING – Use a glow in the dark product to paint your bobbers, rod tips and anything else you want and then spray a coat of clear spray paint over the top of it. It is very inexpensive and glows really well, just recharge it with your lantern every time you rebait! Reflective tape that you buy at hardware stores works well also and lights up great when you hit it with a halogen light.



MARINE FISHING REPORT

Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) remain in the low to mid 60's °F. Check out the following web sites for more detailed water temperatures and marine boating conditions:

<http://www.mysound.uconn.edu/stationstat.html>

http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

<http://www.wunderground.com/MAR/AN/330.html>

STRIPED BASS and **BLUEFISH** fishing remains good. The Race, Plum Gut, and Pigeon Rip are again consistent striper and bluefish fishing locations. Other fishing spots include the Watch Hill area, Thames River, outer Bartlett Reef, Black Point, Hatchett Reef, lower Connecticut River, Long Sand Shoal, Cornfield Point, Southwest Reef, Six Mile Reef, the reefs off Branford, New Haven Harbor (including Sandy Point), Charles Island area, Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Bridgeport Harbor, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands and rocky reefs, and Cable and Anchor Reef. Schools of Atlantic menhaden (bunker) are in many of the tidal rivers and harbors which means stripers and choppers are not far away!

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is fair to good with a lot of sub-legal throwbacks being reported. Fishing locations include south side of Fishers Island (Isabella Beach, Wilderness Point), off the Stonington breakwater, mouth of the Mystic River to Groton Long Point, Thames River channel, Black Point/Niantic Bay, Long Sand Shoal, Westbrook-Clinton area, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor to West Haven, and off the mouth off the Housatonic River.

SCUP fishing is fair to good on the major reefs.

BLACK SEA BASS fishing is excellent in Block Island Sound.

HICKORY SHAD fishing is good in the lower Connecticut River by the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier.

Monster **SKATES** have been caught at Long Sand Shoal if anyone is interested.

For Current Connecticut Recreational Fishing Regulations: Anglers should consult the 2012 Connecticut Anglers Guide which is now available at most Town Clerks Offices, DEEP offices and at tackle stores selling fishing licenses. Anglers can purchase their fishing licenses online (www.ct.gov/deep/fishinglicense) or at participating town halls, DEEP field offices and fishing tackle vendors. Current regulations, electronic versions of the Angler's Guide and additional information can all be accessed on the DEEP website at: www.ct.gov/deep/fishing.

The Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Any person with a disability who may need information in an alternative format may contact the agency's ADA Coordinator at 860-424-3194, or at deep.hrmed@ct.gov. Any person with limited proficiency in English, who may need information in another language, may contact the agency's Title VI Coordinator at (860) 4234-3035, or at deep.aoffice@ct.gov. Any person with a hearing impairment may call the State of Connecticut relay number - 711. Discrimination complaints may be filed with DEEP's Title VI Coordinator. Requests for accommodations must be made at least two weeks prior to any agency hearing, program or event.

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106

www.ct.gov/deep

Black crappie & striped bass image
courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS