

FISHING REPORT NUMBER 10

6/28/2012



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INLAND REPORT

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is generally reported as good to very good. Areas to try include Candlewood Lake, Lake Wononskopomuc, Congamond Lakes, Winchester Lake, Seymour Reservoir, Black Pond (Woodstock), Quonnipaug Lake, Highland Lake, Bigelow Pond, Mashapaug Lake, Park Pond, Ball Pond, Lake McDonough, Lake Williams, Bantam Lake, Bishop Pond, Batterson Park Pond, Rogers Lake, Quinebaug Lake, Pattagansett Lake, Moodus Reservoir, Lake Saltonstall, Pickerel Lake, Riggs Pond, Mudge Pond, Hatch Pond, Halls Pond and Quaddick Reservoir. **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake (largemouth fishing is fair to good, bags continue to include a number of 4-6 lb fish), Highland Lake (good action, but not much over 3 lbs), Lake Lillinonah (fair to good, lunkers in the 3-4 lb range), Lake Zoar (fair), Quaddick Lake (good fishing, but nothing over 3 lbs), Moodus Reservoir ("lots of fish, no lunkers") and Beach Pond (tough).

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Take someone fishing

SMALLMOUTH BASS reported at Highland Lake, Colebrook Reservoir, Lake McDonough, Bantam Lake, West Hill Pond, Candlewood Lake, Coventry Lake, Mashapaug Lake, Gardner Lake and Bashan Lake. The Housatonic River is picking up and anglers can look forward to fishing getting very good for these great fighters. Look for the 'Dog Days of Summer' and wet wading for the best action. **Tournament anglers** reports from Candlewood Lake (continues to be very good, with some 4 lb plus fish), Highland Lake (slow), Lake Lillinonah (fair to good), Beach Pond (slow) and Lake Zoar (some smallies are being caught).

NORTHERN PIKE action reported from Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Bantam Lake, Quaddick Reservoir and Winchester Lake.

WALLEYE – Catches reported from Squantz Pond, Coventry Lake, Lake Saltonstall, Mashapaug Lake and Saugatuck Reservoir.

CATFISH fishing is reported to be good in a number of the recently stocked (late May) catfish areas with some 3-5 lb fish being caught. Locations to try include Lakewood Lake (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), Pattaconk Lake (Chester), Silver Lake (Meriden), Freshwater Pond (Enfield), Pickett's Pond (Derby), Hopeville Pond

REMINDER TO ANGLERS-

FISHING IN OR CASTING INTO PERMITTED SWIM AREAS IS PROHIBITED.

State regulations prohibit fishing in or into a swim area that's been permitted by DEEP. Additionally, vessels cannot be operated within a permitted swim area, and there's a 100 foot "no-wake" zone around the perimeter. Swim areas that have been permitted by DEEP will be marked by white buoys with orange markings, and there should be a permit number posted on the buoys. They may or may not have small orange barrier floats to further demarcate the area. Should questions arise concerning the validity of the swim area (*no permit numbers or the area appears to have been changed/enlarged or keeps moving*), please contact DEEP's Boating Division at 860-434-8638.



(Griswold), Quinebaug Lake (Killingly), Lake Kenosia (Danbury), Stillwater Pond (Torrington) 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 and use worms, grubs and any type of inexpensive fishing pole or drop line. The kids love this non-stop action and it will keep them occupied for hours.

TROUT

Rivers & streams – Recent rains have again refreshed streams and rivers, with flows in most areas back at very fishable levels. Good reports from the West Branch Farmington River (catches include a 22 inch brown trout), Housatonic River, Salmon River, Willimantic River, Saugatuck River, Hammonasset River, Naugatuck River, Natchaug River, Mount Hope River and Blackberry River. Bait fisherman are finding corn/mealworm combinations very productive. Expect rainbow trout to be in the faster water. With a heat wve forecast, early mornings and evenings would be best for fishing.

Farmington River – Fishing has been good. West Branch flows are currently clear and moderate (285 cfs at Riverton, plus an additional 47 cfs from the Still River). Water temperatures are in the low 60's°F.

Hatches/patterns include *Isonychia* (#12-14, evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* spp., #18-24, mid-late afternoon), *Needhami* duns (#22-26, early morning to early afternoon), Light Cahill (#12-14), Sulphurs duns (*Ephemerella dorothea*, #14-18, afternoon to early evening for spinners), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; green #22-26, evening), Midges (#22-28, morning) and Pale Evening Duns (*Epeorus vitreus* #14-16, afternoon & early evenings). Try bottom-bouncing nymphs in the riffles. Terrestrials are your best bet during the middle of the day with mini ants doing the best.

Housatonic River – Flows are clear and moderate, currently 360 cfs at Falls Village and 620 cfs at Gaylordsville. Morning water temperatures are now in the upper 60's°F to 70 °F (and may rise well into the 70's during the day this weekend). These summer conditions can be very stressful to trout, and especially during extended bouts of high temperatures, it's an excellent time to switch to smallmouth bass. Those targeting trout are reminded to additional care when handling trout they plan to release!

Hatches/patterns include Alder/Zebra Caddis (*Macrostemum zebratum*, #10-12, afternoon-evening near overhangs), Green/Brown Drakes (#8-12), Blue Wing Olive (#18-20, cloudy days, early morning; spinner fall in evening), *Isonychia* (#10-12 evening), Light Cahill (#12-14, evening) and Tan & green caddis (#14-20, early morning & evening). Midges and stoneflies are found at the mouths of streams. Streamers (morning & evening) are catching s some large fish.

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 – Many of our lakes are still producing good fishing. Areas to try include East Twin Lake (target 20-35 feet down), Crystal Lake (Ellington, set rigger at 20-25 feet), Mashapaug Lake, Highland Lake, Candlewood Lake, Saugatuck Reservoir, Coventry Lake, West Hill Pond, Long Pond, Squantz Pond, Lake McDonough and Beach Pond (32 fish for one boat, target 15-20 feet).

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 – Some **STRIPED BASS** are still in the lower river. Fish are being caught on sand worms & using chunk bait. The main effort is at the mouth where anglers are using Sluggos, Houdini Shad, Spooks, poppers & eels for bigger fish. **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing is good and catches are reported

in Haddam Meadows area and the coves below Hartford. Good action on **SMALLMOUTH BASS** in the upper portion of the river near the mouth of the Farmington River and up to Enfield. Also some action in the main stem below Hartford. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing has been good, try coves and ponds from Hartford to Salmon River Cove. **CATFISH** are consistently being taken on frozen herring and cut/chunk bait (outside of bends, overcast days and nights better). Try the Haddam to Cromwell area.

NOTES & NOTICES:

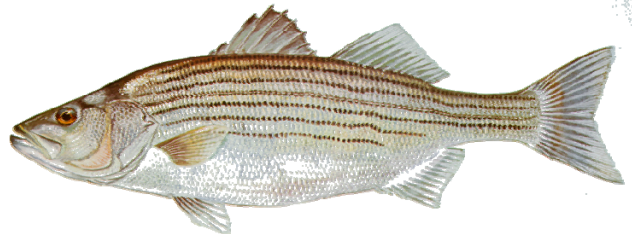
- ❖ **BEACHDALE POND** (launchable with care) and **WYASSUP LAKE** (impossible to launch) continue to be drawn down for dam repairs.
- ❖ The **FirstLight Power HOUSATONIC RIVER FLOW INFORMATION automated phone** (1-888-417-4837) is currently down and will remain out of service until early July. Until this line is reestablished, please call 860-350-3685.
- ❖ Anglers on the **SALMON RIVER** should be aware that the current work in 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 (after 50+ years), may at times cause some noticeable turbidity, including in the Salmon River downstream of Dickinson Creek.
- ❖ **CANDLEWOOD LAKE** – The annual fireworks display is scheduled for Saturday evening, June 30 in the Danbury Arm.
- ❖ **GREEN FALLS RESERVOIR** has been drawn down 15 inches to facilitate ongoing dam repairs in the Pachaug River system. The **pond remains open to fishing and car top boating access**, although the swimming area has been closed.

TIPS & TRICKS – SMALLMOUTH BASS

- Target rock shoals and drop off points.
- Can be found in deeper water where the concentrations of prey fish are more abundant.
- In shallow rock shoals, try white and yellow spinnerbaits as well as shallow diving crankbaits.
- In deeper waters, use ¼ to ½oz jig with chartreuse, yellow or white grubs.
- Slowly bouncing jigs off rocky bottoms have proven effective.
- When fishing deep water in late summer or early fall, try bouncing a worm colored tube Jig off the bottom.
- When smallmouths go deep, they seem to like the 30 to 40 foot depth range.

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.aao@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.



MARINE FISHING REPORT

With the hot weather this past week surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) now range from the mid 60's to 70 °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 fishing remains good. The usual spots include the Watch Hill reefs, Thames River, the Race, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, 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 Cable and Anchor Reef. Live lining bunker, hickory shad, eels, scup or using fresh cut baits on three way bottom rigs or fish finder rigs will work for slob bass.

BLUEFISH fishing continues to improve with an influx of good size choppers invading LIS. Bluefish weighing in the low to mid teens are being reported. **SNAPPER BLUEFISH** are now in the tidal rivers and are about 3 to 5 inches long. This is definitely an early arrival for these guys!

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is fair to good overall. There are some big doormats out there but you have to put your time in. 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. Since the snapper blues are in, offering a live one on the bottom would be a good move for catching that big slab!

SCUP (porgy) fishing is good to excellent on the major reefs. Porgies measuring 13 inches in length are the norm!

BLACK SEA BASS fishing is good on the reefs/wrecks and also on the fluking grounds. Anglers targeting fluke are catching black sea bass instead!

HICKORY SHAD fishing is good to excellent in the lower Connecticut River by the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier. Hickories can be found mixed in with snapper blues. Flood tide is best.

BLUE CRABBING is pretty hot in the tidal creeks of Stonington to Mystic and Westbrook to Madison. Some large "jimmies" are measuring from 7 to 9 inches across from spike to spike!

SPECIAL NOTE: During the summer months, anglers may accidentally hook up with a sandbar shark or a sand tiger shark. Sandbar and sand tiger sharks are protected and must be released unharmed. Simply cut the leader if you encounter one. Do not attempt to bring these sharks onboard! For identification purposes please refer to the following website:

http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/Compliance_Guide/Rec/Rec_Compliance_Guide_QR_Shark.pdf

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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www.ct.gov/deep

Bluegill & striped bass images courtesy
Duane Raver/USFWS