

FISHING REPORT NUMBER 13

7/19/2012



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INLAND REPORT

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing has generally been good.

Frogs, night topwater lures and drop shot rigs are putting fish in the boat. Areas to try include Congamond Lakes, Lake Wononskopomuc (30 fish for one trip), Hatch Pond, Upper Moodus Reservoir (15 fish; on frogs), Candlewood Lake, Bunnells Pond, Maltby Lakes (2 & 3), Lake Saltonstall, West Hill Pond, Lake Basile, Hopeville Pond, Batterson Park Pond, Hanover Pond (frogs), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Highland Lake, Quinebaug River, Bantam Lake, Mudge Pond (jitterbugs), Lake Hayward, Ball Pond, Stillwater Lake, Coventry Lake and Silver Lake (Berlin-Meriden). **Tournament angler** reports are from Lake Zoar (fair to good action, several bass in the 4-5 lb range), Pachaug Pond (fair to good), Long Pond (tough for some, several 3-3.5 lb bass), Lake Lillinonah (fair), Powers Lake (on the slow side, 4.5 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (average, several 5-lb bass among the bags).

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Take someone fishing

SMALLMOUTH BASS - River smallies are active and crazy right now with good reports from the

Housatonic River (upper river), Farmington River (Simsbury/Tariffville), Naugatuck River and lower Rainbow Reservoir. Lakes and ponds reporting some action include Coventry Lake, Colebrook Reservoir, Highland Lake, Squantz Pond, Candlewood Lake (good, find them on the humps), Bantam Lake and Mashapaug Lake. **Tournament angler** reports are from Lake Zoar (fair), Lake Lillinonah (fair) and Candlewood Lake (good, but not many over 3 lbs last week).

NORTHERN PIKE fishing is reported to be good in Bantam Lake, Winchester Lake, Hamilton Reservoir (Union/MA) and Pachaug Pond.

WALLEYE are being reported from Squantz Pond, Coventry Lake (under green lights at night), Lake Saltonstall (fish deep water drop-offs; target 25 feet of water), Batterson Park Pond and Mashapaug Lake.

CATFISH – Summer catfishing is slowing in the recently stocked areas. Good fishing may be found at Bunnells Pond (Bridgeport), Lake Wintergreen (Hamden/New Haven), Black Pond (Middlefield) and Silver Lake (Meriden).

PANFISH this season has been very good. Now is the time to get the family out and experience this fast-paced action. Target the shallows with bobbers and worms, grubs or small shiners. Small spinners and jigs have been very productive as well. 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. Larger lakes to try include Lake Hayward, Tyler Lake, Red Cedar Lake, Bishop Pond, Lake Saltonstall, Mudge Pond, Coventry Lake, West Side Pond, Highland Lake, West Hill Pond and Dog Pond.

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.**

CONNECTICUT RIVER – The river continues to warm, and flows remain low, making access to some areas difficult. **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing has slowed as the river warms. Try finding them in cooler pockets of water. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are being caught in the river above Hartford (South Windsor area). **LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing continues to be good, catches include several 5-lb bass. **CATFISH** action has been good in the coves around Hartford and in the Cromwell to Haddam section (target deeper holes/drop offs, frozen & cut bait). Keepers are hard to come by in the inland area and a few **STRIPED BASS** are being caught in the lower river on live eels, scup and chunk bait. Although action has slowed some, **CARP** fishermen have been having some luck this past week (some catches up to 20 lbs). Try boilies, worms and sweet corn. Best results are found when the “swim” is pre-baited.

TROUT

Lakes & Ponds – Anglers are finding fair to good summer trout fishing at a number of areas, with reports from Beach Pond, Crystal Lake (Ellington, drifting shiners), East Twin Lake (slow; riggers at 25-30 feet), West Hill Pond (5 colors, riggers at 25-30 feet), Coventry Lake (4 colors), Lake McDonough (target 25-30 feet), Highland Lake (middle bay, early/late) and Long Pond (worms in the deep hole).

Rivers & streams – Although Wednesday’s storms improved flows in some areas, most rivers and streams in CT remain well below typical summer levels. Early and late in the day are the best fishing times during the summer, target areas of cooler water to reduce stress on fish. Some action reported from West Branch and main stem Farmington rivers (try Euro-midging), Salmon River, Housatonic River (target the edges/cooler waters), Saugatuck River and Hammonasset River.

Farmington River – Fishing has been good. West Branch flows continue to be moderate, currently 256 cfs at Riverton with the Still River adding another 11 cfs. Morning water temperatures on the West Branch are in the low 60’s°F (and rising some through the day).

Hatches/patterns include *Ephemerella needhami* (#22-26, early morning), Cahills (*Stenonema Ithaca*, #12-14), Leadwing Coachman (*Isonychia bicolor*, #12-14, evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* spp., #22-26, mid-late afternoon), Sulphurs (*Epeorus vitreus*, #14-18) duns (#14-20, morning; afternoon to early evening for spinners), Caddis (*Brachycentrus* spp., tan #16-18, all day; green #22-26, evening), Midges (#20-32, morning), Black Ants (#8-10, hot mornings in fast water), Black Beetles (#16-18), Flying Ants/Termites (#14-18, when hot & humid after a rain) and Golden Drake (*Anthopotamus distinctus*, #10-14, late evening).

Housatonic River – Although air temperatures will be a bit cooler this weekend, conditions for trout fishing continue to be marginal. Morning water temperatures have been in the low 70’s °F (and rising during the day to the upper 70’s – low 80’s °F) and flows are low, currently 144 cfs at Falls Village and 326 cfs at Gaylordsville. Extended periods of high temperatures and low flows are especially stressful to trout, so anglers should consider switching to smallmouth bass (these conditions are near ideal for smallie fishing). Those targeting trout need to take extreme care when handling trout they plan to release!

Current hatches/patterns include Alder/Zebra Caddis (*Macrostemum zebratum*, are around in small numbers, #10-12, afternoon-evening near overhangs), *Isonychia bicolor* (#10-12, late afternoon/evening), Light Cahill (*Stenacron* spp. #12-14, evening) and Tan & green caddis (#14-20, early morning & evening).

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.

NOTES & NOTICES:

- ❖ **WYASSUP LAKE** (impossible to launch) continues to be drawn down for dam repairs.
- ❖ The **FirstLight Power HOUSATONIC RIVER FLOW INFORMATION automated phone** (1-888-417-4837) is now back in service.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **CANDLEWOOD LAKE** – A PWC safety demonstration is scheduled for Friday (7/20), Saturday (7/21) and Sunday (7/22) from 10 am to 5 pm in the vicinity of the Down-the-Hatch Restaurant in Brookfield.

SPECIAL NOTE TO ANGLERS FISHING THE CONNECTICUT RIVER- BOWFIN

In 2011, DEEP began to receive an increased number of reports of “unusual” fish being caught in the CT River. At first these reports were primarily from the Hartford area (including the coves and several tributaries, most notably the Hockanum River system), but now reports are received from at least as far downstream as Salmon River Cove in East Haddam.

The catches reported were all determined to be bowfin (*Amia calva*). Bowfin are native to portions of the Midwest and Northeast. In CT there have been populations in Scoville Reservoir (Wolcott) and in the upper CT River (north of Hartford) for a number of years. Once relatively limited in size and distribution, since 2003 the CT River population has been increasing in size and expanding its distribution throughout the entire river.

In some cases, anglers have been concerned, thinking that they had caught a snakehead (a large invasive predatory fish from Asia, originally brought to this country for the live food and aquarium trades, made notorious by several high profile introductions). To date, no snakeheads have been documented from Connecticut waters. At first glance to an untrained eye, bowfin and snakeheads are similar in appearance. However, there are a few key characteristics that can easily be used to distinguish these species from one another. The easiest method to distinguish between the two fishes is to look at the length of the anal fin (*see below*). On a bowfin, the anal fin is short, well less than half the body length of the fish. On a snakehead, the anal fin is generally long, half the body length or longer.



Additional distinguishing features include placement of the pelvic fins (in bowfin, the pelvic fins are set well back from the pectoral fins, whereas the northern snakehead’s pelvic fins are set close to the pectoral fins and gills) and the presence of an “eyespot” on the tail of male and juvenile bowfin (but not on adult females).

Anglers with concerns about the species of fish that they have caught can contact Inland Fisheries (phone: 860-424-3474, email: DEEP.InlandFisheries@ct.gov). If possible, provide digital images of the fish and information concerning where it was caught.

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 860-424-3035, 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.



MARINE FISHING REPORT

Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) range from the low to mid 70'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 fishing remains good during after dark hours. The usual striper haunts include the Watch Hill reefs, lower Thames River, the Race, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, Little Gull Island, outer Bartlett Reef, Black Point, Hatchett Reef, lower Connecticut River, Long Sand Shoal, Cornfield Point, Southwest Reef (outer), Six Mile Reef, the reefs off Madison to Branford, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor (including Sandy Point), Charles Island area, Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands, and Cable and Anchor Reef. Live lining bunker, scup, or eels on three-way rigs is the way to go!

BLUEFISH fishing is good throughout LIS. The Race, Pigeon Rip, Plum Gut, Madison and Branford Reefs, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground have been consistent spots. In the tidal rivers and harbors, look for bunker schools on the water surface making a commotion. This is a dead give-a-way bluefish are around. **SNAPPER**

BLUEFISH fishing is good to excellent in the tidal rivers and creeks. Snappers are about 4 to 6 inches long.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing has slowed down and is rated fair to good, although some doormats weighing in from 5 to 7 lbs have been reported over this past week. Fluke spots include Fishers Island (Isabella Beach, Wilderness Point), off the Stonington breakwater, mouth of the Mystic River to Groton Long Point, Thames River channel, Two Tree Island Channel, Black Point/Niantic Bay, Long Sand Shoal, Westbrook-Clinton area, Falkner Island area, outer New Haven Harbor, and off the mouth off the Housatonic River.

SCUP (porgy) fishing is good to excellent on the major reefs and rock piles. Fish measuring 13 to 15 inches are not unusual.

BLACK SEA BASS fishing is good on the reefs and wrecks in deep water (90+ ft.). Fishing around slack tide is best.

HICKORY SHAD fishing is hit or miss in the lower Connecticut River from Baldwin Bridge to Great Island.

Inshore tuna (**ATLANTIC BONITO** and **LITTLE TUNNY**) have showed up early in eastern LIS (Watch Hill area, south shore of Fishers Island) and Block Island Sound.

BLUE CRABBING remains good in the tidal creeks of Stonington to Mystic, Thames River, and tidal creeks and coves in Niantic to Old Lyme and Westbrook to Guilford.

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 more information and regulations please refer to the following website:

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

For Coastal Shark Identification please refer to the following:

http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/sharks/2008/Rec_shark_ID_placard.pdf

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



**Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

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www.ct.gov/deep

Pumpkinseed, bowfin and striped bass images courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS, snakehead image courtesy of USGS.