

FISHING REPORT NUMBER 15

8/2/2012



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INLAND REPORT

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is reported as good.

Night fishing is in full swing and producing many fish. Try black jitterbugs and surface poppers. Areas to try include Seymour Reservoirs, Burr Pond (4.5 lb bass among the catches), Beseck Lake (catches include a 4.5 lb largemouth), Hopewell Pond, Moodus Reservoir (including a 5 lb, 22 inch bass), Candlewood Lake, Lake Housatonic (some action was found here), Congamond Lakes, Halls Pond, Lake McDonough, Dog Pond, Lake Saltonstall, Lake Wononskopomuc and Winchester Lake (18 bass for one trip). **Tournament angler** reports are from Beach Pond (fair, lunkers include 6 and 4 lb largemouth), Candlewood Lake (fair, some 4-5 lb bass in the bags), Gardner Lake (good at night, lots of bass caught), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (good, including a 4.95 lb lunker) and East Twin Lake (fair-good action, including a 5.5 lb largemouth).

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Take someone fishing

SMALLMOUTH BASS action reported at Squantz Pond, Rainbow Reservoir, Highland Lake, Congamond Lakes and Candlewood Lake. River smallie action reported from the Naugatuck River and the upper Housatonic River (very good). **Tournament angler** reports are from Beach Pond (fair, lunkers include 6 and 4 lb largemouth), Gardner Lake (good at night, lots of bass caught), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (good, including a 4.95 lb lunker) and East Twin Lake (fair-good action, including a 5.5 lb largemouth).

NORTHERN PIKE fishing is reported as slow in Winchester Lake, Bantam Lake and Pachaug Pond.

Some **WALLEYE** are being reported from Lake Saltonstall (including 6.1 and 5 lb walleye).

Excellent **CALICO BASS** action on small minnows is reported in Park Pond and Silver Lake.

CARP action was productive for one angler in the Hockanum River where a 17.5 lb fish came to net and a 20 lb plus fish barely made its escape. The Farmington River produced a 22 lb fish on sweet corn. Target slow waters and watch for moving bubbles. It might be a turtle but it could be the elusive prey.

CATFISH – Summer catfishing is still producing after dark in some of the recently stocked areas. Good fishing reported from Bunnells Pond (Bridgeport), Lake Wintergreen (Hamden/New Haven), Black Pond (Middlefield) and Silver Lake (Meriden).

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.



PANFISH this season has been very good. Now's the time to get the family out and experience this fast-paced action. Target shallow areas with bobbers and worms, grubs or small shiners. Small spinners and jigs have been very productive as well. Get the kids into this it and they won't be bored. Small local ponds are often great for panfish, for bigger waters, places to try include Quinebaug Lake, Park Pond, Dog Pond, Lake Winfield, Bishop Pond, Winchester Lake, Batterson Park Pond, Tyler Lake, Mamasasco Lake, Hatch Pond, Leonard Pond and Black Pond (Middlefield).

CONNECTICUT RIVER – The river continues to be lower than is typical for the summer. Some **STRIPED BASS** are being taken at night in the lower river on live eels and tube & worm but the **BLUEFISH** have taken over much of the flats. **NORTHERN PIKE** has been slow. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are being caught near the confluence of the Farmington River and in the Kings Island area. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** has been good, catches include a number of 3 to 4.5 lb bass. **CATFISH** are being taken in the Middletown area on fresh/frozen cut bait. Target shallow areas near deep drop-offs. **CALICO BASS** action on small minnows is reported in coves by anglers fishing deeper water. **CARP** fishing is good with some 25 lb plus fish being reported.

ZEBRA MUSSELS continue to be 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.**

TROUT

Lakes & Ponds – Early morning anglers continue to find some good fishing. Areas reporting action include Mashapaug Lake, Coventry Lake, Crystal Lake (Ellington), Lake McDonough (try at 20-25 feet), Lake East Twin Lake (try at 30 feet over 40 feet of water), Highland Lake (middle basin), Beach Pond and West Hill Pond.

Rivers & streams – Recent storms and several cooler nights have brought the water temperatures down a bit, improved flows some and perked up trout fishing. With the chance of spotty thunder storms remains in the forecast through the weekend, with some localized downpours possible, stream flows may vary greatly throughout the state this weekend. Anglers can find real time stream flow data for a number of rivers and streams in CT on the USGS website at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/current/?type=flow>.

Farmington River – Fishing has been good. West Branch flows are clear and have dropped since last week due to declining water levels in Colebrook River Lake, currently 112 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River adding an additional 33 cfs. Flows may drop further by the weekend.

Current hatches/patterns include Light Cahill (*Stenonema* sps., #12-16; evening), *Ephemerella needhami* (#22-26, early morning), Leadwing Coachman (*Isonychia bicolor*, #10-14, fast water, evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* sps., #18-24, mid-late afternoon to evening), Sulphurs duns (*Epeorus vitreus*, #14-16, morning; afternoon to early evening for spinners; hatch is coming to an end), Rusty Spinner (#14-24), Caddis (tan #16-22, all day; green #18/22, evening), Midges (#20-32, morning), Black Ants (#14-18, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#8-10, mid day), Flying Ants (#18-22, mid day, when windy/humid) and Golden Drake (*Anthopotamus distinctus*, #10-14, late evening).

Housatonic River – Recent rains have improved flows some, but they are beginning to drop again, currently clear with 208 cfs at Falls Village and 437 cfs at Gaylordsville. Morning water temperatures are now in the low 70's°F but will rise through the day into the upper 70's°F. Current conditions (warm temperatures and low flows) can be 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.

The White Fly (*Ephoron leukon*) hatch is on (after dark). Use a White Wulff, #10-12. Other hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive (#18-22, early morning & cloudy days; spinner fall in evening), Leadwing Coachman (#10-12 evening), Light Cahill (#12-14, evening) and assorted caddis (#14-20, early morning & evening). Terrestrial season is here, try Black/Cinnamon Ants (#14-20, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#14-18, mid day) and Flying Ants (#18-22, mid day, when windy/humid). Don't forget streamers (morning & evening). Patterns to try include White Zonkers, Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). The Dobson Fly is active and anglers can use a black woolly bugger to mimic it.

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) remains drawn down for dam repairs.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ **COLEBROOK RIVER LAKE** – The boat launch is currently open, but due to low water levels, anglers and boaters may want to check the USACE Colebrook River Lake website at www.nae.usace.army.mil/recreati/crl/crlhome.htm or by calling the Colebrook River Lake office (860-379-8234) for updated information concerning status of the boat launch.
- ❖ **BANTAM LAKE** – The swim portion of a triathlon will be conducted on Friday, August 3 (raindate is Saturday, August 4), from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm at Sandy Beach in North Bay.

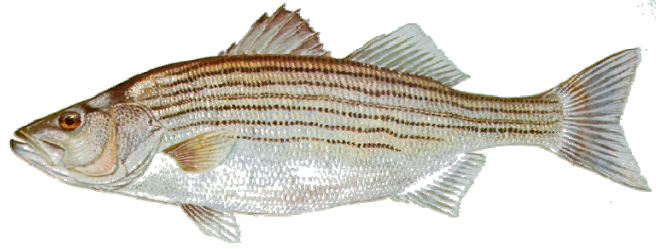
ATTENTION ANGLERS –



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.

Bathymetry maps are now available online at www.ct.gov/dep/lib/dep/fishing/general_information/lakebathymetrymaps.pdf

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.aaoffice@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) remain in the lower 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 is good and **BLUEFISH** fishing is good to excellent throughout LIS. Atlantic menhaden, also known as bunker are thick in many of the harbors and tidal rivers. Bunker are a prime food source for both stripers and bluefish. Bunker splashing on the surface is a sure indication they are about to get munched on so be on the lookout for this kind of activity! Besides the tidal rivers and harbors, other fishing locations include the reefs off Watch Hill, the Race, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, Little Gull Island, outer Bartlett Reef, Black Point, Hatchett Reef, Long Sand Shoal, Cornfield Point, Southwest Reef including outer SW Reef, Six Mile Reef, the reefs off Madison, Guilford, and Branford, Falkner Island area, Charles Island area, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands, and Cable and Anchor Reef. **SNAPPER BLUEFISH** fishing remains good to excellent with fish ranging in size from 4 to 6 inches. Casting small silver spoons or willow leaf lures work well on these miniature marauders!

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is slow overall. Deep water (90+ ft) fishing is the rule during the "dog days" of summer. Fluke spots include Fishers Island (Isabella Beach, Wilderness Point), off the Stonington breakwater, off Ram Island, Groton Long Point, Bluff Point, Thames River channel, Two Tree Island channel, Black Point/Niantic Bay, deeper water south of 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. Shore anglers should seek out rocky outcrops, boulders or any other structure within casting distance.

BLACK SEA BASS fishing remains good over hard rocky bottom and submerged wrecks.

NORTHERN KINGFISH have been reported being caught in the New Haven and Milford area. These fish usually appear in LIS in August and are more associated with warmer waters to our south. Expect to see other southern visitors as the summer goes on!

BLUE CLAW CRABBING remains good to excellent in the tidal creeks, rivers and coves along the entire coastline.

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.

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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Common carp and striped bass images courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.