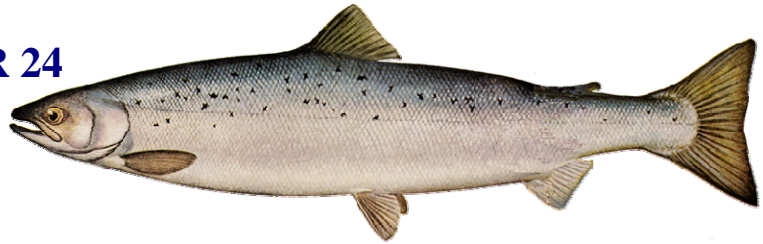


FISHING REPORT NUMBER 24

10/4/2012



YOU CAN FIND US DIRECTLY ON FACEBOOK. This page features a variety of information on fishing, hunting, and wildlife watching in Connecticut. The address is www.facebook.com/CTFishandWildlife.

INLAND REPORT

2012 FALL BROODSTOCK ATLANTIC SALMON STOCKING BEGINS

Since Thursday, September 27, DEEP has released 700 salmon to start the 2012 fall broodstock Atlantic salmon stockings. Crystal Lake was stocked Thursday (9/27) with 200 salmon. On Friday, September 28, Mount Tom Pond was stocked with 100 salmon and the upper Naugatuck River was stocked with 200 salmon. On Monday, October 1, the lower Naugatuck River was stocked with 200 salmon. DEEP also expects to stock the Shetucket River with 300 salmon on Tuesday, October 9, following completion of certain repairs to the Scotland Dam by FirstLight Power Resources.



This first group of broodstock Atlantic salmon being released range in weight from 2-6 pounds each. Later in October, several hundred additional fish may also be available for stocking. These fish will range from 2 to 15 pounds each. Following spawning later this fall, DEEP expects an additional 800-1,000 salmon from the Kensington Hatchery will be available for stocking in November. These fish will range in weight from 4 to 15 pounds each.

Below is a summary of broodstock Atlantic salmon regulations and areas:

- **Regulations for broodstock on the Shetucket and Naugatuck Rivers.** In rivers, angling for Atlantic salmon is restricted to **CATCH-AND-RELEASE ONLY** through November 30. From December 1, 2012, through March 31, 2013, the daily creel limit for Atlantic salmon will be one. During the open season in the rivers, the legal method for taking Atlantic salmon is limited to angling using a single fly, or an artificial lure with a single free swinging hook and no additional weight can be added to the line above the fly or lure.
- On the **Shetucket River**, anglers can fish for salmon downstream from the Scotland Dam (Windham) to the Water Street Bridge in Norwich (the first bridge upstream of Norwich Harbor). The salmon are stocked into one designated Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Area, from the Scotland Dam to the Occum Dam.
- Anglers are allowed to fish for salmon in the **Naugatuck River** from the confluence of the East and West Branches (Torrington) downstream to the Housatonic River (Derby). Anglers may also fish for Atlantic salmon in the Housatonic River downstream of Derby Dam. The salmon are typically stocked into two designated Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas on the Naugatuck River, the "Campville Section" of the upper Naugatuck River from Route 118 downstream to the Thomaston Flood Control Dam (Litchfield-Thomaston) and the "Beacon Falls Section" of the lower Naugatuck, from Prospect Street (Naugatuck) downstream to Pines Bridge Road (Route 42 bridge, Beacon Falls). From October 1st through March 31st, fishing for other species in these designated Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas is restricted to the gear legal for Atlantic salmon.
- The regulations for broodstock Atlantic salmon released into lakes and ponds are different from the regulations for salmon on the Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers. **In each lake, the regulations for methods, seasons and minimum lengths for salmon will be the same as for trout in that specific water body but the daily creel limit will be one salmon per day.** (Please refer to the 2012 CT Angler's Guide for trout regulations).

TROUT –

Fall Trout Stocking Update - This week DEEP expects to stock **4,700 brown trout** (12 inch and larger fish). These fish are being released into the **Moosup River TMA** (300), **Yantic River TMA** (350), **Natchaug River** (1,000) and **Hammonasset River** (250 fish in the TMA, another 250 fish below the TMA) in eastern CT, and **Highland Lake** (500), **Mohawk Pond** (150), **Mount Tom Pond** (300), **Stillwater Pond** (200), **Tyler Pond** (250), **West Hill Pond** (500), **West Side Pond** (150) and the **Black Rock Pond Trout Park** (500).

FIND TROUT STOCKING MAPS ON OUR WEBSITE

Maps of all of the state’s trout streams and rivers showing the many stocking and access points are available online at

www.ct.gov/deep/troutstockingmaps



DEEP has so far stocked 34,000 of the 42,500 “yearling” trout (6-9 inch fish) scheduled for release this fall. These fish have been stocked into the Blackberry River, Coppermine Brook, Hockanum River, Housatonic River (upper TMA), Mill River (Hamden), Natchaug River, Pequabuck River, Roaring Brook (Glastonbury), East Branch Salmon Brook (Granby) and Willimantic River.

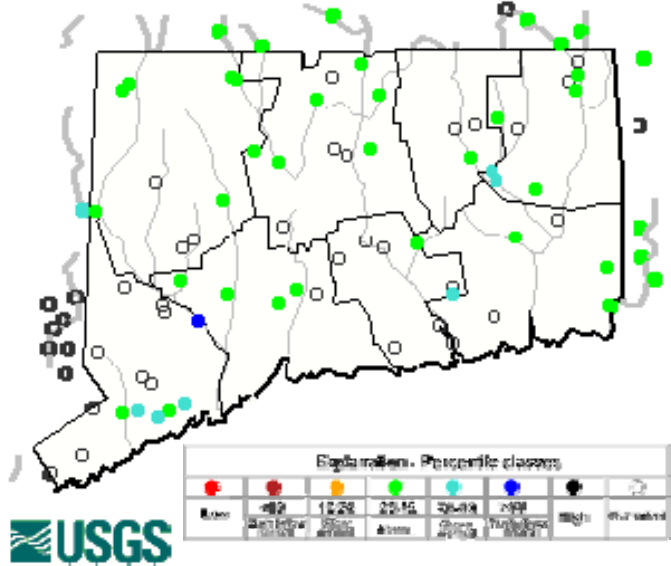
Rivers & streams – Conditions may be variable this weekend, with Saturday the better day to hunt the many recently stocked trout. Flows currently are at or above their typical early October levels (*see state stream flow graphic on this page*) but may increase as forecasts suggest a cool, rainy Sunday. Streamers and nymphing are the way to go in October. For streamers, typical patterns include White Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10), try white, yellow & brown colors. For nymphs, bottom bounce Caddis pupa (#14-16), Serendipity (#14-16), Pheasant Tail (#12-20), Prince (#6-18) and Hare’s ear (#8-20). Good reports last week from the Housatonic River, Farmington River TMA and Salmon River.

Farmington River – West Branch flows are clear, a bit low and quite fishable (98 cfs at Riverton, plus an additional 68 cfs from the Still River) and water temperatures are around 60°F. Farther downstream, the East Branch is adding an additional 100 cfs as Lake McDonough is drawn down.

Hatches/patterns should include *Isonychia bicolor* (major hatch, #12-14, fast water, afternoon/evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella & Baetis* spp., #18, 22-24, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; green #22-26, evening; summer pupa #18-20 morning), Midges (#20-24, morning), Black Ants (#14-20, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#16-18, mid day), Flying Ants (#18-22, mid day, when windy/humid) and Stone Hopper (#10-12, mid day). Rusty Spinners (#18-26) will produce in the evening.

Streamflow conditions as of 10/4/2012

Thursday, October 04, 2012 10:30CT



Data in the state graphic above are generated by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) and are available on line at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/rt>

A percentile is a value on a scale of one hundred that indicates the percent of data in the data set equal to or below it. For example streamflow greater than the 75th percentile means only ¼ of the streamflow values were above the value and thus would be considered “above normal”. Stream flow between the 25th and 50th are considered to be “normal flows” and those 25th or less are considered to be “below normal”.

Housatonic River – Fishing has been good, with plenty of recently stocked trout, more water and lower temperatures. Flows are clear and moderate, currently 611 cfs at Falls Village and 963 cfs at Gaylordsville (flows may increase later in the weekend as rain is forecast). Morning water temperatures are in the low 60's°F.

Hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive (#18-24, early morning; spinner fall in evening), Leadwing Coachman (#10-12 mid-afternoon to evening), Cahills/Summer (#12-14, evenings), Summer Sulfurs (evenings) and Black caddis (#14-20, early morning & evening). Try Sulfurs (#16-18), Black Beetles (#14-18, mid day), Stone Hopper (#8-10, mid day) and Flying Ants (#16-18, mid day, when windy/humid). Nymphing pockets, deeper riffles and pool heads can be productive when water levels come down.

Lakes & Ponds – Some trout action reported from West Hill Pond, Beach Pond, Crystal Lake (Ellington, some action trolling flies, mostly for 12-16 inch "slot size" fish), East Twin Lake, Highland Lake, Saugatuck Reservoir (7.04 lb brown trout among the catches) and the Wolfe Park Trout Park (Great Hollow Pond).

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing remains fair to good. Areas to try include Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Hatch Pond, East Twin Lake, Quaddick Reservoir, West Hill Pond, Lake Saltonstall, Bantam Lake, Mudge Pond, Lower Bolton Lake, Lake Lillinonah, Squantz Pond, Candlewood Lake, Lake of Isles, Wononskopomuc Lake, Stillwater Pond, Batterson Park Pond, Lake Waramaug, Lake Zoar, Bishop Swamp, Rogers Lake, Cedar Lake, Morey Pond, Mono Pond, Moodus Reservoir, Red Cedar Lake and Billings Lake. **Tournament reports** are from Ashland Pond (fair fishing, with a 5.7 lb lunger), Bashan Lake (lots of small largemouth), Candlewood Lake (good), Moodus Reservoir (fair fishing, not much over 2 lbs) and Lake Lillinonah (tough, with only a 3.5 lb lunger).

SMALLMOUTH BASS – Some action reported at Candlewood Lake, Squantz Pond, Coventry Lake and the Naugatuck River. **Tournament reports** are from Candlewood Lake (fair, some fish in the 3-4 lb range), Bashan Lake (nothing) and Lake Lillinonah (slow).

NORTHERN PIKE catches have been reported in Winchester Lake, Bantam Lake and Ashland Pond (a 36 inch pike caught here).

Fall **WALLEYE** action is being reported from Squantz Pond, Lake Saltonstall and Mashapaug Lake (10.25 and 7.5 lb walleyes among the catches).

Big **CHAIN PICKEREL** continue to be reported from Wononskopomuc Lake.

PANFISH are providing good action (worms, grubs, jigs or small poppers work for them). Areas to try include Crystal Lake (Ellington), Black Pond (Woodstock), Griggs Pond, Roseland Lake, Winchester Lake, Black Pond (Meriden), West Twin Lake, Tyler Lake, Silver Lake (Meriden), Beseck Lake, Rogers Lake, Billings Lake, Gardner Lake, Coventry Lake, Red Cedar Lake, Wood Creek Pond, Quinebaug Lake and Batterson Park Pond.

Connecticut River – **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing was good in the coves last week. Fish have been found in Wethersfield Cove, Haddam Meadows and the Salmon River Cove area. **CHANNEL CATFISH** continue to be caught in the river. **CARP** came to the net this week in the Middletown area, with several fish in the mid to upper 20 pound range among the

LAST CHANCE - SURVEY TO CLOSE SOON!

There's still a little time to participate - Help us learn how to better tell you about fishing in Connecticut and our many programs!

The Inland Fisheries Division would appreciate your time and effort to answer 10 short questions via this on-line survey about some of our current sources of fishing information.

Here's the link to the survey:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GM9BSQC>

If you are unable to take the survey on-line and would still like to participate, feel free to send an email to mike.beauchene@ct.gov or call 860-424-4185 anytime. Thanks in advance for your valued input.

Your help is greatly appreciated!

catches. The most important thing to remember about carp fishing is to pre-bait an area before fishing it. Come learn about carp fishing on Oct 14 at Batterson Park Pond where you'll find many experienced anglers willing to share their knowledge. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing has been variable, with more fish found at tributaries, catches reportedly include a 6.1 lb bass. **BLACK CRAPPIE** are producing some excellent catches in the river coves. Use a small jig tipped with 2 inch shiners.

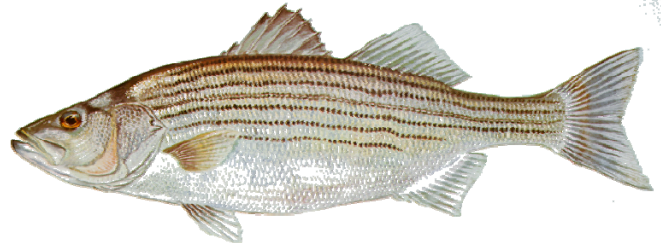
NOTES & NOTICES:

- ❖ **WYASSUP LAKE** (impossible to launch) remains drawn down.
- ❖ **COLEBROOK RIVER LAKE** – Due to low water levels, anglers and boaters should check the USACE Colebrook River Lake website at www.nae.usace.army.mil/recreati/crl/crlhome.htm or call the Colebrook River Lake office (860-379-8234) for updated information concerning status of the boat launch.
- ❖ **RAINBOW RESERVOIR** has refilled.
- ❖ **CANDLEWOOD LAKE** - The lake level is down close to the minimum “summer” level (as required under the FERC license) to facilitate some necessary maintenance of the power facility including replacement of the penstock. At this level (“summer” minimum) the launching of trailered boats (especially larger boats) may become difficult at the Lattins Cove state launch but **the Squantz Cove state launch remains fully functional.**
- ❖ **HOUSATONIC LAKE**- A rowing event (The Head of the Housatonic Regatta) is scheduled for **Saturday, October 6th from 8 am to 7 pm, with course setup occurring on Friday, October 5th.** Although this event will be using the boat launch in Indian Well State Park, room will be available to the general public to launch. Boaters should however use additional caution on the lake.

TIPS & TRICKS –FALL NORTHERN PIKE

- There are three times during the open-water period that can be considered prime for big pike.
- Each windows lasts from 10 to 14 days.
- Current period of interest is before a water body turns over in the fall.
- During the pre-turnover period big pike come out of the deep water as the shallow water cools.
- Target six to twelve feet deep.
- Use 3 or 4-inch spoon (red-and-white or red-and-yellow if yellow perch are present).
- Overcast days, use bright silver or gold spoons.
- Use medium-weight bait casting gear with a 15-pound-test line and a 12-inch wire leader.
- Cold, windy days are excellent for pike fishing with a yellow body lure.
- Large spinner baits are popular fall trolling lures.
- In discolored water use black spinner bait.
- Trolling covers more water and allows you to find fish faster.
- Try backtrolling slowly over the vegetation, with 25 to 35 feet of line out.
- Backtrolling allows more depth control.
- Position the line at a 45-degree angle towards the water with a lure set just above the vegetation.
- When you see an opening in the weeds, drop the rod tip and let the lure settle into it.
- Use polarized sunglasses so you can see these pockets.
- Try spinnerbaits over the tops of the weeds while backtrolling.

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.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

Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the mid to high 60's °F. Check out the web sites listed below 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>

BLUEFISH are throughout LIS and fishing is about peak. This is prime time for surf anglers to hook up with some monster choppers roaming along the Connecticut shoreline. Our coastal state parks are definitely worth trying out! Go to our web site at <http://www.depdata.ct.gov/maps/marinefish/fishmap.htm> to find fishing locations close to home.

STRIPED BASS fishing is on the tough side with all of the bluefish around. Dusk through dawn is your best chance at scoring with cow bass. Live lining bunker or eels on three way rigs is the ticket. The usual spots include the reefs off Watch Hill, Ram Island Reef, Thames River, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, Little Gull Island, outer Bartlett Reef, off Black Point, the "humps" south of Hatchett Reef, lower Connecticut River, Long Sand Shoal, Cornfield Point, Southwest Reef including outer SW Reef, Six Mile Reef, the reefs off Madison, Guilford, and Branford, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor, Milford Harbor jetties/Gulf Beach, Charles Island area, lower Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Penfield Reef, the reefs around the Norwalk Islands, and Cable and Anchor Reef.

SCUP (porgy) fishing is at about peak so the time to go is now! Most of the rocky reefs and wrecks throughout LIS will harbor scup.

BLACK SEA BASS fishing is very good. The best time to go for catching humpbacks is around slack tide. For those anglers willing to venture further, Block Island Sound has been red hot!

LITTLE TUNNY and **ATLANTIC BONITO** can be found cruising around in Fishers Island Sound, Watch Hill to Wilderness Point, Bluff Point, Pine Island area off the mouth of the Thames River, the Race including Little Gull Island, Bartlett Reef, Harkness Memorial State Park, Jordan Cove to Millstone Point, and the Black Point area.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is about over.

BLUE CLAW CRABBING has slowed down to pretty much a stop.

TAUTOG (BLACKFISH) FISHING SEASON REOPENS ON OCTOBER 10. THE DAILY CREEL LIMIT IS 4 FISH AND THE MINIMUM LENGTH LIMIT IS 16 INCHES.

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. 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**

79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106

www.ct.gov/deep

Striped bass image courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.