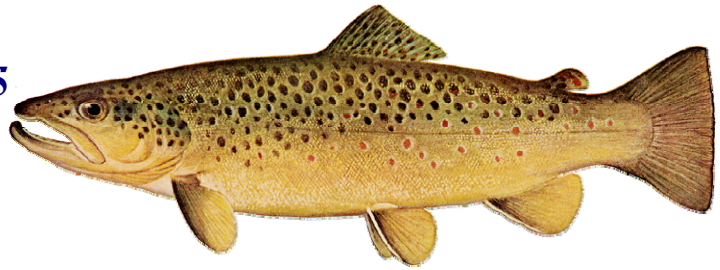


FISHING REPORT NUMBER 25

10/11/2012



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

ATLANTIC SALMON

DEEP released 300 salmon into the Shetucket River this week, completing the first round of broodstock Atlantic salmon stockings. DEEP has now stocked 1,000 salmon this fall as Crystal Lake (200 salmon) Mount Tom Pond (100 salmon), upper Naugatuck River (200 salmon), lower Naugatuck River (200 salmon) and Shetucket River (300 salmon) have all been stocked to begin the 2012 fall season.



This first group of broodstock Atlantic salmon being released range in weight from 2-6 pounds each. Later this month (October), DEEP expects to have approximately 180 additional fish available for stocking. These fish will range from 2 to 15 pounds each. Following spawning later this fall, DEEP expects another 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.

Reports indicate that anglers are already enjoying some good action on broodstock salmon at Crystal Lake, with plenty of anglers out on the lake and catching fish this past weekend. some action also reported from the Naugatuck River. *For a summary of broodstock Atlantic salmon fishing regulations, see page 4.*

TROUT –

Fall Trout Stocking Update – This week DEEP expects to stock a total of 4,100 rainbow trout into eastern CT lakes. These fish are being released into **Black Pond** (Middlefield, 300 fish), **Rogers Lake** (300 fish), **Quonnipaug Lake** (300 fish), **Wauregan Reservoir** (150 fish), **Long Pond** (300 fish), **Amos Lake** (300 fish), **Beach Pond** (750 fish), **Crystal Lake** (650 fish), **Black Pond** (Woodstock, 200 fish), **Bigelow Pond** (100 fish) and **Mashapaug Lake** (750 fish). In addition, 250 brown trout (12 inch and larger fish) were stocked into the **Shetucket River** and a total of 8,500 yearling trout (6-9 inch fish) were released into three western CT rivers, the Farmington River, Norwalk River and Pomperaug River.

Rivers & streams – Conditions should be good for fall trout fishing. There are plenty of recently stocked trout, flows are at or above typical levels for mid-October (see box on page 2) and dry, crisp weather is in the forecast. Good reports last week from the Housatonic River, Salmon River TMA, West Branch Farmington river and Farmington River. Anglers using streamers & nymphs are having success (early mornings & late afternoons). For streamers try white, yellow & brown colors. Patterns to try include White Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). Bottom bouncing nymphs with Caddis pupa (#14-16), Serendipity (#14-16), Prince (#6-18) and Hare's ear (#8-20) is a fine choice.

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



Farmington River – Fishing has been good. West Branch flows are clear, moderate and quite fishable (154 cfs at Riverton, plus an additional 53 cfs from the Still River) and water temperatures are in the low 60’s °F. Farther downstream, the East Branch is adding an additional 100 cfs as Lake McDonough is drawn down.

Hatches/patterns 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 (#22-32, morning) and Golden Stonefly (#16-16). Centerpin (float fishing, European technique) fishing will get the nymphs down to the fish.

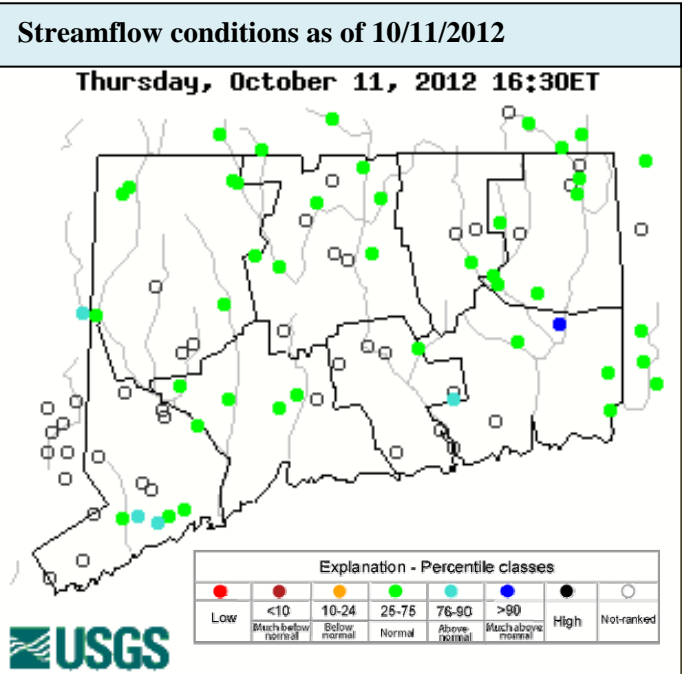
Housatonic River – Trout fishing should be good this weekend. There are plenty of recently stocked fish, flows are clear, moderate and very fishable, currently 481 cfs at Falls Village and 821 cfs at Gaylordsville. and water temperatures are currently around 50 °F (mornings, and rising through the day).

Hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive (#18-24, early morning; spinner fall in evening), Leadwing Coachman (#10-12 evening) and Brown caddis (#14-20, early morning & evening), Sulfur (#16-18), Midges (#20-24) & Light Cahill (#12-14). Large streamers and nymphing the pockets, deeper riffles and pool heads should be productive.

Lakes & Ponds – The fish are still settling into fall patterns. Anglers are finding fishing to be fair to slow, with reports from West Hill Pond, East Twin Lake, Highland Lake, Squantz Pond, Mt. Tom Pond and Crystal Lake (Ellington, good late last week, but otherwise, mostly slow).

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is cooling off with the weather. Areas to try include Bantam Lake, Winchester Lake, Messerschmidt Pond, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Batterson Park Pond, Beseck Lake, Silver Lake, North Farms Reservoir, Bashan Lake, Congamond Lakes, Lake Saltonstall, East Twin Lake, Moodus Reservoir, Halls Pond, Hatch Pond, Hanover Pond, Griggs Pond, Red Cedar Lake, Dog Pond, Quaddick Reservoir and Rogers Lake. **Tournament reports** are from Long Pond (fair to good, with a 5.4 lb lunker), Aspinook Pond (good, with a 4.1 lb lunker), Winchester Lake (fair, lunkers include a **6.9 lb largemouth**), Quaddick Lake (tough to fish, too many “shorts” being caught), Pachaug Pond (a bit slow), Bantam Lake (slow, and nothing over 3.5 lbs), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (fair, with a 4.5 lb lunker) and Gardner Lake (tough fishing with numerous bass under 12 inches getting in the way, nothing over 3 lbs).

SMALLMOUTH BASS are reported at Candlewood Lake (on the slow side), Highland Lake and the Naugatuck River. **Tournament reports** are from Aspinook Pond (smallies caught averaged nearly 2 lbs apiece), Bantam Lake (slow) and Gardner Lake (a few smallmouth in the bags, averaging 1 lb each).



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”.

NORTHERN PIKE – The fall bite is here! Anglers should target Bantam Lake, Lake Lillinonah, Quaddick Reservoir, Pachaug Pond, Hopeville Pond, the upper Housatonic River and Winchester Lake.

KOKANEE SALMON (three in spawning colors) are reported from West Hill Pond (on Big Al's Streamers).

PANFISH are providing mid-fall time action. Use worms, grubs, jigs or small poppers for them. Areas to try include West Twin Lake, Highland Lake, Dog Pond, Red Cedar Lake, Griggs Pond, Roseland Lake, Winchester Lake, Black Pond (Woodstock), Mashapaug Lake, Tyler Lake, Silver Lake (Meriden), Beseck Lake, Coventry Lake, Wood Creek Pond, Quinebaug Lake, Pine Acres Lake, Bigelow Pond, Bishop Pond and Batterson Park Pond. Get out and enjoy the foliage.

Connecticut River – BLACK CRAPPIE continue to provide fall action in the coves throughout the river. Successful anglers are using small shiners. **LARGEMOUTH/SMALLMOUTH BASS** are being caught in the Windsor Locks area and the coves below Hartford (Wethersfield Cove, White Oaks Cove, Keeney Cove). **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing was reported as good with fish up to 15 pounds caught. Pike are being found in the upper river, the Portland area, Haddam Meadows and at the mouth of Salmon River. Cut-bait and worms are bringing **CHANNEL CATFISH** in. Inland Fisheries staff recently sampled 155 catfish (to 29") in the Enfield to Haddam areas as part of ongoing monitoring. Target the coves and in the river near deep drop offs, on outside edges bends as well as brush piles. Boilies and sweet corn baits are bringing many **CARP** in, and as feeding increases with cooling water temperatures, fishing for these monsters should continue to pick up. The upper river (above Hartford) has produced fish from 18 to 26 pounds in weight (*come to the fish-in at Batterson Park Pond on Sunday, 10/14/12, and learn for yourself from area experts*).

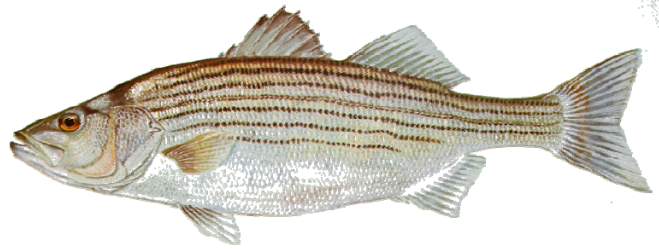
NOTES & NOTICES:

- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **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**.
- ❖ **CONNECTICUT RIVER (Hartford)**- As part of Riverfront Recapture's BigMo'2012 fundraising event, a fireworks display and associated activities will be conducted just upstream of the Buckley Bridge **Friday night (10/12) from 10 pm to 11 pm**.
- ❖ **CONNECTICUT RIVER (Glastonbury)**- A high school rowing event is scheduled for **Saturday, October 13th from 8 am to 1 pm** in the Glastonbury/Rocky Hill area. The course extends upstream approximately three miles from the Seaboard Marina (south Glastonbury). Boaters should use additional caution in this area.
- ❖ **LAKE LILLINONAH**- A high school rowing event is scheduled for **Saturday, October 13th from 2:00 pm to 5:30 pm** in the uppermost two miles of the lake (and up through Lover's Leap to Addis Park in New Milford) Boaters should however use additional caution on the northern portion of the lake.

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.

Broodstock Atlantic salmon regulations and areas summary

- **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).



MARINE FISHING REPORT

Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the low to mid 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 and remains excellent. There are “Gator-sized Blues” to 16 pounds being reported every day. This is prime time for surf anglers to hook up with some monster choppers roaming along the Connecticut shoreline. Please note: there are schools of adult Bunker throughout the Sound and lower rivers/estuaries...so the feeding frenzy is on!

STRIPED BASS fishing is challenging with all of the bluefish around. However, fishing continues to improve on the local reefs and tidal rips as water temperatures cool. Many large “Cow Bass” to 57 pounds have been weighed in while fishing the approaching New Moon. Dusk through dawn is your best chance at scoring with large cow bass. However, daytime/late afternoon fishing is getting better by the day. Live lining bunker or eels on three way or fish finder (slip sinker) 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. A reminder to anglers...Circle hooks reduce "gut hooking" and most of the time the hook lodges just in the corner of the fish's mouth for an easy release...an excellent conservation tool which can provide for years of great fishing.

TAUTOG (blackfish) fishing season opened on October 10th. The daily creel limit is 4 fish and the minimum length limit is 16 inches. Green crabs, hermit crabs, and Asian shore crabs are preferred baits for hooking these hard fighting "Reef Bullies". Weighted jigs in white or chartreuse with bait are very effective. Any rock pile/gnarly hard bottom or wreck is perfect tog habitat. Smaller rock piles or structure in shallow water (8'-15') produce larger-sized fish early in the fall fishing season. One must be willing to move from reef to reef and be patient while fishing for these wonderful good eating fish. Please be considerate of other anglers and their boats...so everyone can enjoy this great fishery resource.

SCUP fishing is also excellent for these "Reef Slammers" on any local reef and or rock pile throughout Long Island Sound. The time to go is now! Fish in excess of 18 inches in length and four pounds have been caught. Most of the rocky reefs and wrecks throughout LIS will harbor scup. These (scup) are a great fish to introduce children to some exciting "Deep Sea" fishing with the family and or friends! 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. Squid, sand worms, conch and small crabs are the bait of choice.

BLACK SEA BASS fishing is dynamite...very good. "Bucketmouths" of 26 inches and 7 pounds have been reported. The best time for catching humpbacks is around slack tide. For those anglers willing to venture further, Block Island Sound has been red hot! Locate hard (gravel/rock/boulder) bottom in deep water (80 to 130 feet). Clams are the bait of choice along with crabs. Use braided line to feel the bites along with 8 -12 ounces of weight (or a weighted jig) on a tandem rig.

LITTLE TUNNY and **ATLANTIC BONITO** fishing has been awesome for "Albies", or "Hard Tails", as they feed heavily on Atlantic silversides before migrating south. These small tuna 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. The Western Sound has also enjoyed the fun with these spectacular fish, with anglers reporting good numbers from Fairfield to Norwalk. Artificial lures are the bait of choice.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is slow with few "Doormats" being captured.

BLUE CLAW CRABBING has slowed down to pretty much a stop. Some "Jimmies" still hangin around.

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**

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Striped bass image courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.