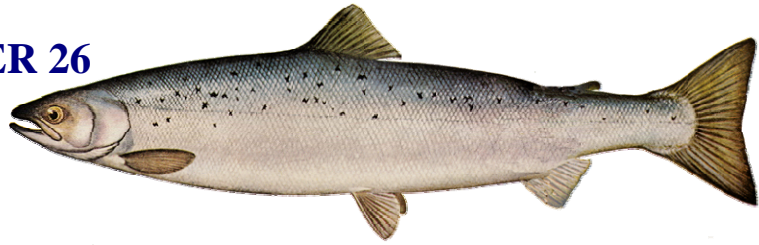


# FISHING REPORT NUMBER 26

## 10/18/2012



**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](http://www.facebook.com/CTFishandWildlife).

### INLAND REPORT

**ATLANTIC SALMON** - Some action reported from Crystal Lake, including one angler who had a line, then a lure and finally a fishing rod break trying to bring one in (these fish are great fighters). *For a summary of broodstock Atlantic salmon fishing regulations, see page 4.*



**Stocking Update** - DEEP stocked another 224 broodstock Atlantic salmon this week. These fish were released into the Shetucket River (112 salmon) and the upper (56 salmon) and lower (56 salmon) sections of the Naugatuck River.

These stockings bring the total number of salmon stocked so far this fall to over 1,224 fish with Crystal Lake (200 salmon) Mount Tom Pond (100 salmon), the upper Naugatuck River (253 salmon), lower Naugatuck River (253salmon) and Shetucket River (413 salmon) all stocked at least once.

The salmon released this week ranged in size from 2 to 15 pounds each. Following spawning later this fall, DEEP expects approximately another 800 salmon from the Kensington Hatchery will be available for stocking in November. These fish will range in weight from 4 to 15 pounds each.

### TROUT –

**Fall Trout Stocking Update** –DEEP stocked a total of 1,800 rainbow trout into eastern CT lakes this week. These fish were released into **Gardner Lake** (700 fish), **Cedar Lake** (300 fish) and **Coventry Lake** (800 fish).

**These stockings complete DEEP's 2012 fall trout stockings. A total of 27,600 adult trout** (11,800 brown trout and 15,800 rainbow trout) were stocked from early September through this week. The brown trout were all 12 inch and larger fish and the rainbow trout were all standard size (9-10 inch fish). A total of 43,000 “yearling” (6-9 inch fish) were also stocked out this fall.

**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](http://www.ct.gov/deep/troutstockingmaps)



**Rivers & streams** – Conditions may be variable this weekend. There are plenty of recently stocked trout, good weather is predicted for the weekend and flows are currently around typical mid October levels in most areas (see box on page 2) and quite fishable. However flows may be high in some areas this weekend as rain (possibly heavy in some areas) is in the forecast for Friday.

Good reports last week from the Farmington and Housatonic rivers. Streamer fishing has been productive. Try white, yellow and 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), Pheasant Tail (#12-20), Prince (#6-18), Golden Stoneflies (#8) and Hare's ear (#8-20) is also recommended.

**Farmington River** – Fishing remains good. West Branch flows are clear, a little low, and quite fishable (120 cfs at Riverton, plus an additional 50 cfs from the Still River). water temperatures are in the low 60's °F.

Hatches/patterns include *Isonychia* (#12-14, parachute style), Blue Wing Olives (#18, 22-24, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; brown #16-18), Midges (#20-32, morning), & Rusty Spinner (#14-18, morning)

**Housatonic River** – Fishing has been very good, with cooler temperatures, more water, and lots of recently stocked trout. Flows are currently clear, moderate and very fishable, currently 623 cfs at Falls Village and 1,120 cfs at Gaylordsville. Water temperatures are in the low 50's °F (mornings in the upper TMA, temperatures rise as you move through the day, or downstream). Flows may increase this weekend as rain is currently forecast for Friday night and Saturday, with a potential for 1-3 inches. Anglers can call FirstLight Power at 1-888-417-4837 for updated flow information.

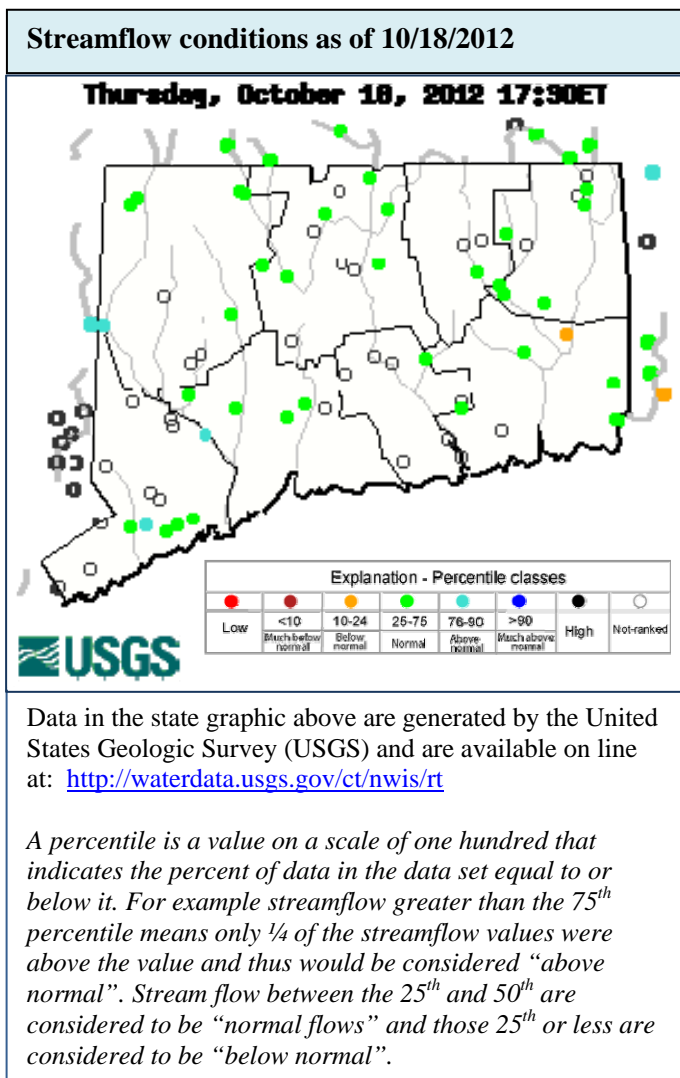
Hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive (#18-24, early morning; spinner fall in evening), *Isonychia* (#10-12 evening), Midges (#20-24) and Black caddis (#14-20, early morning & evening) and Light Cahill CDC (#12-14). **Lakes & Ponds** – Action has been spotty as fish settle into their fall patterns, with reports from East Twin Lake and Crystal Lake (Ellington; fish in 2-3 feet near the outlet; slowly, anglers pulling flies are finding some success).

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing continues to slow. Areas to try include Beseck Lake, West Hill Pond, Congamond Lakes, Mamasasco Lake, Gardner Lake, Bantam Lake, Scoville Reservoir, Red Cedar Lake and Bashan Lake. **Tournament reports** are from Moodus Reservoir (tough, plus nothing over 2 lbs), Pachaug Pond (slow), Lake Zoar (hard, with lots of fish under 12 inches getting in the way), Hopeville Pond (slow, with nothing over 3 lbs) and Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (slow).

**SMALLMOUTH BASS** fishing is fair at Candlewood Lake and slow at Lake Zoar (but catches included a 4.5 lb lunker smallie).

**NORTHERN PIKE** catches have been reported in Winchester Lake, Bantam Lake and Hopeville Pond.

**COMMON CARP** are tearing up the water! Last week's Carp Fishing Event held at Batterson Park Pond in Farmington produced some spectacular results. Through the day anglers and the general public came to



learn about fishing for this beast. The final tally was 20 fish over 20 lbs each, with the largest fish weighing in at 37.94 lbs. Follow our fishing reports as “Connecticut CarpAholics” search the state for the ever larger fish. Check the Connecticut Angler’s Guide for locations that have carp, you’ll find them in waters near you.

**CONNECTICUT RIVER** – Anglers are finding some **BLACK CRAPPIE** action in the coves (good reports from Wethersfield Cove, small shiners work well). **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing was reported as good. The best fishing can be found in the coves up and down the river. **CHANNEL CATFISH** are still providing anglers with some good action on sunfish, chunk and cut-bait (coves and outside channel edges best). Slow to fair fishing for **LARGEMOUTH BASS** reported in the lower river (Salmon River was slow, Chapmans Pond and the CT Yankee power plant canal were providing much better action).

#### 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](http://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 (lake levels)** - 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**.
- ❖ **CANDLEWOOD LAKE (safety buoy removals)** - The Candlewood Lake authority has begun removing the hazard, navigation and speed buoys for the winter. Boaters, especially those unfamiliar with the lake should use extra caution out on the lake.
- ❖ **QUADDICK LAKE** has been drawn down several feet, launching of trailered boats at the state launch may be very difficult.
- ❖ In eastern CT, “winter” drawdowns of **Bashan Lake, Beseck Lake, Gardner Lake, Lower Bolton Lake, Middle Bolton Lake, Pickerel Lake, Pachaug Pond and Mashapaug Lake** have begun or will begin soon.
- ❖ **LAKE LILLINONAH**- A high school rowing event is scheduled for **Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup> 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.
- ❖ **LAKE ZOAR** is currently scheduled to be drawn down starting October 20<sup>th</sup> (**this weekend**) with refilling scheduled to begin October 28<sup>th</sup>. Lake Lillinonah is currently scheduled to be drawn down beginning November 3<sup>rd</sup> and ending November 11<sup>th</sup>. During these drawdowns, launching of trailer boats will be difficult to impossible at the state boat launches.

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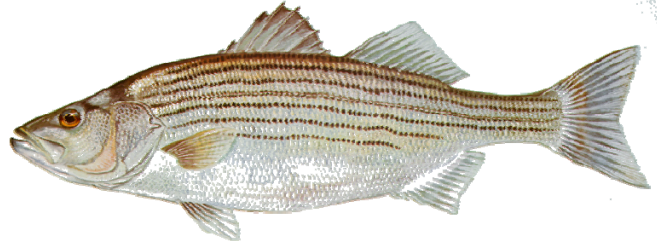
The Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Any person with a disability who may need information in an alternative format may contact the agency's ADA Coordinator at 860-424-3194, or at [deep.hrmed@ct.gov](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## TIPS & TRICKS –FALL CARP FISHING

- ✓ Fall can be one of the best times of the year to fish for them
- ✓ They are more active than in the hot summer as they try to bulk up for winter.
- ✓ The cooler waters decrease fishing pressure.
- ✓ Try baits such as corn, bread, worms, and other basic things.
- ✓ Dip your favorite bait in carp sent.
- ✓ An easy method mix is; oat meal and sweet corn.
- ✓ Hair & pop-up rigs produce well.
- ✓ Use a weighted fly line & a 24” leader as your terminal line.
- ✓ In fishing from the bank or a boat the key is to cast several feet past the fish.
- ✓ Using a barbless hook makes the fish more of a challenge and makes release easier.
- ✓ Make sure your reels have quality 10-15lbs test line on them.
- ✓ Your fishing rod should be stout, but whip enough to cast long distances.
- ✓ A spod can be used to heave some corn or other chum into the area.
- ✓ Pre-baiting your site is a must.

### *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 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>, 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

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Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the low to mid 60's °F. October can be a really windy month so 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://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1)

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

<http://www.wunderground.com/MAR/AN/330.html>

Remember, don't forget about our state parks for some prime fall fishing opportunities. Just go to our web site at <http://www.depdata.ct.gov/maps/marinefish/fishmap.htm> to find a good place to fish close to home.

**BLUEFISH** remain throughout LIS in big numbers. Bluefish sizes range from little harbors to monsters weighing in the mid to upper teens. Bluefish will be hanging out in coastal rivers, harbors, major reefs, and rip areas.

**STRIPED BASS** fishing has steadily improved with fish measuring in the high 40 inch range being reported caught in coastal rivers. Live lining bunker and eels continue to be very effective on large cow bass. Striper 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 still very good on the local reefs.

**BLACK SEA BASS** fishing has diminished slightly but is still good. Humpheads measuring up to 24 inches are still being reported caught by anglers.

**TAUTOG** (blackfish) fishing season is now open and fishing is red hot! Togs are in close to shore in shallow water rocky areas, reefs, and breakwaters. Right now, shore anglers can catch some nice blackfish at any of our coastal state parks such as Sherwood Island, Rocky Neck, and Harkness Memorial.

**LITTLE TUNNY** and **ATLANTIC BONITO** are still around off Watch Hill, Wilderness Point, Bluff Point, Pine Island area, and the Race including Little Gull Island to the Sluiceway.

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*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](http://www.ct.gov/deep/fishing).

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### DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of  
**ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

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[www.ct.gov/deep](http://www.ct.gov/deep)

*Striped bass image courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.*