

FISHING REPORT NUMBER 28

11/1/2012



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.

STORM SANDY information – DEEP’s Boating Division has indicated that all inland boat launches are open. A number of state parks however remain closed (as of Thursday, 11/1) following storm Sandy as site assessments are ongoing. DEEP’s Marine Headquarters in Old Lyme also remains closed. **For more information on the status of DEEP facilities, please check the website** (www.ct.gov/deep).

INLAND REPORT

ATLANTIC SALMON - Stocking Update - DEEP began spawning salmon at the Kensington Hatchery this week and approximately 600 spawned salmon will be available for stocking. Tomorrow, Friday, 11/2, DEEP plans to stock approximately 150 broodstock salmon into the Shetucket River. Next week, DEEP expects to stock another 450 fish into the upper Naugatuck (150 salmon), lower Naugatuck River (150 salmon) and the Shetucket River (150 fish). **These stockings will bring the number of broodstock Atlantic salmon stocked this fall to approximately 1, 800 fish** (besides the Naugatuck & Shetucket rivers, Crystal Lake and Mount Tom Pond have also been stocked with salmon this fall). Some additional salmon may also become available at the end of November. *For a summary of broodstock Atlantic salmon fishing regulations, see page 3.*



TROUT –

Rivers & streams – Conditions will be variable this weekend. Fairly good weather (dry & cool) is forecast, but rains brought in by the storm (Sandy) did increase flows throughout the state (see box on page 2). Flows in most areas are beginning to drop to more fishable levels (remember that smaller streams and tributaries typically will drop quickest). Anglers can also find a table of 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>.

The autumn is streamer and nymphing time. For colors, try white, yellow and brown, and for patterns, White Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, and Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). Nymphs to bottom bounce include caddis pupa (#14-16), Serendipity (#14-16), Golden Stoneflies (#8), Pheasant Tail (#12-20), Prince (#6-18) and Hare’s ear (#8-20). Good reports last week from the West Branch Farmington, Farmington and Naugatuck rivers.

Farmington River – Fishing was good last week. West Branch flows are clearing and a bit high, currently 285 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River adding an additional 236 cfs.

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 (#16-22, morning), White Spinners (#12-14) and Rusty Spinner (#14-18, morning).

Housatonic River – Flows are currently high (currently 1,860 cfs at Falls Village and 2,710 cfs at Gaylordsville) but beginning to drop and clear. Morning water temperatures are in the low to mid 50's°F.

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).

Lakes & Ponds – Fair to slow fishing reported from West Hill Pond and Squantz Pond.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing was generally fair to slow with reports from Congamond Lakes, Winchester Lake, Highland Lake, Candlewood Lake (slow), Mansfield Hollow, Red Cedar Lake, Bishop Pond, Lake Hayward, Amos Lake, Pachaug Pond, Bigelow Pond, Black Pond (Woodstock), Pickerel Lake, Glasgo Pond, Quinebaug Lake, Silver Lake, Beseck Lake, Black Pond (Meriden), West Hill Pond (fair) and Bantam Lake. **Tournament reports** are from Amos Lake (very slow, but with a 6 lb lunker) and Candlewood Lake (tough).

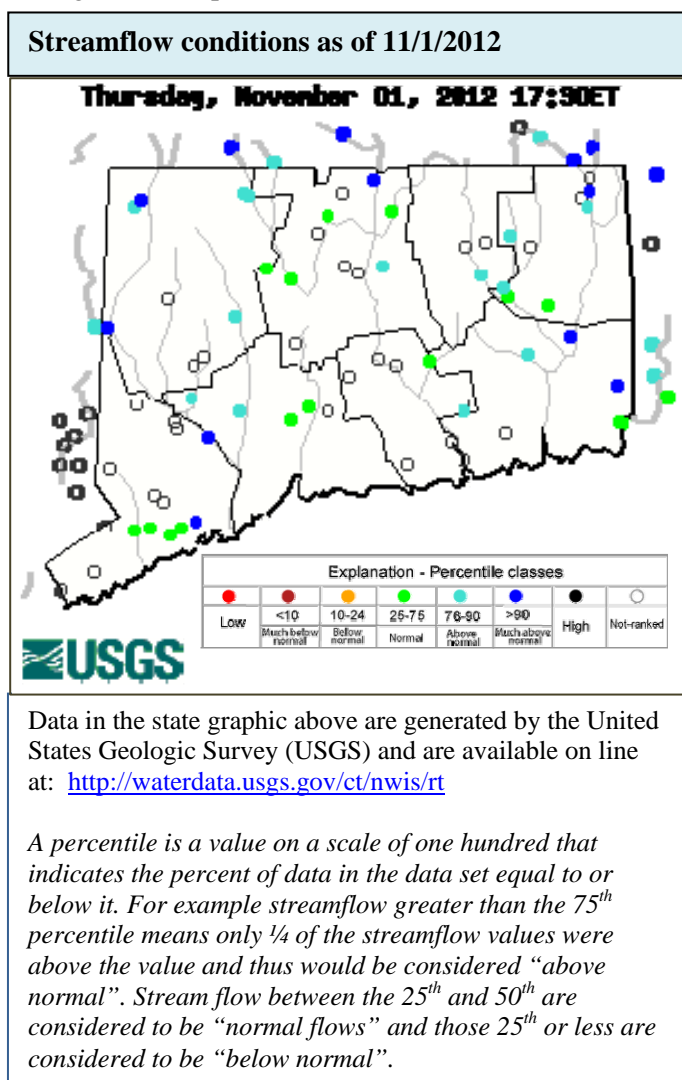
SMALLMOUTH BASS catches were reported from Candlewood Lake, Squantz Pond and Coventry Lake. **Tournament reports** are from Candlewood Lake (fair to slow, with several smallmouth in the 3.5 to 4.5 lb range).

NORTHERN PIKE fall bite is here! Anglers should target Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Lake Lillinonah (note that this lake is drawn down through 11/11), Bantam Lake, Winchester Lake and Pachaug Pond.

WALLEYE- some nice action reported from Saugatuck Reservoir with a number of catches in the 20-24 inch range. DEEP also completed its 2012 walleye fingerling stockings in late October. These fish are 4-6 inch fish (averaging 5.1 inches in length) obtain from a hatchery in Minnesota. A total of 34,900 fingerling walleye were released into Lake Zoar, Squantz Pond, Batterson Park Pond, Coventry Lake, Beach Pond, Mashapaug Lake, Beach Pond, Gardner Lake and three new water bodies, Mount Tom Pond, Cedar Lake and West Thompson Lake. Another 13,100 fingerlings were stocked into Saugatuck Reservoir, Lake Saltonstall and Lake Pocotopaug. The fish released into these three lakes were purchased by Aquarion Water Company, South Central Connecticut Water Authority and the town of East Hampton and stocked by DEEP. The fish released this fall should reach keep-able size in three to four years.

CONNECTICUT RIVER – The river is high (flows are just starting to drop) and on the turbid side.

WHITE PERCH (southern part of river) and **BLACK CRAPPIE** (decent/good action) were reported last week in the coves throughout the river. Try night crawlers on the bottom or small jigs bounced just off the bottom tipped with small shiners. **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing was picking up (expect it to get better) with fish being found in Middletown, Harbor Park, Haddam and downstream to the mouth of the



Salmon River. **CHANNEL CATFISH** (Middletown) were still providing anglers with some good action. Chunk & cut-bait on the outside channel edges and in coves was working. Several fish over 10 lbs were reported last week. Try the Wethersfield, Hartford and Middletown Portland areas. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** can be found on structure in the upper and middle sections of the river. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing was fair to good in the lower river. **CARP** fishing has been consistent this fall with many high teen to mid 20 pounders being reported.

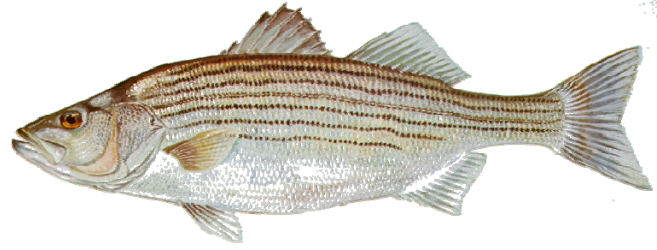
NOTES & NOTICES:

- ❖ **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** are ongoing.
- ❖ **LAKE LILLINONAH** is currently drawn down approximately six feet. The use of both state launches (Route 133/steel bridge launch and Pond Brook launch) by trailered boats will be impossible during this drawdown. Refill is scheduled to begin Sunday, November 11. Anglers can call FirstLight Power at 1-888-417-4837 for updated lake level (and Housatonic River flow) information.
- ❖ Anglers are reminded that the fishing season has closed at several lakes and ponds scattered throughout the state, most notably **LAKE WONOSCOPOMUC, GREEN FALLS RESERVOIR, BATTERSON PARK POND** and **SHENIPSIT RESERVOIR**. Please refer to the 2012 CT Angler’s Guide for additional locations.

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).

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) are around 60 °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://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1
<http://www.wunderground.com/MAR/AN/330.html>

Hurricane Sandy gave us quite a jolt! Use extreme caution when venturing to fish along the coastline or from a boat. Shore access areas maybe unsafe to fish and the amount of debris in the water make it hazardous to navigate rivers and coastal waters. Fishing prior to Sandy was overall very good to excellent for many species. **This abbreviated report describes the fishing before Sandy.**

BLUEFISH was still very good throughout LIS with good sized fish weighing in the lower teens common.

STRIPED BASS fishing before Sandy was excellent with “cows” reported in the 50 inch range and 40+ lbs being caught on the reefs and rip areas.

SCUP (porgy) fishing was still good on the local reefs.

BLACK SEA BASS fishing was good in deep water (90+ ft) over gravely, hard bottom. Humpheads measuring 18+ inches were being caught around slack tide.

TAUTOG (blackfish) fishing season was going “gangbusters” until the storm hit. “White chins” weighing 8 lbs was not unusual.

HICKORY SHAD showed up in the tidal rivers just before the storm and the fishing was excellent. Huge hickories in the 20 inch range were being reported.

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.*