

# FISHING REPORT NUMBER 29

11/8/2012



- **THIS IS THE FINAL REGULAR SEASON 2012 FISHING REPORT**  
(weekly reports will resume next spring).
- **OCCASIONAL REPORTS WILL BE ISSUED DURING THE ICE FISHING SEASON.**

**THANK YOU. HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND GOOD FISHING!**



**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 - Stocking Update** - DEEP began spawning salmon at the Kensington Hatchery last week and approximately 600 spawned salmon are being stocked out. Last Friday (11/2), DEEP released approximately 150 broodstock salmon into the Shetucket River. This week, DEEP is releasing another 450 fish.

These salmon will be stocked into the upper Naugatuck (150 salmon), lower Naugatuck River (150 salmon) and the Shetucket River (150 fish). **These fish are beautiful, ranging in size from 3 to 21 pounds, and average 9.2 pounds each.**

**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.*

Fishing for Atlantic salmon in the Shetucket River and Naugatuck River has picked up with a number of fish caught and released. Crystal Lake is also fishing well (several fish were taken this past week, with one estimated at 15 lbs).

## TROUT –

**Rivers & streams** – Conditions for fishing should be good for the weekend and early next week, with clearing skies, warming temperatures and moderate flows in most areas (*see box on page 2 for state wide flows*, interestingly, precipitation amounts from the two storms experienced in the last ten days were relatively modest). Good reports last weekend from the West Branch Farmington, Farmington and Housatonic rivers.

Fall is streamer and nymph time. Streamers to use include white, yellow and brown colors, and patterns include White Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, and Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). Try using 2X tippet. Nymphs to bottom-bounce include Tan & Winter Caddis pupa (#16-18), Serendipity (#14-16), Pheasant Tail (#12-20), Prince (#6-18) and Hare's ear (#8-20).

**Farmington River** – West Branch flows are clear and a bit on the high side, currently 370 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River adding an additional 146 cfs. Hatches include Blue Wing Olive (#18, 22-24, dominant hatch), Isonychia (#12-14), with Midges (#20-2) and Caddis (#16-18). For best action try Rusty Spinner (#14-18), White Spinner (#12-14), Blue Wing Olives (late morning), Caddis (winter & tan, early afternoon). Expect most of the action to be midday (11:30 am-3 pm).

**SHARE THE EXPERIENCE**  
Take someone fishing

**Housatonic River** – Flows are clearing, moderate and very fishable (currently 883 cfs at Falls Village and 1,140 cfs at Gaylordsville). Morning water temperatures are in the low to mid 40's °F. Hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive (#18-24, main hatch in the afternoon), Midges (#20-24) and Tan & Winter caddis (#14-20, early morning & late afternoon).

**Lakes & Ponds** – Mixed results for trout fishing, with reports from Highland Lake (target the shallows), East Twin Lake (slow), Crystal Lake (Ellington, good fishing, 10 fish for one angler; fish in the weeds near the outlet) and West Hill Pond (draw down is ongoing, may be tough to launch).

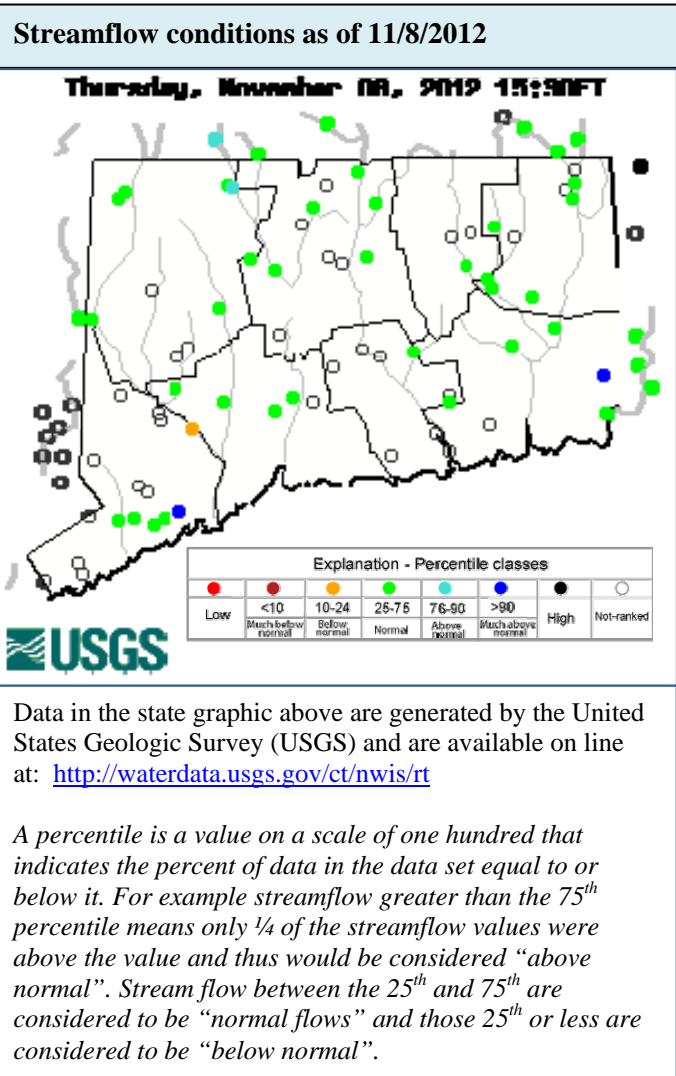
**LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing is generally fair to slow, with reports from Candlewood Lake (fair, but still hard to find), Highland Lake (best reports from here, with fair to good action, plus several fish in the 4-5 lb range), Tyler Lake, Crystal Pond, Twin Brooks Pond, Beach Pond, Rogers Lake, Bantam Lake (slow with one fish over 4 lbs reported) and Lake Zoar. Try jigs and crawfish patterns dragged slowly on the bottom

**SMALLMOUTH BASS** are reported at Candlewood Lake (still on the tough side), Highland Lake (good, catches include a 4 lb smallmouth), Bantam Lake (fair to good, with several 3 lb plus fish) and Coventry Lake.

**NORTHERN PIKE** are being reported from Bantam Lake and Winchester Lake.

**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 public came to learn about fishing for this beast. The final tally was 20 fish over 20 lbs. The largest fish weighed in at 37.94 lbs.

**CONNECTICUT RIVER** – Flows have dropped to more moderate levels. **BLACK CRAPPIE** are putting on a good showing in the coves for anglers using small shiners. **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing is reported to be good on large shiners. Fish (up to 33 inches in length) have been found in Wethersfield Cove, Keeney Cove, and from Harbor Park (Middletown) down river to Salmon River. **CATFISH** are responding to chunk bait in the Middletown to Haddam area.



**NOTES & NOTICES:**

- ❖ **QUADDICK LAKE** has been drawn down several feet, launching of trailered boats at the state launch may be very difficult.
- ❖ **WINTER DRAWDOWNS** of a number of Eastern CT lakes are in progress. Reported lake depth status for the following water bodies is current as of Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>: **Bashan Lake** (down 37 inches), **Beseck Lake** (down 6 inches), **Gardner Lake** (down 19 inches), **Lower Bolton Lake** (down 8 inches), **Middle Bolton Lake** (down 32 inches), **Pachaug Pond** (down 7 inches) and **Mashapaug Lake** (down 24 inches).

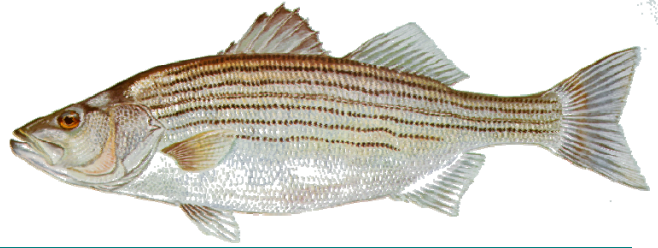
- ❖ **WESTERN CT WINTER DRAWDOWNS.** A three foot drawdown of **Highland Lake** and a two foot drawn of **West Hill Pond** are ongoing.
- ❖ **LAKE LILLINONAH** is currently drawn down approximately six feet. The use of both state launches (Route 133/steel bridge launch and Pond Brook launch) by trailered 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 at a number of areas including **BUNNELLS POND** (Beardsley Park), **GREAT HOLLOW POND** (Wolfe Park), **LAKE MCDONOUGH**, the **MALTYBY LAKES**, **LAKE SALTONSTALL**, **MOHEGAN PARK POND** (Spaulding Pond, Norwich), **LAKE CHAMBERLAIN** and most designated “children’s areas” will close after **November 30**. (*Please refer to the 2012 CT Angler’s Guide for complete regulations*).
- ❖ The fishing season at **SAUGATUCK RESERVOIR** will close after **December 31<sup>st</sup>** (reopens April 20, 2013)

### **Tips & Tricks: FALL TROUT**

- Fall is the best time to catch large trout.
- Worm fishing can be very effective.
- Target the shallow edges of lakes near outlets.
- Fly fisherman should match the hatch carefully.
- On cooler mornings try nymphing with egg patterns.
- Focus on moderate to slower water in major pools.
- Wait until mid-morning to allow the water to warm up to get the fish biting.
- Slow the presentation down.
- Afternoons and early evenings are prime time.
- Look for fish to start to pool up in moderate speed water.
- The fish may move into the riffles at the pool heads to feed.
- Cooler water makes the trout more active than they were in the heat of the summer.
- With cooler temperatures trout will be moving closer to the water’s surface.

### **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 FISHERIES NOTES

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For detailed water temperatures and marine boating conditions, please check the following websites:

<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>

*Last week's report was the last full Marine report for 2012, reports will resume in the spring. Below is an important note from Marine Fisheries:*

### SPECIAL REMINDER FROM DEEP'S MARINE FISHERIES DIVISION:

**It's that time again!** Starting December 1<sup>st</sup>, you can renew your saltwater fishing license for 2013. When you buy a license, the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection asks for your phone number and address. **Why?** They *automatically register you* in the **National Saltwater Angler Registry** *at no cost*. By providing contact information, NOAA's **Marine Recreational Information Program** can more efficiently conduct short random telephone surveys with anglers about their fishing habits. NOAA combines what they learn from these telephone surveys with shore side interviews to generate recreational harvest estimates which allow the DEEP to make better decisions about how to manage your resources. Also, help CT anglers remain exempt from the National Saltwater Angler Registry Fee – **provide complete and accurate information when you renew your fishing license!**

Find out more about the program by visiting [www.CountMyFish.NOAA.gov](http://www.CountMyFish.NOAA.gov)

**Also - Summer flounder (fluke) season is now closed.**

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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).*

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.aaoffice@ct.gov](mailto: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.

### DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



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*Striped bass image courtesy  
Duane Raver/USFWS.*