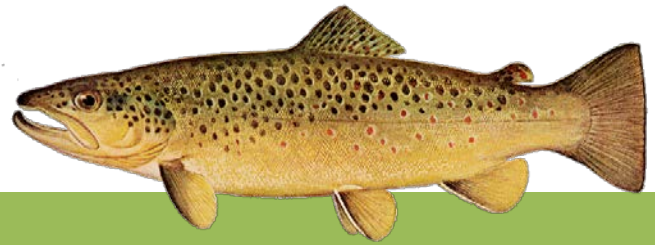


CT DEEP **2015**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 5
5/14/2015



Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta*)



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Take someone fishing

INLAND REPORT

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - Trout fishing has been generally good and conditions should be fairly good for the weekend, with moderate temperatures forecast and quite fishable rivers. Flows throughout the state, however, have dropped well below typical mid-May levels throughout the state (*see stream flow graphic on page 3*). Good reports last week from the Farmington River, Housatonic River, Blackberry River, Salmon River, Natchaug River, Hammonasset River, Eightmile River, Tankerhoosen River, Jeremy River, Hockanum River, Saugatuck River and Willimantic River.

Farmington River - Fishing has been good and conditions will be good for the weekend. There are plenty of recently stocked trout and flows are clear and very comfortable for fishing, currently 143 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River adding another 42 cfs.

Hatches include Hendrickson (a.k.a. red quills; #12-14 hatching in the afternoon from the Campground up to the dam), Blue Winged Olive (#16-24), Blue Quill (a.k.a. paralep; #16-18), Early Stonefly (#8-12), Quill Gordon (#14), Green Caddis & Brown/Tan Caddis (#18-22) and Sulphurs (#16-20). Successful patterns include Blue Winged Olives (#16-18), Winter/Summer Caddis (#16-18), Sulphur Emerger (#16-20), Rusty Spinners (#16-20), Midges (#22-32), Blue Quill (#16-18), Pheasant Tails (#12-18) and Mahogany Duns (#16-18).

Housatonic River - Fishing has been good and conditions should be good for the weekend. Flows are clear and very comfortable for fishing, but are well below typical levels (currently 515 cfs at Falls Village, and 848 cfs at Gaylordsville). Morning water temperatures are in the upper 50's to low 60's °F.

Current hatches include Green Caddis (just starting), Tan Caddis, March Brown/Gray Fox (starting to show up) & Blue Winged Olives (cloudy days). Caddis (#14-16, green, olive & tan, just starting), Hendrickson Spinner (Rusty, #12-14), Adams (#12-20), March Brown (#10-12) are working well. Caddis, Gray Fox, March Browns and Blue Wing Olives patterns are suggested. Look for the rainbow trout to be in faster water. Anglers using light colored streamers fished at early evening on sinking-tip line should be very successful on overcast days. For those nymphing low & slow is working very well. Bottom bumping is catching some fish.



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.

Rivers and streams stocking update (Note that all stocking schedules are subject to change):

In **eastern Connecticut**; **Dickenson Creek, Jeremy River**, lower **Blackledge River** (Marlborough), **Salmon River** (including the TMA), **Furnace Brook** (Stafford), **Roaring Brook** (Stafford), **Middle River, Willimantic River** (above the TMA, Stafford), lower **Scantic River** (East Windsor), upper **Scantic River** (Somers, Enfield), **Hockanum River** (below the TMA in East Hartford, above the TMA in Ellington & Vernon), **Willimantic River TMA, Willimantic River** (below the TMA), **Hop River, Skungamaug River, Blackwells Brook, Moosup River, Whitfords Brook, Shetucket River, Yantic River** (including the TMA), **Mashamoquet Brook, Branford River, Latimer Brook, Eightmile River, Pachaug River** and **Quinebaug River** (Griswold) stocked this week.

In **western Connecticut**; **Norwalk River** (Merwin Meadows area), **Pequabuck River** (Rockwell Park), **Hall Meadow Brook, East Branch Naugatuck River, West Branch Naugatuck River, upper Naugatuck River** (Harwinton, Litchfield, Torrington), **Pequonnock River** (Trumbull- including in the "Trumbull Basin" area, and Bridgeport – including in Beardsley Park), **Farmington River TMA** (West Branch Farmington River from Goodwin Dam to the upper end of the year-round catch-and-release area, and Farmington River from below the year-round catch-and-release area to the route 177 bridge in Unionville) and the **Farmington River** (from the Route 177 bridge, Unionville, to the Route 4 bridge, Farmington) stocked this week.

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS - Trout fishing has been good, places to try, with reports from Crystal Lake (Ellington, 7 colors of lead line, Kobra #9), Highland Lake (6 colors of lead line, Flash King blue/silver), East Twin Lake (18 foot depth, Kobra #9, Flash King orange/silver), West Hill Pond, Mohawk Pond, Wononskopomuc Lake (rigger at 20 feet, 2.1 mph), Candlewood Lake, Cedar Lake, Black Pond (Meriden), Lake McDonough, Coventry Lake, Mount Tom Pond (DB Smelt #136, dawn at 1.9 mph), Beach Pond (streamers, 18 foot depth, 80 foot wire at 1.8 mph), Mashapaug Lake, Bigelow Pond, Long Pond, Colebrook Reservoir, Lake Hayward and Wyassup Lake.

Lakes and ponds stocking update (Note that all stocking schedules are subject to change):

In **eastern Connecticut**; **Gay City Pond, Black Pond** (Woodstock), **Crystal Lake, Walkers Reservoir, Hewitt fly Pond, Long Pond, Hyde Mill Pond, Lantern Hill Pond, Lake Saltonstall, Dodge Pond** and **Uncas Lake** were stocked.

In **western Connecticut**; **Squantz Pond, Colebrook River Lake, Highland Lake, Scoville Reservoir, Stillwater Pond** and **Lake McDonough** were stocked.

TROUT PARKS – Fishing remains generally good at the Trout Parks (very good last week at Chatfield Hollow and Stratton brook). The **Day Pond, Southford Falls, Black Rock Pond, Wolfe Park** (Great Hollow Pond) and **Stratton Brook Trout Parks Trout Parks** were stocked this week.

COMMUNITY FISHING WATERS- **Mirror Lake** was stocked this week.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing fishing has been good. Places to try include Burr Pond, Black Pond (Meriden), Rogers Lake, Gardner Lake, Candlewood Lake, Lake McDonough, Lake Saltonstall, Wononskopomuc Lake, Billings Lake, Highland Lake, East Twin Lake, Bantam Lake, Mount Tom Pond, Hatch Pond, Wood Creek Pond, Winchester Lake, West Hill Pond, Breakneck Pond, Bishop Swamp Pond, Mudge Pond, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Silver Lake (Meriden), Red Cedar Lake, Mashapaug Lake, Dog Pond and Quaddick Reservoir. **Tournament angler** reports are from Bantam lake (fair at best, 4.09 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (some good



ZEBRA MUSSELS REMINDER

Zebra mussels are now found in a number of locations scattered throughout the Housatonic River and its impoundments including Lake Lillinonah (since 2010), Lake Zoar (since 2010) and Lake Housatonic (since 2011).

Prior to their discovery in Lakes Lillinonah and Zoar in 2010, zebra mussels had been found (1998) in CT only in East Twin Lake and West Twin Lake (Salisbury). Anglers fishing in any of these waters and western Connecticut in general **should use extra care to avoid transporting water, aquatic vegetation, and possibly zebra mussels to new locations.** Information

For more information including precautions that should be taken to prevent the spread of zebra mussels to additional waters, visit www.ct.gov/deep/invasivespecies or the Aquatic Invasive species section of the 2015 CT angler's Guide (www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide).

largemouth action reported, lunkers include 6.3 lb, 5.06 lb, 4.79 lb, 4.63 lb & 4.24 lb), Highland Lake (fair fishing, 6.2 and 5.25 lb lunkers), Lake Lillinonah (fair for largemouth, lunkers include 3.5 lb & 2.9 lb lunkers), Gardner Lake (fair, mostly 1-lb fish with 2.35 & 1.65 lb lunkers), Hopeville Pond (fair to good fishing, with a 5.04 lb lunker), Mashapaug Lake (slow, 2.06 lb lunker), Pachaug Pond (fair to good fishing, 4.59 lb & 3.94 lb lunkers), and Pickerel Lake (fair to good action, mostly smaller fish with a 2.6 lb lunker).

SMALLMOUTH BASS are being caught at Candlewood Lake (a number of fish in the 3-4 lb range), Lake McDonough, Colebrook Reservoir and Highland Lake. **Tournament angler** reports are from Bantam Lake (a few smallies caught), Candlewood lake (good action, lunkers include 4.56 lb, 4.34 lb & 3.84 lb fish), Lake Lillinonah (fairly good action, 4.63 lb, 4.09 lunker, 3.5 lb), Highland Lake (slow for one club).

CHANNEL CATFISH are being caught at Keeney Park Pond, Batterson Park Pond, Hopeville Pond, Picketts Pond, Lake Wintergreen and Silver Lake (Meriden).

CARP are being caught at Mirror Lake (Hubbard Park Pond), Candlewood Lake, Lake Lillinonah & Squantz Pond.

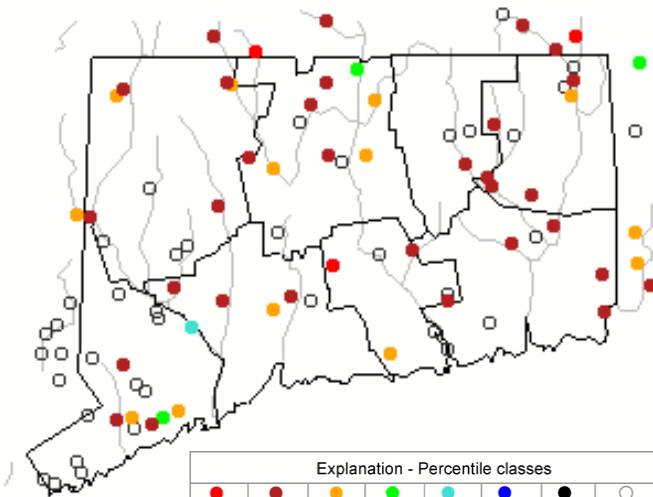
WALLEYE are reported from Batterson Park Pond, Squantz Pond and Coventry Lake (night best over green lights).

CONNECTICUT RIVER

Conditions should be good for spring fishing. The river is somewhat lower than is typical for mid-May and quite comfortable for boating and fishing, and continues to warm up. **STRIPED BASS** are now being reported in the Rocky Hill – Hartford area. Current river conditions have resulted in some good catches. Plastics and bait are working to produce some legal fish, bigger is better. Don't forget to take advantage of the "Bonus Striped Bass Voucher" (see pages 5 & 6). **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing is reported as good in the Middletown area. **CATFISH** are responding to dead bait, chunking and sandworms in the backwater areas of the river. **SHAD** catches are reported up to the confluence of the Farmington River. Expect more fish now due to the warmer water temperatures. The reported shad run is over 155,000 (as of 5/12). **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are being caught in the mid to upper section of the river in the back coves. One angler reported a 22 fish day. **WHITE PERCH** are reported from the coves of the lower river. Hamburg, North & South Coves are the best bets.

Stream flow conditions as of 5/14/2015

Thursday, May 14, 2015 19:30ET



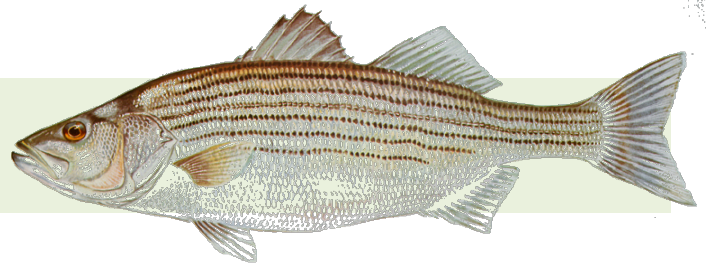
Data in the state graphic to the left are generated by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) and are available on line at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/rt> A percentile is a value on a scale of one hundred that indicates the percent of data in the data set equal to or below it. For example streamflow 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".

NOTES & NOTICES:

BASHAN LAKE A drawdown of Bashan Lake for dam repairs is ongoing. Bashan Lake is drawn down approximately 14-16 feet. Additionally, the state boat launch is closed for renovations.

POWERS LAKE (military exercises). A CT National Guard engineer unit will be conducting training exercises at Powers Lake on Saturday, May 16 (10 am – 5 pm) and Sunday, May 17 (10 am – 4 pm).

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) range from the upper 40's to the upper 50's °F. 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://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

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

STRIPED BASS fishing is good to excellent for schoolies in most of the tidal rivers along the Connecticut shoreline. "COW" Bass have arrived with some very large "linesiders" being reported. Find the large schools of adult Menhaden (Bunker) throughout CT's shoreline/bays and you will find the trophy-sized stripers. Locations include the Pawcatuck River, Mystic River, Thames River, Niantic River, lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier), Black Hall River, New Haven Harbor (Sandy Point), Housatonic River and Norwalk Harbor including the islands. Sand and blood worms have been working the best, especially in turbid waters around the high tide. Casting swimming lures, small jigs with twister tails, soft baits, and Kastmasters and other metal lures will all work. Fishing should continue to get better as water temperatures increase.

WINTER FLOUNDER fishing remains slow but improving as water temperature increases, try

the Poquonock River at Bluff Point State Park, Niantic River, The Brothers, Jordan Cove, lower Saugatuck River, Calf Pasture Beach area, Norwalk Islands (Cockonoe) and the channels in Norwalk Harbor. Other flounder spots include the lower Mystic River, and the mouth of the Thames River in the Pine Island area including Baker Cove.

WHITE PERCH fishing is good to for these tasty panfish in most of the tidal rivers and coves along the Connecticut shoreline. Perch spots include the Pawcatuck River, Mystic River, Thames River, upper Niantic River, lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier), Black Hall River, Lieutenant River, North/South Cove and Hamburg Cove. Grass Shrimp and worms are the key to success.

SUMMER FLOUNDER fishing season opens Sunday, May 17th! The North Shore of Long Island is the hot spot. Minimum size is 18 inches and the daily creel limit is 5 fish per person. **Note:** New York has the same summer flounder regulations as Connecticut. However, Rhode Island is already open with an 18 inch minimum length

and an 8 fish daily creel limit. **Since Rhode Island has a higher daily creel limit than Connecticut and New York please make sure you abide by the state with the most restrictive regulation when crossing (by boat) state boundaries.**

BLUEFISH and **WEAKFISH** have also arrived in Long Island Sound! The Race, Plum Gut and the north side of Long Island including Gardiners Bay and the Peconics are early bluefish spots. Look for weakfish in Guilford/New Haven Harbor over to the Milford/Stratford area along with the Peconics.

SCUP (porgy) fishing is fair with the first scup of the season migrating to the major reefs/rock piles. Porgies measuring 10-16 inches (“hubcap size”) in length are the norm! Porgy fishing has also been reported at these shore fishing locations: Rocky Neck State Park, Meigs Point Hammonasset State Park and Fort Trumbull State Park. Locate your favorite [Enhanced Shore Fishing Opportunities](#) for these excellent eating “Reef Slammers”. These “panfish of the sea” are easily caught on sandworms/cut squid or any other small piece of bait. Contact your [local bait and tackle shop](#) for updated fishing information.

Special section- BONUS STRIPED BASS FISHING PROGRAM-

The **Bonus Striped Bass Program** runs from **May 1 through December 31 again in 2015**. In a change from previous years, **DEEP will distribute harvest tags along with a harvest report card. The tag must be securely affixed to the jaw of the fish immediately upon harvest and must remain on the fish until you arrive home.** The harvest report card must also be completed upon harvesting a qualifying fish. The report card should then be returned to DEEP within two days of harvest. The cards are pre-addressed to Marine Fisheries and are postage paid. You simply need to drop the completed card in any mail box. **Tags are available at DEEP Offices and Facilities listed below.** There is a limit of one tag annually per Connecticut fishing license holder. However, for convenience one person may pick up tags for friends and relatives by presenting valid Connecticut fishing licenses for these anglers. Children are also eligible to receive a tag by signing up for a free [Youth Fishing Passport](#). **Tags are available on a first come first serve basis for as long as supplies last.**

DEEP Offices/Facilities	Address	Town	State	Zip
Marine Headquarters , M-F 8am-4pm, 860-434-6043	333 Ferry Road	Old Lyme	CT	06371
Eastern District , M-F 8:30am-4pm, 860-295-9523	209 Hebron Ave	Marlborough	CT	06447
Western District , M-F 8:30am-4pm, 860-485-0226	230 Plymouth Rd	Harwinton	CT	06791
Franklin WMA , 860-642-7239 M-F 8:30am-4:30pm	391 Route 32	Franklin	CT	06254
Sessions Woods WMA , M-F 8:30am-4pm, 860-675-8130	341 Milford Street (Rte 69)	Burlington	CT	06013
CTDEEP Main Office M-F 9am-4pm, 860-424-3105	79 Elm Street	Hartford	CT	06106

Ways to Use the Voucher

Anglers are also encouraged to use this program to introduce a friend, neighbor or child to fishing: *“Share the Experience – Take Someone Fishing”*. The department is also interested in encouraging and enhancing urban and shore fishing opportunity which the bonus striper program is especially well suited for. Bass fishermen generally may want to hold onto a voucher to use if an undersized fish intended for release is deep hooked or otherwise unlikely to survive. Alternatively, anglers should consider taking a smaller bonus fish home for a meal and releasing the larger (28”+) “spawn.

Program Regulations

- A bonus striped bass is at least 22 inches but less than 28 inches.
- Open Season: May 1 through December 31, 2015.
- Only one bonus striped bass may be harvested daily.
- The fish must be tagged immediately upon harvest, with the tag securely affixed to the lower jaw.
- The tag must remain on the fish until you have returned to your home or other location where the fish is to be consumed.
- Anglers are also required to complete a bonus striper report card provided with the tag immediately upon harvesting a qualifying fish.
- Mail the report card back to Marine Fisheries within two days of harvesting the fish. The card is already addressed and postage paid for return on the reverse side. It's free, so please mail it back to assure continuation of this program.
- Tags are valid in Connecticut state waters only.
- The normal limit of one (1) striped bass 28 inches or greater may also be harvested.

Voucher Distribution

A total of 3,018 vouchers will be made available at DEEP offices/facilities, distributed by ENCON Officers, and CT DEEP Marine Angler Survey creel agents. There is no fee for the tags. A limited number of tags will be reserved for programs such as "Take a Kid Fishing", "Take a Veteran Fishing", Municipal youth and urban fishing programs. Please contact Marine Fisheries (deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov or telephone: 860-434-6043) if your organizations supports such a program and you would like to receive vouchers. The Bonus Striped Bass Voucher Program runs from **May 1 through December 31** in 2015. For convenience one person may pick up vouchers for others by presenting valid fishing licenses for these anglers. Children are also eligible to receive a voucher by signing up for a free [Youth Fishing Passport](#). Vouchers will be available on a first come first serve basis for as long as supplies last.

For Current Connecticut Recreational Fishing Regulations: Anglers should consult the 2015 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.

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DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106
www.ct.gov/deep

Striped Bass images courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.