

CT DEEP **2015**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 6
5/21/2015



Channel Catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*)



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INLAND REPORT

CHANNEL CATFISH – DEEP conducted its annual catfish stocking this week. A total of **6,160 “adult” catfish** (12-18 inch fish averaging 1.5-2.0 lbs apiece) and **10,180 “yearling” catfish** (9-12 inch fish) were stocked into 24 water bodies scattered throughout the state.

The “adult” catfish were released into twelve of the Community Fishing Waters: Bunnells Pond (Bridgeport) - 800 fish, Beaver Park Lagoon (north pond - New Haven) - 350 fish, Birge Pond (Bristol) - 450 fish, Center Springs Park Pond (Manchester) - 325 fish, Freshwater Pond (Enfield) - 500 fish, Keney Park Pond (Hartford) - 275 fish, Lakewood Lake (Waterbury) - 800 fish, Mirror Lake (Hubbard Park Pond – Meriden) - 300 fish, Mohegan Park Pond (Norwich) - 685 fish, Picketts Pond (Derby) - 400 fish, Rowans Pond (Butternut Park pond – Middletown) - 200 fish, Stanley Quarter Pond (New Britain) - 275 fish and Lake Wintergreen (Hamden) - 800 fish.

The “yearling” catfish were stocked into thirteen areas: Batterson Park Pond (Farmington) - 425 fish, Black Pond (Meriden-Middlefield) - 760 fish, Burr Pond (Torrington) - 850 fish, Hopeville Pond (Griswold) - 1,370 fish, Lake Kenosia (Danbury) - 600 fish, Lakewood Lake (Waterbury) - 600 fish, Maltby Lake #2 (Orange-West Haven) - 190 fish, Maltby Lake #3 (Orange-West Haven) - 225 fish, Quinebaug Lake (Killingly) - 880 fish, Scoville Reservoir (Wolcott) - 1,200 fish, Silver Lake – (Berlin-Meriden) 1,500 fish, Stillwater Pond (Torrington) – 1,000 fish and Lake Wintergreen (Hamden) - 580 fish.

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - Trout fishing has been generally good to very good. Conditions should be good for the Memorial Day weekend, with lots of stocked fish remaining and moderate temperatures. Flows are very comfortable for fishing, but continue to be well below typical late-May levels (see stream flow graphic on page 4). Worms and corn/mealworm combinations as well as flies & shiners are all working.

Good reports last week from the West Branch Farmington River, Farmington River (29 inch brown trout), Naugatuck River, Pequabuck River (Bristol), Eight Mile River, Hockanum River, Salmon River TMA, Housatonic

COME TAKE A TOUR OF THE RAINBOW FISHWAY- See migrating fish in the underground viewing window.

PLAN NOW - DEEP's annual OPEN HOUSE AT THE RAINBOW FISHWAY is next

Saturday, May 30, from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.

The public is invited to visit the fishway and learn about both it and the fish it passes. During this day, the public can tour the facility and are encouraged to go downstairs and check out the underground viewing window. Shad and lamprey may be seen passing upstream, and Atlantic salmon are sometimes captured for breeding. Staff will be on hand to answer questions. This is a **GREAT ACTIVITY FOR FAMILIES**, and there is no fee. *Directions can be found on page 4 at the end of the Inland Report section.*

River (22 inch brown trout among the catches), Hammonasset River, Fenton River, Saugatuck River, Scantic River, Willimantic River, Branford River and Quinebaug River.

Farmington River - Fishing has been good to very good. Flows are clear and low to moderate (currently 207 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River adding another 58 cfs) and very comfortable for fishing. Current hatches include Hendrickson (almost done, a few can still be found in Riverton area, #12-14), Blue Winged Olive (#16-24), Blue Quills (#16-18) [a.k.a. paralep], Tan Caddis (#16-18; starting), Yellow Stoneflies (#16-18). Blue Wing Olives (#16-18, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #14-18, all day) and Midges (#22-28) and Hendricksons (#12-14, 4-6 pm) are the current patterns working. March Brown (#10-12) just starting.

Housatonic River - Fishing has been good to excellent and conditions for the weekend should be good. Moderate-cool weather is forecast, rains yesterday refreshed flows, but they remain very wade-able, still low for this time of year (currently 578 cfs at Falls village and 1,050 cfs at Gaylordsville). Water temperatures are in the low/mid 60's°F.

Current hatches include Green Caddis (just started, mornings & evenings), Brown/Tan Caddis (#16-18). Successful flies include March Browns (#10-12, 4pm to dark), Green caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening), Blue Wing Olives (#14-18). Midges (#22-26) are being seen at the mouths of tributaries to the Housatonic River. Golden Stoneflies (#6) were working.

Rivers and streams stocking update:

In **eastern Connecticut**; lower **Blackledge River, Coginchaug River, Roaring Brook** (Glastonbury), **Mount Hope River, Fenton River, Indiantown Brook, Hunts Brook, Ten Mile River** (Lebanon), **Skungamaug River, Hop River**, lower **Five Mile River** (Thompson, Putnam, Killingly), **French River, Quinebaug River** (Griswold), **Moosup River, Hammonasset River** (including the TMA), upper **Scantic River** (Somers, Enfield), **Bigelow Brook, Still River** (Eastford), **Salmon River** (including the TMA), **Jeremy River, Shunock Brook** and **Natchaug River** stocked this week.

In **western Connecticut**; the **Farmington River** (from the Route 177 bridge, Unionville, to the Route 4 bridge, Farmington) and the **Naugatuck River TMA** stocked this week.

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS - Trout fishing continues to be good, places to try include Highland Lake (15 fish for one boat, riggers at 20 feet), East Twin Lake (riggers 15-20 feet, Kobra 9), West Hill Pond, Coventry Lake, Mashapaug Lake, Black Pond (Woodstock), Cedar Lake, Colebrook Reservoir (double digits on Flash Kings, orange/copper, riggers at 26 feet), Crystal Lake (leadline at 6 colors; Kobra 112/118, orange/silver Flash King), Beach Pond (riggers at 15 feet; 100 feet of wireline using streamer at 2 mph), Long Pond, Amos Lake (riggers at 20 feet; SE of launch, Kobra 115), Lake McDonough (7 colors near the dam), Wononskopomuc Lake (troll slow), Chester Lake (double digits), Lake Saltonstall and Mount Tom Pond.

Lakes and ponds stocking update:

In **eastern Connecticut**; **Black Pond** (Merden, Middlefield), **Millers Pond, Angus Park Pond, Green Falls Reservoir, Beach Pond, Bigelow Pond, Mashapaug Lake, Amos Lake, Wyassup Lake, Billings Lake** and **Long Pond** 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

REMINDER TO ANGLERS-

FISHING IN OR CASTING INTO PERMITTED SWIM AREAS IS PROHIBITED.

State regulations prohibit fishing in or into a swim area that's been permitted by DEEP. Additionally, vessels cannot be operated within a permitted swim area, and there's a 100 foot "no-wake" zone around the perimeter. Swim areas that have been permitted by DEEP will be marked by white buoys with orange markings, and there should be a permit number posted on the buoys. They may or may not have small orange barrier floats to further demarcate the area. Should questions arise concerning the validity of the swim area (*no permit numbers or the area appears to have been changed/enlarged or keeps moving*), please contact DEEP's Boating Division at 860-434-8638.



(very good last week at Natchaug River and Chatfield Hollow). The **Chatfield Hollow, Day Pond, Mohegan Park Pond, Valley Falls Park Pond** and **Natchaug River Trout Parks** were stocked this week.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing has been good, places to try include Shenipsit Lake, Highland Lake, Wononskopomuc Lake, Mansfield Hollow, Candlewood Lake, Upper Moodus Reservoir, Cedar Lake, Colebrook river Lake, Lake Housatonic, Rogers Lake, Pickerel Lake, Silver Lake (Meriden), Gardner Lake, Billings Lake, Lake McDonough, Bantam Lake, Burr Pond, Squantz Pond, Eagleville Lake, Lake Lillinonah, Messerschmidt Pond, Mashapaug Lake, Lake Saltonstall, Tyler Lake, Hatch Pond, Lake Waramaug, Park Pond, Winchester Lake, Coventry Lake, Lake Williams, West Hill Pond, Quaddick Reservoir, Dog Pond and Quinebaug Lake. **Tournament angler** reports are from Gardner Lake (slow to fair, not many fish over 2 lbs, but one club had a 5.09 lb lunker), Pachaug Pond (fair to good action, two 5.2 lb lunkers), Pattagansett Lake (fair to good, 3.7 lb and 4.28 lb lunkers), Quaddick Lake (Good action, lots of smaller fish getting in the way, but lots of 2-lb fish also caught, 3.96 & 3.09 lb lunkers), Rogers Lake (fair to good, 4.9, 4.88 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (surprising numbers of largemouth in some bags, 5.65 lb, 4.39 lb, 4.29 lb), Lake McDonough (good, nearly 2 lbs per fish average, 3.22 lb lunker) and Lake Lillinonah (fair for largemouth).

SMALLMOUTH BASS are reported at Shenipsit Lake, Candlewood Lake, Colebrook River Lake, Coventry Lake, Lake McDonough and Bantam Lake. **Tournament angler** reports are from Gardner Lake (some smallmouth fish are being found), Candlewood Lake (lots of 3-4 lb smallies in bags) and Lake Lillinonah (fair to good for smallmouth, with a 4.2 lb lunker).

CHANNEL CATFISH have been reported from Keney Park Pond, Stanley Quarter Pond, Hopeville Pond, Mirror Lake and Lake Wintergreen.

WALLEYE catches reported from Lake Saltonstall, Squantz Pond, Coventry Lake and Batterson Park Pond.

CONNECTICUT RIVER

Flows are well below typical late May levels and somewhat cooler than is typical. **STRIPED BASS** are well into the river with many legal fish being caught in the lower to middle sections. Artificial lures and bait are producing well. Spawning bait fish are attracting fish. **AMERICAN SHAD** are being reported up to the Holyoke area. As of 5/19, 240,938 shad have been counted at the Holyoke (MA) fishway this season. DEEP Diadromous Fisheries Restoration Program staff opinion is: *"The river is extremely low for this time of year. The water is still fairly cool, averaging 17 C (63 F). These conditions may not be so bad for shad. The low flows make it easier to swim upstream and easier to find the fishway entrances and the low temperatures will prolong the migration season before they have to spawn."* **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are being caught in the upper river. This will get better as the water temperature increases. Tournament anglers are finding some action for and **LARGEMOUTH BASS** in the salmon River Cove area. **CATFISH** are consistently being caught on cut bait. **NORTHERN PIKE** are reported in the Haddam Meadows-Middletown area and in Wethersfield Cove.

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).



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.

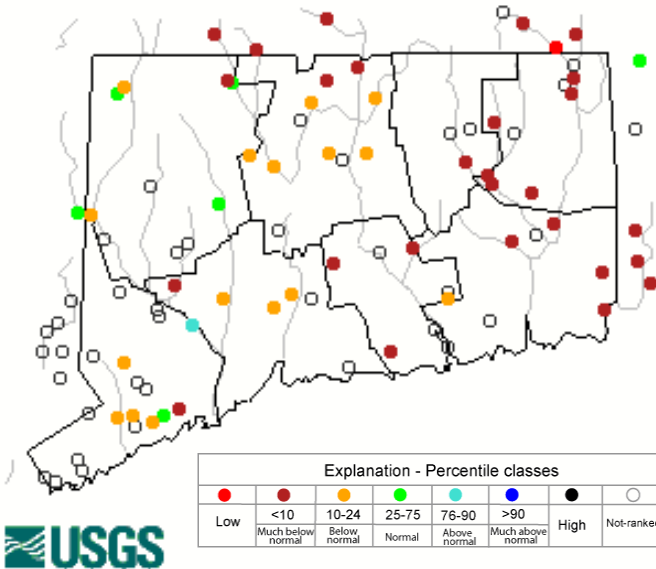
Directions to Rainbow Fishway:

From Rt. I-91, take exit 40 to Rt.20 (Bradley Airport Exit). Travel west to the Hamilton South exit. At the end of the exit ramp turn left. Turn right at the first intersection on to Rainbow Road. The fishway is on the left about a quarter of a mile down the road. Look for a cyclone fence and a brown sign with yellow lettering.

From Rt.20 East (traveling toward I-91), go past the exit for Bradley Airport and take the Hamilton exit. At the end of the exit ramp turn right. Turn right at the first intersection on to Rainbow Road. The fishway is on the left about a quarter of a mile down the road. Look for a cyclone fence and a brown sign with yellow lettering.

Stream flow conditions as of 5/21/2015

Thursday, May 21, 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”.



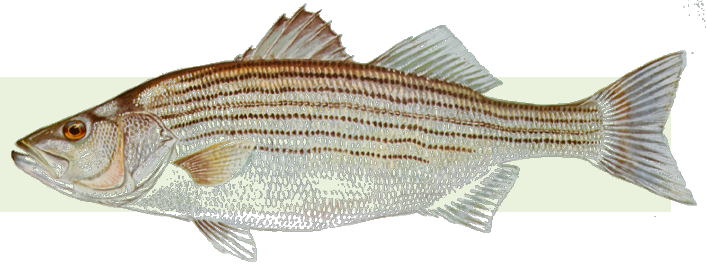
FIND TROUT STOCKING MAPS ON OUR WEBSITE

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.

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MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the 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 picking up after the NEW Moon this past week. Early morning (before/during sunrise) has been the most productive for large cow bass. The usual areas include the Watch Hill reefs, lower Thames River, the Race, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, Little Gull, outer Bartlett Reef, Black Point, Hatchett Reef, lower Connecticut River, Long Sand Shoal, Cornfield Point, Southwest Reef (outer), Six Mile Reef, the reefs off Branford, Faulkner's Island, New Haven Harbor (including Sandy Point), Charles Island area, Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, east of Milford, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Bridgeport Harbor, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands, and Cable and Anchor Reef. Live lining bunker, hickory shad, eels, scup or using fresh cut bait on three way bottom rigs or fish finder rigs will work for "Cow" bass. Trolling Tube jigs/worms (add a sandworm) in red, bubblegum or pink has also been productive for "keeper" linesiders. Adult menhaden (Bunker) now occur in the lower rivers throughout the sound and is an excellent live bait choice.

WINTER FLOUNDER fishing remains good as water temperature increase, try the Poquonock River at Bluff Point State Park, Niantic River/Bay, The Brothers, Jordan Cove, lower Saugatuck River, Calf Pasture Beach area (10-15 FOW), Norwalk Islands (Cockonoe) and the channels in Norwalk Harbor (3 pound, 18 inch flounder caught this week). 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 improving 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 a small piece of sandworm fished on the bottom are the keys to success.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is fair overall. There are some big doormats (fish to 10 pounds) out there but you have to put your time in if you want to be the "Duke of Fluke". Fishing locations include south side of Port Jefferson, Peconics, Fishers Island (Isabella Beach, Wilderness Point), off the Stonington breakwater, mouth of the Mystic River to Groton Long Point, Thames River channel, Black Point/Niantic Bay, Long Sand Shoal, Westbrook-Clinton area, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor to West Haven, Woodmont, Norwalk (Islands) and off the mouth of the Housatonic River. Since squid are coming in, offering a live one on the bottom (10-40 feet) would be a good move for catching that big slab doormat fluke!

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 fishing has just begun...with an influx of good size choppers and “alligator-sized” blues invading Long Island Sound. Bluefish weighing 8 to 13 pounds are being reported along the north shore of Long Island and throughout the Peconics.

WEAKFISH have arrived in Long Island Sound! Look for weakfish along the Branford/Guilford area through to New Haven Harbor and over to Woodmont/Milford and Stratford. Gardiners Bay/The Peconics (North Shore of Long Island) are always a good early season fishing spot.

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.

HICKORY SHAD fishing is good in the lower Connecticut River by the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier. Connecticut Tarpon (Hickory shad) can be found mixed in with schoolie striped bass and American Shad. Flood tide is best and lures of choice are a willow leaf (silver), kastmaster, small plastic jigs (white or chartreuse), and or shad darts in various colors.

NOTABLE MARINE CATCHES – Edward Kasper 17 inches, 2lbs 11ozs, Winter Flounder, Norwalk Harbor.

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

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.

SPECIAL NOTES & REMINDERS

- To find a saltwater shore fishing spot close to where you live, go to the following website: <http://www.lisrc.uconn.edu/coastalaccess/>.
- In addition, Enhanced Opportunity Shore Fishing sites and other fishing information including a site map go to the following website <http://www.depdata.ct.gov/maps/saltwaterfish/map.htm>.
- Please see page 60 of the [2015 CT Angler's Guide](#) for CT tides.

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.

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
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www.ct.gov/deep

Channel Catfish & Striped Bass images courtesy
Duane Raver/USFWS.