

CT DEEP **2015**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 8
6/4/2015



Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*)



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.

SHARE THE EXPERIENCE
Take someone fishing

INLAND REPORT

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is reported as good to very good. Places to try include East Twin Lake, Shetucket River, Lake Lillinonah, Highland Lake, Cedar Lake, West Hill Pond, Lake McDonough, Congamond Lakes, Bantam Lake, Wyassup Lake, Beseck Lake (re-filled and producing some fish), Pickerel Lake, Wononskopomuc Lake, Black Pond (Meriden, Silver Lake (Meriden), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Candlewood Lake, Lake Saltonstall, Mudge Pond, Lake Waramaug, Batterson Park Pond, Burr Pond, Gardner Lake, Moodus Reservoir, Bishop Pond, Pachaug Pond, Billings Lake, Maltby Lakes, Stillwater Pond, Ball Pond, Red Cedar Lake and Winchester Lake. **Tournament angler** reports are from Amos Lake (fair fishing, fish averaged out to 2 lbs apiece, 4.25 lb lunker), Mashapaug Lake (fair for largemouth, 3.4 lb lunker), Pickerel Lake (fair action, all small fish with only a 1.55 lb lunker), Quaddick Lake (Fair to good fishing, but smaller bass continue to tie up time, 4.36 lb lunker), Bantam Lake (good action, lots of bigger fish caught, with average fish weight of 2.2 lbs for one club and over 2 lbs apiece for another, 5.2 lb, 5.1 lb, 4.5 lb, 4.4 lb, 4.3 lb & 4.1 lb bass among the bags), Candlewood Lake (good for largemouth, with 4.8 lb, 4.62 lb, 3.8 lb,), East Twin Lake (cold start, bite picked up late morning, spawn 75% over, 5.75 lb lunker), Highland Lake (fair, 4.75 lb lunker) and Lake Zoar (good action but not much size and "lots of 11 inch fish" getting in the way, 2.43 lunker).

SMALLMOUTH BASS are reported at Colebrook River Lake, Candlewood Lake, Highland Lake, Bantam Lake and Squantz Pond. **Tournament angler** reports are from Bantam Lake (some caught), Candlewood Lake (good, some fish still in the 3 lb plus range), Highland Lake (a few in bags) and Lake Zoar (steady action, 2.91 lb lunker).

NORTHERN PIKE fishing is reported to be good in Bantam Lake and Winchester Lake.

KOKANEE are being caught at West Hill Pond and East Twin Lake. Try fishing slow (3 colors of lead line) for these great fighters.

WALLEYE are being reported from Lake Saltonstall, Squantz Pond and Batterson Park Pond.

CATFISH have been reported from Silver Lake (Berlin/Meriden), Lake Wintergreen, Pickett's Pond, Mohegan Park Pond, Keeney Park Pond, Batterson Park Pond and Hopeville Pond.

FREE FISHING LICENSE DAYS

NEW for this year are two free fishing license days, **June 21, 2015** (Father's Day) and **August 15, 2015** (NCLI and CARE Saltwater fishing event at Fort Trumbull State Park). **Anyone can obtain a free one-day fishing license to fish each of these days.**

The free 1-day license for June 21, 2015 is now available and licenses for the August 15 date will be available starting on July 24, 2015. They can be obtained through our convenient online [sportsmen licensing system](#) (now mobile friendly!) and at the same DEEP offices where other licenses are available ([DEEP Offices](#)).

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS - Trout fishing has been good, and early June is a good time of year to catch some bigger fish. Places to try include Mashapaug Lake (Kobra-112&118/flyies at 3 colors/20 feet), West Hill Pond (20-30 feet down), Colebrook Reservoir (orange/copper Flash King at 26 feet), East Twin Lakes (beads at 3-4 colors over 35-40 feet of water), Squantz Pond, Crystal Lake (target 35-40 feet, 7 colors, Kobra-218), Highland Lake (prop washing streamers - troll a streamer in the prop wash 12-15 feet behind the boat), Black Pond (Woodstock 7 fish at 2 colors), Candlewood Lake, Stillwater Pond, Beach Pond (wooly bugger), Long Pond, Cedar Lake, Lake Wononskopomuc (4-5 colors) and Black Pond (Meriden).

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - Recent rains refreshed flows throughout the state but did create challenging conditions for fishing in many areas due to high flows and turbidity. However, flows in most areas are dropping back to more comfortable levels and conditions should be fairly good over the weekend (*see stream flow graphic on page 4*). Prior to the rains, anglers were reporting success using flies, lures, worms and corn/mealworm combinations. Anglers should try terrestrial patterns after major rain events as many insects have been washed into the rivers. Virtually every insect is active and many are hatching right now.

Fair to good reports last week from the West branch Farmington River, Farmington River, Housatonic River, Blackberry River, Dickenson Creek, Eight Mile River, Hockanum River, Hop River, Jeremy River, Salmon River, Yantic River (TMA), Salmon River TMA, Crystal Lake Brook, Hammonasset River, Pequonnock River, Naugatuck River TMA, Pootatuck River, East Aspetuck River and Leadmine Brook.

Farmington River - Fishing has been very good and conditions for the weekend should be very good. West Branch flows have cleared, are at very fishable levels (currently 223 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River adding another 111 cfs) and comfortable weather in the forecast.

Hatches/patterns include *Isonychia* (#12-14), *Vitreus* [a.k.a. pale evening dun] #14-16, from 5:00 pm to dark, Tan Caddis (#14-16) good all day, Sulfurs, (*Invaria* #14-16 hatches mid-day and *Dorothea* #16-18), Light Cahill (#12-18), March Brown nymphs (#10-14, during the day), Gray Fox (#10-14, afternoon), Blue Wing Olives (#18-24, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; green #22-26, evening), Midges (#20-32) and Pale Evening Duns (*Epeorus vitreus* #14-16, afternoon & early evenings). March Brown, Sulphur & Rusty Spinners are falling in the evenings.

Housatonic River - Fishing was good to very good last week and should be good again this weekend. The rain earlier this week increased flows to turbid, uncomfortable levels, but flows are now dropping back nicely to more fishable levels (currently 1,280 cfs at Falls village and 1,940 cfs at Gaylordsville). Morning water temperatures have dropped back to the mid 50's°F (but will rise some through the day, and through the weekend).

Hatches/patterns include Sulphurs (#14-18, evening), Blue Wing Olive (#16-18, cloudy days, early morning; spinner fall in evening), *Isonychia* (#8-12 late afternoon & evening, just starting), Cahill (#14, evenings), Adams (#12-16, evening), March Brown (#10-12, afternoon) and Gray Foxes (#14-16). Green caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening) are on the water. Midges and early golden stoneflies (#6-10) are also being seen at tributary mouths. Alder/Zebra Caddis (#10-12) have not started yet but are coming and should last up to 4 weeks. This is a major hatch and will produce some great fishing.

**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.





CONNECTICUT RIVER

Flows are now turbid and higher than typical early June levels (but are beginning to drop to more comfortable levels). Catches of **STRIPED BASS** at the river mouth continued to be good. Trolling tube & worm and casting soft plastics will often work in stained water for those angling from a safe location. This year's **AMERICAN SHAD** run may almost be done. As of 6/2, 348,439 shad have been counted at the Holyoke (MA) fishway this season. DEEP Diadromous Fisheries Restoration Program reported: *"Even before this rain pushed the shad back the numbers were starting to fall-off (10,900 passed since last Friday). It will be interesting to see if anything is left of the shad run once the flows subside."* The last report from serious anglers indicate fish are still being caught at the Holyoke Dam but they expect that to change due to the higher flows and turbidity. **CARP** reports are increasing as more anglers respond to the challenge of finding record fish. Pre-baiting your selected site is a great way to increase catches. Boilies, pack, pop-up rigs and barbless hooks are working and allowing anglers to release their catch to get bigger. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** had been providing a good show responding to surface baits before the rains came and flows increased. Try changing to jiggging 'creature baits' as water levels drop and visibility returns to the river.

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 (drawdown) 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.

HOUSATONIC LAKE (rowing regatta). A rowing event is scheduled for **Saturday, June 6th from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm.** Boaters should use additional caution on the lake.

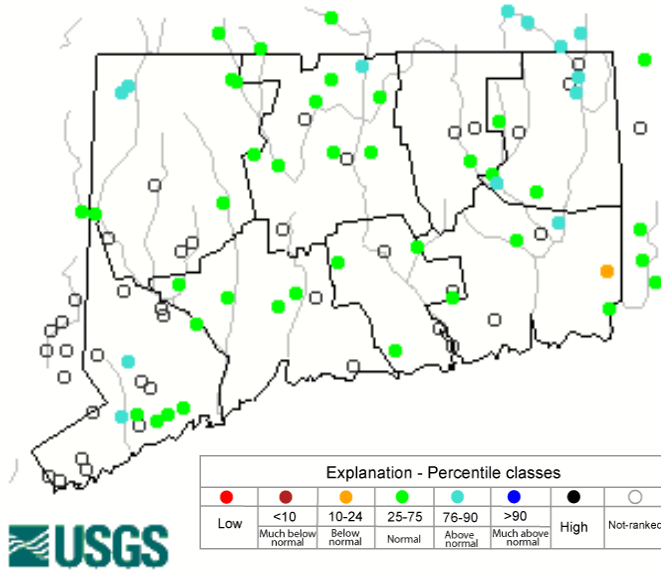
LAKE LILLINONAH (rowing regatta). A high school rowing event is scheduled for **Saturday, June 6 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm** along the eastern shore of the lake. Boaters should use additional caution on the lake.

MANSFIELD HOLLOW LAKE (vessel race). A high school hovercraft race is being held at Mansfield Hollow Lake on Saturday, June 6th (raindate: Sunday, June 14th) from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Although the race will be conducted from the state boat launch, room will be available to the general public to launch. Boaters should however use additional caution on the lake.

QUONNIPAUG LAKE (boating event). The Guilford Public schools will be conducting a "student-built boat launchings & final exam" on Tuesday, June 9th from 10:30 am to 2:00 pm. This activity will be in the area of the town beach/swim area.

Stream flow conditions as of 6/4/2015

Thursday, June 04, 2015 17:00ET



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”.

LAKE & POND BATHYMETRIC MAPS

Bathymetric maps of many of Connecticut’s public access lakes and ponds can be found online at:

www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/fishing/general_information/lakebathymetrymaps.pdf

Both plain line maps and maps overlaying an aerial photo available.



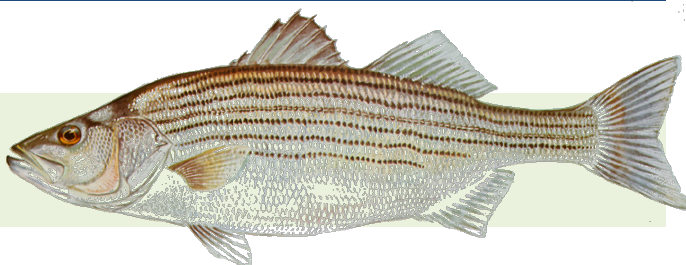
FIND TROUT STOCKING MAPS ON OUR WEBSITE

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.

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact us at (860) 418-5910 or deep.accommodations@ct.gov if you have a disability and need a communication aid or service; have limited proficiency in English and may need information in another language; or if you wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint.

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the upper 50's to lower 60'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 picked up over the week (full strawberry moon) with some “cow” stripers up to 48 inches being caught by anglers using live bunker. The usual striper spots include the Watch Hill reefs, lower Thames River, the Race, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, outer Bartlett Reef, Black Point, Hatchett Reef, lower Connecticut River (Great Island), Long Sand Shoal, Cornfield Point, Southwest Reef (outer), Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island area, the reefs off Branford, New Haven Harbor (including Sandy Point), Charles Island area, Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands, Cable and Anchor Reef, Stamford Harbor and the Cows off Stamford.

BLUEFISH fishing is fair to good. Early morning and evening times are best especially for some top-water fishing action. Bluefish spots include the Race, Sluicway, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, Long Sand Shoal, Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor, bouys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middleground, Penfield Reef, and Cable and Anchor Reef. **SNAPPERS** will soon be arriving in the tidal creeks and rivers.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is good overall and quickly improving. Squid are throughout Long Island Sound. Mid to western LIS anglers reported fluke from 3 to 7 lbs being common. Anglers targeting fluke report that skates, searobins, and dogfish appear to be in plentiful supply. Fluke spots include the typical locations: south shore of Fishers Island (Isabella Beach, Wilderness Point), Napatree Point and along the beach, off the Stonington breakwater, mouth of the Mystic River to Groton Long Point, Thames River channel, Two Tree Island Channel, Black Point/Niantic Bay/River, Long Sand Shoal, Westbrook-Clinton area, Falkner Island area, West Haven to Woodmont, New Haven Harbor including by the breakwaters, off the mouth of the Housatonic River, and around the Norwalk Islands. 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! Try drifting with a white or pink Bucktail Jig and attach a Berkely 3"- 4" Gulp Mullet in chartreuse, white or pink color. Pink colored squid have also been producing...

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.**

SCUP (porgy) fishing is good with large Porgies measuring 10-18 inches (“hubcap size”) in length being reported in Milford and the Peconics. Porgy fishing has also been reported at these shore fishing locations: Jennings and Penfield beach, 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/conch or any other small piece of bait. Contact your local [bait and tackle shop](#) for updated fishing information (see page 14 of the 2015 CT Angler’s Guide).

BLACK SEA BASS fishing is off to a good start in LIS. Fishing over deep water structure in 80 to 120 ft around slack tide will produce some trophy-sized “humpbacks”. Fish shallower and you will catch plenty of keeper-sized sea bass. Remember, CT sea bass regulations are as follows...14 inch min. length, 3 fish daily limit from June 1st to August 31 and a five fish daily limit from September 1 to December 31st. Berkely Gulp on a jig works great for these “Bucketmouths”.

WEAKFISH fishing is improving with trophy “squeteague” found throughout Long Island Sound! Look for weakfish along the Branford/Guilford area through to the West Haven Sand Bar and over to Woodmont/Milford and Stratford. Gardiners Bay/The Peconics (North Shore of Long Island) are always a good early season fishing spot. Black Point/Niantic is heating up for this relative of the drum family. Bucktails is the lure of choice.

HICKORY SHAD fishing is fair 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 harbor blues. Flood or Ebb tide is best and lures of choice are a willow leaf (silver), kastmaster (single hook), small plastic jigs (white or chartreuse), and or shad darts in various colors.

WHITE PERCH fishing is very good 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.

BLUE CRAB fishing is fair to good in the tidal creeks. It appears all sizes of crabs are around...a good sign for the upcoming summer months of crabbing (good winter survival). There have been some large “jimmies” reported. Should be a very good crabbing season.

NOTABLE CATCHES

- STRIPED BASS, 55 LBS, 48”, STAMFORD, MARK A. ALIMENA
- SUMMER FLOUNDER, 7 LBS, 26”, NEW HAVEN, JIMMY LARSEN
- (SCUP), 2 LBS 12 OZS, 17”, MILFORD, BRIAN CACHUELA

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

American Shad & Striped Bass images courtesy
Duane Raver/USFWS.