

**CT DEEP 2015
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 9
6/11/2015**



Smallmouth Bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*)



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INLAND REPORT

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing continues is generally fair to good although anglers are finding post-spawn bass slowing the action in some areas. Places to try include Lake McDonough, Highland Lake, Candlewood Lake, Lake Saltonstall (some 3-5 lb fish being caught), Lake of Isles, Bantam Lake, Quonnipaug Lake (live shiners and other bait working here), Black Pond (Meriden), Cedar Lake (good success finding bass at 7-10 feet), Lake Lillinoah, Lake Zoar, Mudge Pond, East twin Lake, Winchester Lake, Pachaug Pond, Amos Lake, Moodus Reservoir, Gardner Lake and Pickerel Lake. **Tournament angler** reports are from Amos Lake (fair at best- "took all day to catch these fish" reported one club, with 4.5 lb, 4.04 lb & 3.21 lb lunkers), Aspinook Pond (on the tough side, 3.4 lb lunker), Beach Pond (fair to good action, with a 4.25 lb lunker, but most everything else closer around a lb), Moodus Reservoir (fair to good action, lunkers included 5.7 lb, 4.7 lb & 3.1 lb lunkers), Pachaug Pond (fair action, 5.72 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (OK for largemouth, 5.38 lb, 4.53 lb, 4.14 lb, 3.7 lb lunkers), East Twin Lake (fair to good, 5.72 lb lunker), Lake Lillionah (fair to good action for largemouth, 2.82 lb lunker and Lake McDonough (good for largemouth, close to a 2 lb per fish average and a 4.25 lb lunker).

SMALLMOUTH BASS are reported at Candlewood Lake (although anglers are having to really work for them), Highland Lake, West Thompson Lake (fair action for smallies here) and Squantz Pond. Hard finding too many smallmouth at Gardner Lake and Wyassup Lake. **Tournament angler** reports are from Beach Pond (slow), Candlewood Lake (slow to fair at best for smallmouth, 3.56 lb, 2.95 lb lunkers), Lake lillionah (fair action for smallmouth, 2.9 lb lunker) and Lake McDonough (not many in the bags).

WALLEYE are being found at Squantz Pond (good here, evenings from the launch area and causeway) and Beach Pond, but tough to find last week at Lake Saltonstall.

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 at www.ct.gov/deep/sportsmenlicensing (now mobile friendly!) and at the same vendors ([Designated vendor \(tackle shop\)](#)), Town Halls and DEEP offices where other licenses are available ([DEEP Offices](#)).

BLACK CRAPPIE fishing is fair to good throughout the state. In southeastern CT waters use small jigs and poppers on suspended crappies at dusk).

NORTHERN PIKE. Some catches reported from Bantam Lake, Winchester Lake and Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (just a few), and little to no action reported at Pachaug Pond and Quaddick Lake.

CARP. Some good reports from Lake Zoar and Batterson Park Pond.

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS - Trout fishing has been good in a number of areas throughout the state, with reports from Cedar Lake (some nice action trolling), Candlewood Lake (trout action continues to be steady, with a number of "holdover" trout being caught), Black Pond (Meriden, some action), Highland Lake (4-5 colors, but also look near the surface for trout chasing alewife), East twin Lake (good), Lake McDonough (good to very good, 20-25 feet), Quonnapaug Lake (fair to good action for fish in deep, using Countdowns®), Crystal Lake (good, 16-20 feet, 3 colors), Higganum Reservoir (good trolling action) and from shore at the Black Rock Pond and Chatfield Hollow Trout Parks.



TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - Conditions should be fairly good for the weekend with generally good weather (although on the warm side) in the forecast. Flows are somewhat lower than typical mid-June levels in most areas, making for comfortable wading (see stream flow graphic on page 3). Lots of hatches going on, also terrestrials such as Black Ants and streamers are working.

Fair to good reports last week from the West Branch Farmington River, Farmington River, Salmon River (OK action, some good report from below the Comstock Bridge), Blackledge River, Five Mile River (Thompson-Putnam-Killingly, steady fishing reported), Hammonaset River (easy to fish with flows on the lower side with some nice fish holding out) and the Naugatuck River TMA.

Farmington River - Trout fishing has been very good and fishing conditions should be good for the weekend. West Branch lows are currently clear and moderate (272 cfs at Riverton with the Still River adding another 70 cfs).

Hatches/patterns include Tan Caddis (#16-18), *Vitreus* (a.k.a. Sulphur/pale evening dun, #14-16), Blue Wing Olives (#18-24, mid-late afternoon), March Brown (#10-14) and Green caddis (#16-18). Evenings look for rusty (#12-18), March Brown (10-12) and Sulphur (16-18) Spinners. Streamers and nymphing are working well.

Housatonic River - Trout fishing has been good. Morning water temperatures are generally in the low 60's°F (and likely to get warmer for the weekend) and flows are quite fishable, currently clear and a bit on the high side (892 cfs at Falls Village and 1,260 cfs at Gaylordsville).

Hatches/patterns include Alder caddis (#8-10), Sulphurs (#16-18), Blue Wing Olive (#18-20, cloudy days; early morning), *Isonychia* (#8-10 evening, just starting), Cahill (#12-14), Adams (#10-12, evening), green caddis (#14-20, early morning & evening), March Brown (#10-12, spinner) and golden stoneflies.

**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 currently higher than typical mid-June levels and on the turbid side, but quite boat-able and fishable. Fishing has however been on the quiet side lately. **STRIPED BASS** are mostly out of the upper and mid-river, but can be found in the lower river and river mouth. The fish are moving out to the reefs. Some **LARGEMOUTH BASS** are being found in the Coves (Keney, Wethersfield, Salmon River) with some bass in the 3-4 lb range. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are providing some action in the mainstem below Hartford, catches include a 3.8 lb smallie. **CARP** are reportedly providing some action with some interesting reports from the mid-lower 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

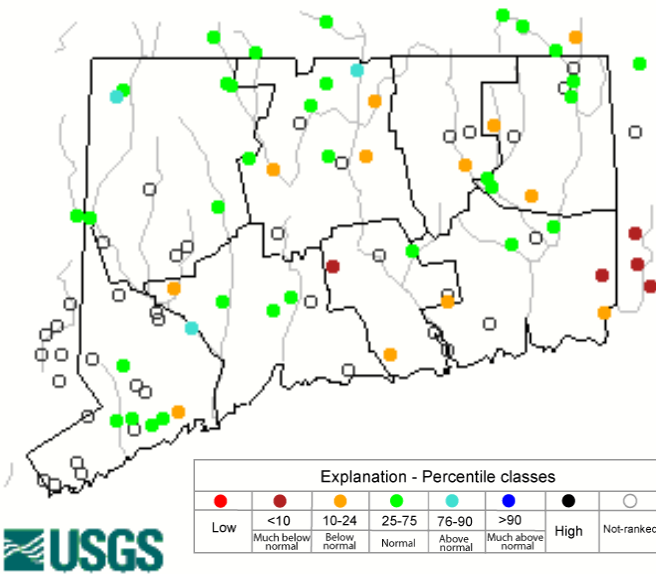
For more information including precautions that should be taken to prevent the spread of zebra mussels to additional waters, visit www.ct.gov/deep/invasivespecies or the Aquatic Invasive species section of the 2015 CT angler's Guide (www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide).

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.

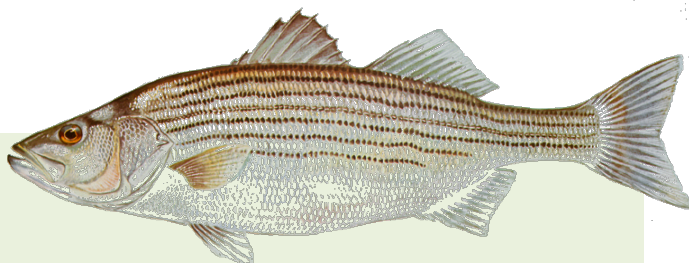
Stream flow conditions as of 6/11/2015

Thursday, June 11, 2015 20:00ET



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".

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the low to mid 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 is awesome...with some very large bass being reported (50 inches and more). Doesn't matter what time of the day...daytime fishing under bunker schools is hot. The western and central sound is fantastic. The bass will be heading east as we speak. Porgies or trolling a Tube and Worm (red) have also produced. Striper spots include the Watch Hill reefs, lower Thames River, the Race, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, outer Bartlett Reef, Black Point (15 to 30 feet), Hatchett Reef, lower Connecticut River (Great Island to Essex), 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. No real consistent action for trophy "choppers" yet. Early morning and evening times are best especially for some top-water fishing action. Try Millstone and mouth of the CT River for "Harbor Blues" (16 to 24 inches). Other 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 getting better with some real "doormats" being caught. You got to spend some time getting "keepers"...there are a lot of "shorts". The summer flounder are feeding on and chasing squid. LIS anglers reported fluke from 3 to 5lbs being common, with an 11 pounder being the largest to date. Anglers targeting fluke report that searobins and skates appear to be in plentiful supply (bait stealers). Fluke spots include the typical fishy 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, Off Seaside and Waterford beach, Long Sand Shoal, Westbrook-Clinton area (Clinton Harbor), Falkner Island area, West Haven to Woodmont, New Haven Harbor including by the breakwaters, off the mouth of the Housatonic River (Milford), and around the Norwalk Islands. Since squid are abundant, offering a live or frozen 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"- 5" Gulp (Swimming Mullet) in chartreuse, green, white or pink. Pink colored imitation squid have also been producing well...

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 improving as the summer approaches...with large "Reef Slammers" measuring 10-18 inches ("hubcap size") in length being reported at Gardiners Island, Milford (Charles Island) and Niantic (Bartletts Reef). Porgy fishing has also been reported at these very accessible 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 good. Fishing over deep water structure in 80 to 120 feet around slack tide will produce some trophy-sized "humpbacks". Fish shallower and you will catch plenty of keeper-sized sea bass. Angler's reporting them to be everywhere, including sand flats. Remember, **CT black 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.** Berkley Gulp (swimming mullet) on a jig works great for these "Bucketmouths".

STRIPED SEA ROBIN fishing is FANTASTIC. "Poor-Man's Lobster" are found wherever one is fishing for summer flounder (fluke). With many fish measuring over 20 inches and barking up a storm. West Haven sand bar and local beaches have been producing for shore anglers.

WEAKFISH fishing is fair 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. White Bucktails are the lure of choice.

HICKORY SHAD fishing is slow in the lower Connecticut River by the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier. It's anybody's guess as to where they go... Connecticut Tarpon (Hickory shad) can be found mixed in with schoolie striped bass, menhaden 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. Productive 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. A 14 inch 2 pound white perch was caught at Ferry Landing State Park in Old Lyme on a sandworm this week.

BLUE CRAB fishing is fair to good in the tidal creeks. 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 (nine inch carapace width). Should be a very good crabbing season.

NOTABLE CATCHES

- STRIPED SEA ROBIN, 3 LBS 8 OZS, 20", WEST HAVEN BEACH, RENE SANABRIA-APONTE
- WHITE PERCH, 2 LBS, 14", OLD LYME, RUFINO VARGAS JR.
- SUMMER FLOUNDER, 10 LBS, 28", NEW LONDON, JOHN KLEMBA
- SCUP, 3 LBS, 18", GARDNERS ISLAND, RALPH DANIS

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.

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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 image courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.