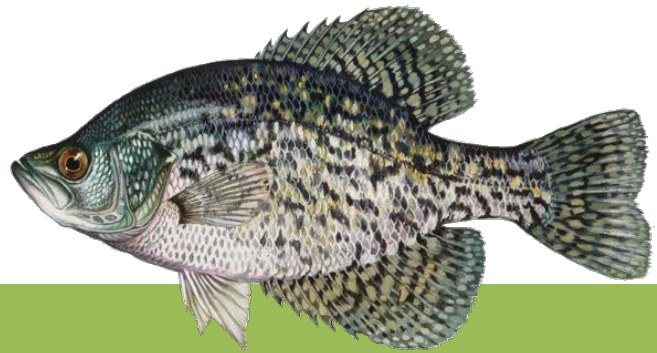


CT DEEP **2015**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 10
6/18/2015



Black crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*)



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Facebook

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 for largemouth. Places to try include Lake McDonough, Bantam Lake, Lake Saltonstall, Highland Lake, Candlewood Lake, Mudge Pond, Cedar Lake, Shetucket River, Lower/Upper Moodus Reservoir, Lake Lillinonah, Winchester Lake, Rainbow Reservoir, Pachaug Pond, Quaddick Reservoir, Wood Creek Pond, Mono Pond, Congamond Lakes, Burr Pond, Lake Wononskopomuc, Hopeville Pond, Silver Lake, Batterson Park Pond, Gardner Lake, Pickerel Lake, Mashapaug Lake, Billings Lake, Maltby Lakes, Stillwater Pond, Ball Pond, Red Cedar Lake and West Hill Pond. **Tournament angler** reports are from Aspinook Pond (fair to good, with 3.75 lb and 3.4 lb lunkers), Beach Pond (good for largemouth, 4.25 lb lunker), Mashapaug Lake (fair action, "no big fish caught", 1.99 lb lunker), Pattagansett Lake (good fishing, nice size with an average of 2 lbs per fish for one club, 4.17 lb and 3.03 lb lunkers), Candlewood Lake (good for largemouth, some 4-5 lb lunkers), East Twin Lake (fair fishing, but mostly 1-lb fish), Highland Lake (good for largemouth, 3.58 lb lunker) and Lake Lillinonah (not bad for largemouth, 5.3 lb lunker).

SMALLMOUTH BASS are reported at Mashapaug Lake, Lake McDonough, Highland Lake, Bantam Lake and Candlewood Lake. **Tournament angler reports** are from Beach Pond (not many caught), Mashapaug Lake (hard to find fish), Candlewood Lake (fair for smallmouth, lunkers around 3 lbs), East Twin Lake (tough to catch fish, but a 4.55 lb lunker), highland Lake (a few in the bags, 2.83 lb lunker) and Lake Lillinonah (fair to good for smallmouth, 4.12 lb lunker).

NORTHERN PIKE fishing is reported to be good in Bantam Lake (including a 34 inch pike) and Winchester Lake, fair at Pachaug Pond and tough at Quaddick Reservoir.

KOKANEE are being caught at East Twin Lake (trolling red beads).

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

THIS SUNDAY (FATHER'S DAY) IS A FREE FISHING LICENSE DAY

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 fishing on 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](#)).



CARP were reported from Mirror Lake, Squantz Pond, Lake Lillinonah and the Shetucket River.

PANFISH fishing in the shallows has been very productive. Any local pond open to fishing near you will give you some action. Use worms, grubs and any type of inexpensive fishing pole or drop line and give these easy to catch fish a go. Kids love this non-stop action and it will keep them occupied for hours. A jumbo black crappie came out of Candlewood Lake measuring 15.9 inches and weighed in at 2.71 lbs. Congratulations to Michael Marsullo, Jr. of Torrington, CT for a fine catch. Suggested locations include Candlewood Lake, Tyler Lake, Bishop Pond, Crescent Pond (Southington), Griggs Pond, Anderson Pond, Billings Lake, Halls Pond, Silver Lake (Berlin/Meriden), Quaddick Lake, Bantam Lake, Park Pond and Dog Pond.

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS - It's big fish time, anglers can expect big trout to be caught through mid-June. Good reports from Squantz Pond, Highland Lake (4-5 colors, silver lure at 18-20 feet), East Twin Lake (rigger at 20 feet, copper/silver Mooselook, Kobra # 118; 6.5 lbs brown trout on salmon beads, additionally, a bass angler fishing a tournament managed to catch a 8.5 lb brown), Colebrook Reservoir (riggers at 20-23 feet, orange/copper Flash Kings), Mashapaug Lake, Crystal Lake (Kobra #2, black/white Huey, 7-8 colors), Lake Wononskopomuc (11.5 lbs brown trout on a tube jib), Stillwater Lake, Beach Pond (#18 blue minx Huey, rigger at 20 feet), Long Pond (streamer on wire at 20 feet), West Hill Pond and Lake McDonough.

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - Conditions should be fairly good for the weekend (note that some rain is in the forecast for Sunday). The rains earlier this week refreshed flows throughout the state and flows have now dropped back to very comfortable levels for fishing in most areas (*see stream flow graphic on page 4*) and moderate temperatures are forecast. Just about any method is putting fish in the net, with good action being found on lures, flies, worms & corn/mealworm combinations. It's "Major Hatch Time" with just about every bug on the water (hatch times fluctuate with the water temperatures).

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), Hammonasset River (easy to fish with flows on the lower side with some nice fish holding out) and the Naugatuck River TMA.

Farmington River - Fishing has been very good to excellent, and conditions should be good for the weekend. West Branch flows are clear and moderate (currently 301 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River adding another 122 cfs). Water temperatures are in the low 60's°F.

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

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).

Housatonic River - Fishing was good last week but rains earlier this week increased flows to difficult to fish levels. Conditions are now beginning to improve and should be fair to good for the weekend as the river is slowly clearing and dropping (currently 1,690 cfs at Falls Village and 2,340 cfs at Gaylordsville). Morning water temperatures are currently in the mid-60's°F.



Hatches/patterns: Major insect hatches are here and are providing excellent fly fishing. Alder/Zebra Caddis (#8-10) is underway (should last up to 4 weeks) and will produce some great fishing. Alder flies are very active during hot days. Additional bugs include the Sulphurs (#14-18, evening), Blue Wing Olive (#16-18, cloudy days, early morning; spinner fall in evening), *Isonychia* (#10-12 late afternoon & evening, just starting), Light Cahill (#12-14, evenings), Adams (#12-16, evening), March Brown (#10-12, afternoon) and Gray Foxes (#14-16). Black Caddis, Green caddis (#16-18, early morning & evening) are on the water. Midges and early golden stoneflies (#6-10) are also being seen at the mouths of tributaries.

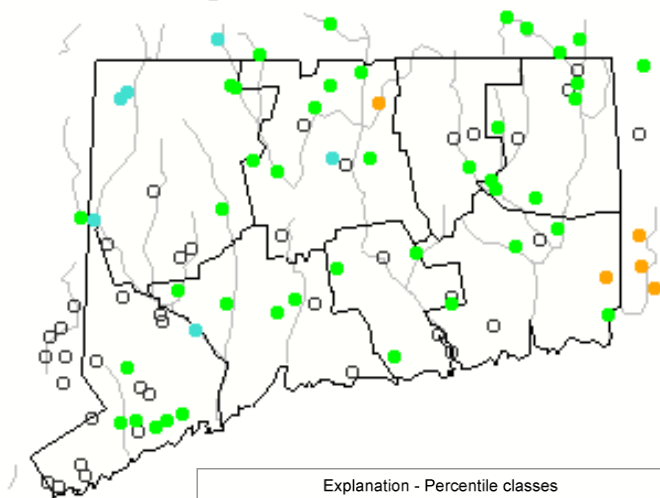
Anglers are reminded that the thermal refuge areas on the Housatonic, Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers are now closed to fishing (as of June 15). These areas will reopen on September 15. There is no fishing within 100 feet of signs indicating such closure at or near the mouths of tributaries to these rivers.

CONNECTICUT RIVER

Flows are fishable and boat-able, but a bit higher than is typical for mid-June, and turbid. A few **STRIPED BASS** have been reported from the lower river, but it's not easy. Trolling tube & worm and casting soft plastics will often work in stained water close to shore. **CARP** are coming to net in the Middletown – Haddam area. Pre-bait a site with corn/boilies and use a popup or helicopter rig will bring these power houses to you. **WHITE PERCH** are reported to be good in the lower river. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are active in the Enfield area, but you have to work to get them to bite.

Stream flow conditions as of 6/18/2015

Thursday, June 18, 2015 19:00ET



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”.

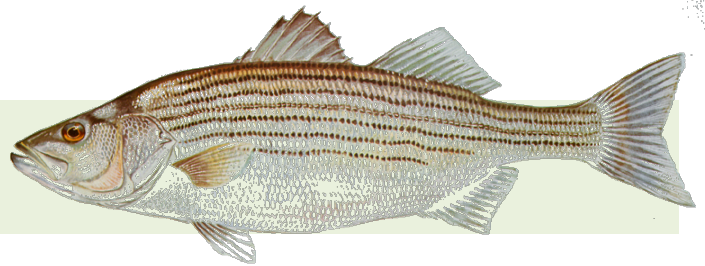
NOTES & NOTICES:

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.

MUDGE POND (swim event). The swim portion of a triathlon will be conducted from 8 am to 9 am on Saturday, **June 20**, in the northern end of the pond, with start and finish at the Sharon Town Beach.

LAKE ZOAR (waterski event). A water ski clinic for the disabled is scheduled for **Saturday, June 20**, in the upper end of Lake Zoar (approximately the upper first mile of the lake below the Shepaug Dam). This event run from 9 am to 4 pm, and boaters are asked to take care when passing through this area (marked by buoys) of the lake, and avoid interfering with the event.

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) remain 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 continues to impress, with very large bass being reported (55 inches). Doesn't matter what time of the day, daytime fishing under bunker schools is hot. We are transitioning to a nighttime/dawn and dusk bite. The western and central sound is the place to be. Buoy 18 (Stratford) has been a hot spot. The bass fishing will improve in the east as we speak. Legal size Porgies or trolling a Tube and Worm (red) have produced. Stripper spots include the Watch Hill reefs, lower Thames River, the Race, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, outer Bartlett Reef, Black Point (15 to 25 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. Still 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 22 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 be here in 2 – 3 weeks, arriving in the tidal creeks and rivers.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is good and getting better with a lot of flatfish to be had. You got to spend some time getting "keepers," there are a lot (I mean a lot) of "shorts". A good sign for the future. The summer flounder have transitioned from feeding on squid to now feeding on mantis shrimp. LIS anglers reported fluke from 3 to 4 lbs being common, with a 12 pounder being the largest to date. Anglers targeting fluke report that searobins are extremely plentiful (bait stealers). Time to start fishing deeper (30 -70 feet). Fluke spots include

the typical fishy locations: Montauk (best spot), 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. 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...add a spinner to your fluke rig to create a flash, attracting those big flatfish.

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 "Reef Slammers" measuring 10-18.5 inches ("hubcap size") in length still being reported at Gardners Island, Milford (Charles Island), Montauk and Niantic (Bartletts Reef). Porgy fishing has also been reported at these very accessible shore fishing locations: Calf Pasture beach, 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 really getting better. The hot spot is Falkner Island. 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. Anglers are reporting "shorts" everywhere...including sand flats/shoals. It's important to continue to move from structure to structure to find these awesome eating fish. 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.** Berkely Gulp (swimming mullet) on a jig and also squid with a spinner works great for these "Bucketmouths".

STRIPED SEA ROBIN fishing is short of FANTASTIC. "Poor-Man's Lobster" are found wherever one is fishing for summer flounder (fluke) or sea bass. With fish measuring over 22 inches and barking up a storm. West Haven sand bar and your favorite local beach have been producing for shore anglers. They love sandworms and squid.

HICKORY SHAD fishing continue to be slow after the recent rains. Few fish reported at 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 good for these tasty panfish related to striped bass. Perch are found in most of the tidal rivers and coves along the Connecticut shoreline. Productive 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. Another 14.5 inch 2.3 pound white perch was caught at Ferry Landing State Park in Old Lyme on a sandworm this past weekend under the railroad bridge.

BLUE CRAB fishing is fair in the tidal creeks. All sizes of crabs continue to be found...a good sign for the upcoming summer months of crabbing. There have been some very large "jimmies" (male crab with its T-Shaped apron) reported (eight inch carapace width) in the lower CT River. The "Sooks" (mature female crab) will soon be following. **Remember...all egg bearing females must be released with unavoidable harm. Min. carapace length is 5 inches for a hard shell crab.** Looks to be a very good crabbing season.

NOTABLE CATCHES:

- **BLACK SEA BASS**, 5.25 LBS, 23.5", FALKNER ISLAND – ALISON VARIAN (Women’s Trophy Fish Record).
- **BLACK SEA BASS**, 4.75 LBS, 22 INCHES, FALKNER ISLAND - BRIAN BOTTONE,.
- **STRIPED BASS**, 38 LBS, 46", BOUY 18, STRATFORD - FRANK STIRNA.
- **WINTER FLOUNDER**, 2.56 LBS, 17", THE BROTHERS - WILLIAM SEAN HARRISON.

IMPORTANT NOTE: there have been many reports of leaping sturgeon in the lower CT River...I have seen it myself. A common spring behavior for these endangered fish species (Atlantic and shortnose)...as they attempt to gulp air for their swim bladder. Anglers are incidentally snagging or catching these sturgeon while bottom fishing. Please release all sturgeon with unavoidable harm as their populations are slowly recovering and are at VERY low levels. They are a protected species. Thank you.

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 (as of June 18, tags are still available at all locations).**

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.

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.

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



**Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**
79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106
www.ct.gov/deep

*Black Crappie & Striped Bass images courtesy
Duane Raver/USFWS.*