

**CT DEEP** **2016**  
**FISHING REPORT NUMBER 4**  
**5/5/2016**



American Shad (*Alosa sapidissima*)



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## INLAND REPORT

**TROUT STOCKING**—Approximately 371,000 trout were stocked before Opening Day into 100 lakes and ponds and nearly 170 rivers and streams located throughout Connecticut. DEEP's in-season stockings are now underway with nearly 230,000 additional trout scheduled to be stocked between Opening Day and the end of May.

**TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS** - Trout fishing continues to get better and there are plenty of recently stocked trout out there waiting for anglers. Conditions for the weekend and next week will improve, with cool, unsettled weather forecast to slowly giving way to warmer, sunnier days early next week. However, with the recent rains and showers, flows have improved and are currently at or even a little above typical early May levels and quite fishable (see streamflow graphic on page 6).

Some fair to good action reported from Hammonaset River (including some nice tiger trout), Mill River (Hamden, including the Sleeping Giant TMA), Salmon River (good to excellent), Farm River (some nice action on wild brookies), Blackledge River, Fivemile River, Natchaug river, Shetucket River, Yantic River, Hunts Brook, Shunock Brook, Scantic River (including one angler with brook, brown, and rainbow trout all caught on the same trip), West Branch Farmington River and Housatonic River. Streamers such as White Zonkers, WoolyBuggers (#4-12), Micky Finn, and Grey or Black Ghost are producing.

### FREE FISHING DAY IS THIS SATURDAY (MAY 7)

*On this date anyone can fish inland or marine waters without a fishing license (all other regulations including minimum size and creel limits remain in effect).*

Among the events scheduled is a "Family Fishing Day", part of DEEP's "**Great Park Pursuit Connecticut State Parks Family Adventure**" at Stratton Brook State Park ([www.ct.gov/deep/strattonbrook](http://www.ct.gov/deep/strattonbrook)). Open to families and children, this free event will run from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and there will be plenty of activities including fishing on the pond, fish sampling, fish stocking, a fish fry, and fun activities for all ages. Join the DEEP **CARE** program's certified fishing instructors and the Hammonaset Chapter of Trout Unlimited for some fun family fishing.

### 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](http://www.ct.gov/deep/troutstockingmaps).



**Farmington River** - Fishing continues to be good to very good. West Branch flows are clear, a bit on the low side (currently 129 cfs at Riverton with the Still River adding another 163 cfs). Midday water temperatures have been in the low to mid 50's °F.

**Hatches/patterns** include Blue Wing Olive (a.k.a. *Baetis vagans*; #16-18 i), Hendrickson (still going, upper catch-and-release area through Riverton), Blue Quill (#14-16), Stonefly nymphs (#16-18), and Midge (#20-32). Nymphing has been consistent, try Hendrickson nymphs, Stoneflies (#6-10), Pheasant Tails (#14-20), and Black Stoneflies (#18-22) among others.

**Housatonic River** - Fishing has been good. Conditions for the weekend will be variable. Currently flows are turbid, at typical early-May levels (currently 1,310 cfs at Falls Village and 2,010 cfs at Gaylordsville) and very fishable. Depending on further rainfall amounts flows may increase to less comfortable levels, anglers can call FirstLight Power Resources at 1-888-417-4837 or check the USGS website (<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/current/?type=flow>) for updated Housatonic River flow information (and also check with a local bait & tackle shop). Morning water temperatures are in the mid to upper 40's °F.

**Hatches/patterns** include Hendrickson (#12-14), Blue Wing Olive (a.k.a. *Baetis vagans*; #16-18), Green/Olive Caddis (#16-18). Anglers using March Brown (#10-12), Pheasant Tail (#12-18) & Stonefly nymphs (#16-18) are finding nymphing to be very productive. Try streamers (Yellow/White Zuddlers or Gray Ghost). Brown and green woolly buggers are working.

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

In **western Connecticut**; **East Branch Salmon Brook, West Branch Salmon Brook, Sandy Brook, Still River, Nepaug River, Bulls Bridge TMA (Housatonic River), Pomperaug River, Hall Meadow Brook, East Branch Naugatuck River, West Branch Naugatuck River, Saugatuck River (lower area), Farmington River (from route 177 bridge to Route 4 Bridge) and Farmill River** were stocked.

In **eastern Connecticut**; the **Hammonaset River (including the TMA), Salmon River (including the TMA), Dickenson Creek, Green Falls River, Indiantown Brook, Natchaug River, Shunock Brook, Whitford Brook, Hunts Brook, Broad Brook (Preston), Choate Brook, Quanduck Brook, Quinebaug River (Griswold), Bigelow Brook, Still River (Eastford), Mashamoquet Brook, Fenton River, Mount Hope River, Shetucket River, Yantic River (including the TMA), Branford River and Farm River (upper)** were stocked.

**TROUT-LAKES & PONDS** - Trout fishing has been generally good with reports from Beach Pond (fair), Hewitt fly Pond (good), Crystal Lake, Highland Lake (heavy bait for browns was working for some), Saugatuck Reservoir, Candlewood Lake (fair), and Squantz Pond (good).

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

In **western Connecticut**; **Christensen's Pond, West Hill Pond, Colebrook River Lake, Black Pond (Meriden/Middlefield), Highland Lake, Wononskopomuc Lake, Mohawk Pond, Huntington Pond**

**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](http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/fishing/general_information/lakebathymetrymaps.pdf)

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



(Starret Pond), and **Nell's Rock Reservoir** were stocked.

In **eastern Connecticut**; **Amos Lake, Green Falls Reservoir, Wyassup Lake, Hyde Pond, Saw Mill Pond, Bigelow Pond, Hewitt Fly Pond, Lake Saltonstall** and **Quonnipaug Lake** were stocked.

**TROUT PARKS** – Fishing ranged from fair (Day pond) to very good (Chatfield Hollow among them) Trout Parks. The **Chatfield Hollow** (both pond and stream), **Day Pond, Natchaug River, Stratton Brook** and **Valley Falls Trout Parks** were stocked this week.

**COMMUNITY FISHING WATERS**- **Center Springs Park Pond, Stanley Quarter Park, Beaver Park Lagoon, Butternut Park Pond** (Rowan's Pond), and **Picketts Pond** were stocked.

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing has picked up some over the last week in a number of areas (but some work is generally required). Try targeting dark bottom, warmer backwater coves that warm quicker. Fair to good reports from Mashapaug Lake, Ball Pond, Lake McDonough, Pachaug Pond, Candlewood Lake (fair at best, later reports indicate some fish are moving up onto beds) and Squantz Pond (fairly good, including a 4.25 lb largemouth). Live bait, hard lures and soft plastics are working. **Tournament angler** reports are from Gardner Lake (fair action, mostly on 1-lb fish, with 2.3 & 2.2 lb lunkers). Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (mediocre fishing, not much size, 2.72 lb lunker for one tourney, better fishing with a 5.9 lb lunker by Ken Ferry for another tourney), Mashapaug Lake (fair action, 2.1 lb lunker), Pachaug Pond (fair fishing, 3.84 & 3.04 lb lunkers), Pattagansett Lake (fair fishing, with a 4.0 lb lunker), Quaddick Lake (good day of fishing, with fish pre-spawn, spawn and post-spawn bass, 5 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (slow to fair action, with 6.75 lb, 5.18 lb, 4.7, 3.96 lb lb lunkers) and Lake Lillinonah (fair for largemouth).

**SMALLMOUTH BASS.** Fishing has been tough in many areas. Best reports are from Colebrook River Lake and Squantz Pond (several fish in the 2-3 lb range). It's slow to fair fishing (at best) at Candlewood Lake (anglers are seeing lots of fish schooled up, but can't get them to bite), Beach Pond and Mashapaug Lake. **Tournament angler** reports are from Mashapaug Lake (a few, with a 3.2 lb lunker), Pachaug Pond (a few), Lake Lillinonah (fair to good action, 3.86 lb lunker), and Candlewood Lake (hard fishing with few catches for some, fair for a few, 3.67 lb lunker).

**BLACK CRAPPIE** fishing continues to be good throughout the state, with reports from Candlewood Lake (on fire at Danbury Town Park), Pachaug Pond, Lake Lillinonah, Highland Lake, Rogers Lake and a number of the smaller ponds in southeast CT.

**WALLEYE.** Very good reports from Squantz Pond, and it's been slow at Mashapaug Lake.

**NORTHERN PIKE** fishing has been slow, with reports from Pachaug Pond, Quaddick Lake and Mansfield Hollow Reservoir. A shot of warmer weather may help pick up the action.

**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](http://www.ct.gov/deep/invasivespecies) or the Aquatic Invasive species section of the 2016 CT angler's Guide( [www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide](http://www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide)).



## CONNECTICUT RIVER

The river remains cool (still at 52° F as of Tuesday, 5/3) and this may be affecting runs. Flows are turbid and somewhat high, but are well below typical early May levels. **STRIPED BASS** (schoolie-size and some bigger fish) are being found throughout the river. Some 20 lb plus fish caught in the upper river (good action on bloodworms and plugs). Action at the mouth has been better early in the morning. **AMERICAN SHAD** can be found throughout the river (fair to good action continues in the Enfield area) although water temperatures may still be slowing them down some. Willow leaves have been working well. **BLACK CRAPPIE** fishing is fair to good. Some **LARGEMOUTH BASS** are being caught (best reports from Salmon River Cove).

## NOTES & NOTICES:

**BASHAN LAKE (drawdown).** Bashan Lake remains drawn down (slow refill has begun – lake currently remains down approximately 4-5 feet – note that refill rate is dependent on rainfall amounts) following dam repairs and the state boat launch remains closed.

**COVENTRY LAKE (invasive species alert).** Hydrilla, a very highly invasive aquatic plant, has been found growing in Coventry Lake. All lake users should take extra care to check and clean their boats (including canoes, kayaks and rowing sculls), trailers, and fishing equipment before leaving the boat launch, or leaving the lakeshore.

**DOOLEY POND (drawdown).** A drawdown of Dooley Pond to facilitate dam repairs is ongoing (expected to last to September 1). The state boat launch is currently closed.

**GLASGO POND (drawdown).** A drawdown of Glasgo Pond to facilitate dam repairs is ongoing (began September 2015). Launching of boats is difficult to impossible.

**RAINBOW RESERVOIR (boat launch).** The state boat launch on Rainbow Reservoir is currently closed through Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> (inclusive) for paving and redesign. Note that project duration was extended due to this week's weather (rain, showers, cool temperatures).



**No Child Left Inside® Great Park Pursuit  
Family Fishing Day**

**Saturday May 7, 2016  
9 AM – 3 PM**



**Stratton Brook State Park  
149 Farms Village Rd., Simsbury**

**FREE!!  
No registration required.**

**Learn to fish with the Connecticut Aquatic Resource (CARE)  
instructors, fish fry, games, river and pond ecology, nature hikes  
and more!**

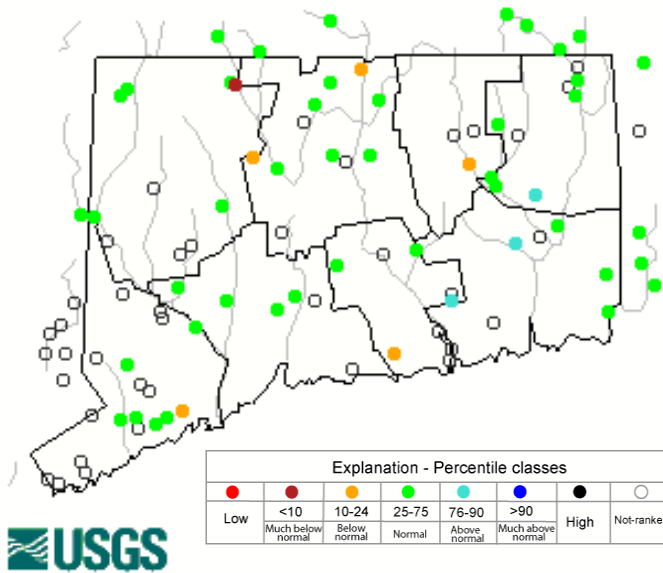
**For more information:  
CT Department of Energy and Environmental  
Protection (860) 529-5816 [teresa.gagnon@ct.gov](mailto:teresa.gagnon@ct.gov)**

or visit  
[www.NoChildLeftInside.org](http://www.NoChildLeftInside.org)



Stream flow conditions as of 5/5/2016

Thursday, May 05, 2016 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 75<sup>th</sup> percentile means only ¼ of the streamflow values were above the value and thus would be considered “above normal”. Stream flow between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> are considered to be “normal flows” and those 25<sup>th</sup> 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 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://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 very good for “schoolies” in most of the tidal rivers along the Connecticut shoreline. There are also some very nice keepers in the mix as well. Striper spots include the Pawcatuck River, Mystic River, Thames River, Niantic River, lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier and Dock and Dine), Black Hall River, New Haven Harbor (Sandy Point), Housatonic River and Norwalk Harbor including the islands. Sand and blood worms have been working the best, especially in turbid waters around the high tide and the beginning of the ebb. Casting swimming lures, small jigs (Chartreuse color) with twister tails, soft baits, and Kastmasters and other metal lures will all work.

Fishing is awesome in the lower rivers/estuaries where the water temperature has approached the magical 55°F mark and there are schools of 1 year old menhaden! The top-water fishing has been fantastic...

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

**WHITE PERCH** fishing is good 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 small garden worms are the keys to success.

**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”) have been reported! 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.

**SHORE FISHING SPOTS & TIDE TABLE INFORMATION**

To find a saltwater shore fishing spot close to where you live, go to the following website:

<http://www.lisrc.uconn.edu/coastalaccess/>.

For **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 64 of the [2016 CT Angler’s Guide](#) for CT tide information.

**BLACK SEA BASS** fishing is slow with this gnarly weather we have had. The early season hot spot is Falkner Island. Fishing over any deep water structure in 60 to 100 ft around slack tide will produce some trophy-sized “humpbacks”. Fish shallower and you will catch plenty of keeper-sized sea bass. It’s important to continue to move from structure to structure to find these beautiful and awesome eating fish. Remember, **CT black sea bass regulations are as follows...15 inch minimum length, 5 fish daily limit from May 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>**. Berkely Gulp (swimming mullet) on a jig along with squid with a spinner works great for these “Bucketmouths”.

**WEAKFISH.** Look for weakfish in Guilford/New Haven Harbor over to the Milford/Stratford area along with the Peconics (NY).

**BLUEFISH.** The Race, Millstone Outflow, Plum Gut and the north side of Long Island including Gardiners Bay and the Peconics are early bluefish spots.

**Special section- BONUS STRIPED BASS FISHING PROGRAM-**

**STRIPED BASS REPORTING CARDS & TAGS NOW AVAILABLE.**

The Bonus Striped Bass Program will run from May 1 through December 31 in 2016. DEEP will distribute TWO Harvest Tags and Harvest Report Cards per license holder this year. 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 TWO TAGS annually per Connecticut fishing license holder. However, for convenience one person may pick up at most FOUR 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   |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------|-------|-------|
| <a href="#">Marine Headquarters</a> ,<br>M-F 8am-4pm, 860-434-6043   | 333 Ferry Road              | Old Lyme    | CT    | 06371 |
| <a href="#">Eastern District</a> ,<br>M-F 8:30am-4pm, 860-295-9523   | 209 Hebron Ave              | Marlborough | CT    | 06447 |
| <a href="#">Western District</a> ,<br>M-F 8:30am-4pm, 860-485-0226   | 230 Plymouth Rd             | Harwinton   | CT    | 06791 |
| <a href="#">Franklin WMA</a> , 860-642-7239<br>M-F 8:30am-4:30pm     | 391 Route 32                | Franklin    | CT    | 06254 |
| <a href="#">Sessions Woods WMA</a> ,<br>M-F 8:30am-4pm, 860-675-8130 | 341 Milford Street (Rte 69) | Burlington  | CT    | 06013 |
| <a href="#">CTDEEP Main Office</a><br>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](mailto:deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov) or telephone: 860-434-6043) if your organizations supports such a program and you would like to receive vouchers. The Bonus Striped Bass Voucher Program runs from **May 1 through December 31** in 2015. For convenience one person may pick up vouchers for others by presenting valid fishing licenses for these anglers. Children are also eligible to receive a voucher by signing up for a free [Youth Fishing Passport](#). Vouchers will be available on a first come first serve basis for as long as supplies last.

***For Current Connecticut Recreational Fishing Regulations:*** Anglers should consult the 2016 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](http://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](http://www.ct.gov/deep)