

CT DEEP **2016**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 6
5/19/2016



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.



INLAND REPORT

TROUT STOCKING– Trout stocking has come to an end for spring 2016. With the very “spring-like” weather and no sign of early summer heat, trout fishing will remain very good through Memorial Day Weekend. Some have inquired as to why there will not be any stocking over the Memorial Day Weekend. Typically, by the end of May, water temperatures begin to approach the upper thresholds for trout in many of our waters. The Inland Fisheries Division is looking to reduce stress on the fish by completing our trout stocking by mid-May.

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - Trout fishing remains very good. The cool weather pattern continues to prevent water temperatures from rising to stressful levels. As such trout remain spread throughout our rivers and streams providing a challenge to find.

Many anglers reported catching their fill of trout (catch and release) as well as those who took home their limit for a nice trout dinner. Highlights included some nice looking 18+ inch browns (Farmington TMA) and a few surplus broodstock rainbows (Pomperaug River and Natchaug River).

Farmington River - Fishing continues to be excellent. West Branch flows are clear, still low and with some release rising only a bit (currently 278 cfs at Riverton with the Still River adding only 76 cfs). Midday water temperatures are in the mid 50's °F.

A reminder that “rock snot” (Didymo) is currently blooming in the West Branch near Riverton, all anglers should be extra vigilant about “Check, Clean, Dry” to help prevent the spread to other waters.

Hatches/patterns The word is variety. Keep some a mix of mayflies, caddis, and midges on hand. Cool weather is making a relative mixture of several types. Pick of the week is tomorrow with air temps predicted to be near 80°F. Early evening activity could get interesting. Keep these nearby caddis (tan #16-18), black (#18-22), Hendrickson and Mahogany Dun (#14-16), Stonefly nymphs (#16-18), and Midge

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.



(#20-32). Nymphing can be a good go to as hatches are intermittent. Try wooly buggers, muddler minnow, 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 about half of what is typical of mid-May levels (currently 660 cfs at Falls Village and 997 cfs at Gaylordsville) and very fishable. 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 upper 40's °F.

Hatches/patterns Same general conditions as the Farmington, keep a variety of flies on hand. Especially, 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 working well. Try streamers (Yellow/White Zuddlers or Gray Ghost). Brown and green wooly buggers are working.

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

RIVERS AND STREAMS: The Natchaug has been real good with small caddis and olives. The Willimantic has been slow in the TMA but above and below have been real good with buggers and wet flies. The Hockanum is good in the TMA using mostly small caddis.

In **western CT**; **Blackberry River**, **Whiting River**, **Leadmine Brook**, **Pequonnock River**, **Pomperaug River**, **Farmington River TMA** (from the lower Collinsville dam to the Route 177 bridge), **Norwalk River** (Merwin Meadows), and the **Farmington River TMA** (from the lower end of the year-round catch-and-release area at Route 219 to the lower Collinsville dam).

In **eastern CT**; the **Willimantic River** (both the TMA and sections downstream of the TMA), **Skungamaug River**, **Scantic River**, **Shunock Brook**, **Little River** (Canterbury), **Hammonasset River** (including the TMA), **Mount Misery Brook**, **Myron Kinnie Brook**, **Indiantown Brook**, **Coginchaug River**, **Roaring Brook** (Glastonbury), and **Salmon River** (including the TMA).

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 **eastern CT**; **Amos Lake**, **Long Pond**, **Wyassup Lake**, **Crystal Lake**, **Green Falls Reservoir**, **Angus Park Pond**, and **Gay City Park Pond**.

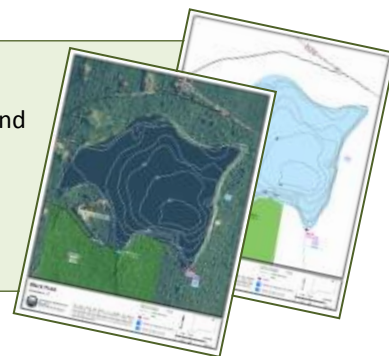
TROUT PARKS – Fishing is reported as good to fair to good at our Trout Parks and Community Fishing Waters. The **Chatfield Hollow** (brook only) **Trout Park** was stocked.

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.



LARGEMOUTH BASS continues to require some work as water temperatures are slow to rise. Working slugs across the emerging aquatic plants to trigger the strike.

Tournament angler reports are from Gardner Lake (fishing on the tough side for many, also not many bigger fish, 2.5 lb and 1.5 lb lunkers), Pattagansett Lake (slow to fair action, fish average weight was 2.24 lbs with a 4.74 lb lunker), Quaddick Lake (lots of action – “...caught bass all day”, but nearly all 13-14 inch fish, biggest fish were 2.96 lb, 2.85 lb and 2.46 lb), Rogers Lake (good fishing, with some nice size – fish averaged 2.5 lbs per fish, with a 6.25 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (fair for largemouth, 6.91 lb, 6.87 lb and 6.42 lb lunkers), East Twin Lake (good to very good action, with some big fish, including a **7.5 lunker** caught by Dennis Sikorski, and 5.9 lb and 5.1 lb bass, and a nearly 3 lb per fish average), Lake Lillinonah (fair action), Lake McDonough (good for largemouth, with a 3.6 lb lunker), West Hill Pond (fair action, with a 6.48 lb lunker) and Lake Zoar (hard work finding many, not much size with a 3.69 lb lunker).

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 2016 CT angler's Guide(www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide).



SMALLMOUTH BASS. **Tournament angler** reports are from Gardner Lake (nothing), Candlewood Lake (fishing has picked up, 3.7 lb lunker), Lake Lillinonah (fair to good fishing, with a 4.69 lb lunker), Lake McDonough (slow to fair for smallmouth, 2.6 lb lunker), and Lake Zoar (slow to fair).

BLACK CRAPPIE fishing is very good throughout the state and should pick up a bit when waters warm a few more degrees, look for underwater structure close to the shallows.

CHAIN PICKEREL Very good reports from most waters, pickerel are on the aggressive feed trying to bulk up. Gardner Lake was the hot-spot.

COMMON CARP Very good reports from shallow coves on the Connecticut River, Lake Zoar, Lake Housatonic, Lake Lillinonah, and lower Housatonic River (New Milford), and Hanover Pond- Meriden.

CONNECTICUT RIVER

Water temperatures went up to 14 – 17 C (57 – 63 F), which is still a bit low for this time of year but closer to normal. Flows are clear and at typical levels (17,600 CFS). **STRIPED BASS** (schoolie-size and some bigger fish) are being found scattered throughout the river. Some 20-30 lb plus fish caught in the upper river (good action on bloodworms, large white slugs, and plugs). Action at the mouth has been better early in the morning (see marine report). **AMERICAN SHAD** are really picking up and can be found throughout the river (very good action in the Enfield area). Willow leaves remain the standby. **BLACK CRAPPIE** fishing remains good (small grey, white, or silver plastic jigs). Some **LARGEMOUTH BASS** are being caught. **CT River tournament reports-** none

World Fish Migration Day: This Saturday, May 21, is a world-wide celebration of efforts to restore migratory fish runs. Many fishways in CT will be open for tours and viewing. Here are some details:



All fishway open houses are from 10:00 am until 3:30 pm unless otherwise noted. Look for yard signs on the day of the event.

Rainbow Dam Fishway Open House- The state's tallest fishway on the Farmington River, Windsor. A vertical slot fishway at a 59 foot high hydroelectric dam. Includes a trap, an underground window where visitors can see fish swim by, and downstream fish passage facilities. DEEP staff will be on hand to answer questions. Species could include Atlantic salmon, American shad, blueback herring, sea lamprey, American eel, sea-run trout, and many resident river species like trout and bass. **Address:** 400 Rainbow Road, Windsor, CT

Harry Haakonsen Fishway Open House- A Denil fishway on the Quinnipiac River in Wallingford in the shadow of the Wilbur Cross Parkway (exit 64). Includes an underground video chamber with a camera that records images of migrating fish. Species could include American shad, gizzard shad, blueback herring, sea lamprey, American eel, and many resident river species like white suckers, trout, and bass. DEEP staff will be on hand to answer questions. **Address:** 367 Quinnipiac Ave., Wallingford, CT

StanChem Fishway Open House- A Denil fishway on the Mattabesset River in Berlin. Includes an underground viewing window where visitors can watch migrating fish swim past. Species could include American shad, gizzard shad, blueback herring, sea lamprey, American eel, and many resident river species like white suckers, trout, and bass. DEEP staff will be on hand to answer questions. **Address:** 409 Berlin St., East Berlin, CT

Greeneville Dam Fishlift Open House- A fish elevator on the Shetucket River in the Greeneville section of Norwich. Includes a viewing window where visitors can watch migrating fish swim past. Species could include American shad, gizzard shad, blueback herring, striped bass and many resident river species like white suckers, trout, and bass. Norwich Public Utilities staff will be on hand to answer questions. **Address:** 88th Street, Norwich, CT

Latimer Brook Fishway Open House- A steep pass fishway on Latimer Brook in East Lyme. Includes a trap and an electronic fish counter. This fishway passes alewife and sea-run trout. DEEP staff will be on hand to explain the operation of the fishway and the sea-run trout program. **Address:** 100 Boston Post Road, East Lyme, CT (best for GPS since the fishway has no fixed address. But the actual site is about ¼ mile east of the intersection of Rt. 161 and Rt. 1 (Flanders) on Rt. 1 (Boston Post Road).

Mianus Pond Fishway Open House- A steep pass fishway at the head-of-tide on the Mianus River in the Cos Cob section of Greenwich. Includes a walkway along the fishway, an electronic fish counter, an underwater video camera, and an eel pass. Staff from the Greenwich Conservation Commission will be on hand to explain the fishway. This open house will run from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. **Address:** 848 East Putnam Ave. Cos Cob, CT

Branford- A steep pass fishway on Queach Brook, a tributary to the Branford River. Includes a beautiful stone walkway all along the fishway compliments of the world famous Stony Creek quarries, an electronic fish counter, eel nets, and a Town park. Alewives are the main target fish. Folks from the Branford Land Trust will be there to show visitors around. **Address:** 1 Stonegate Dr. Branford, CT (best for GPS). But parking is across the street along Short Rocks Road.

Connecticut River Floatilla- Old Lyme, CT- A family-friendly group paddling event that will draw attention to World Fish Migration Day while exploring the estuary of the Connecticut River, which is critical habitat to many migratory fish species. Bring your kayak or canoe to Smith Neck Road Boat Launch (1.8 miles south of I-95 exit 70 on Rt. 156) at 9 am and launch and paddle with the group, which will include restoration specialists such as engineers and DEEP biologists. This is sponsored by Princeton Hydro, the Connecticut River Watershed Council, and other conservation groups. If you wish to attend, email Laura Wildman at lwildman@princetonhydro.com with the title WFMD Floatilla to let her know how many people in your party will be attending. For more information- <http://www.worldfishmigrationday.com/events/917/connecticut-river-floatilla>

NOTES & NOTICES:

BASHAN LAKE (drawdown). Bashan Lake remains drawn down (slow refill continues – lake currently remains down approximately 3-5 feet – note that refill rate is dependent on rainfall amounts) following dam repairs and the state boat launch remains closed.

BEACH POND (closure). The state boat launch at Beach Pond is scheduled to be closed on Friday, May 27 to facilitate site study and preparation for eventual renovations. The launch will reopen on Saturday, 5/28.

LOWER BOLTON LAKE (regatta). A sail boat regatta is scheduled for **Sunday, May 22th** from **9:00 am to 4:00 pm** in the central area of the lake. Boaters should extra care on the lake.

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.

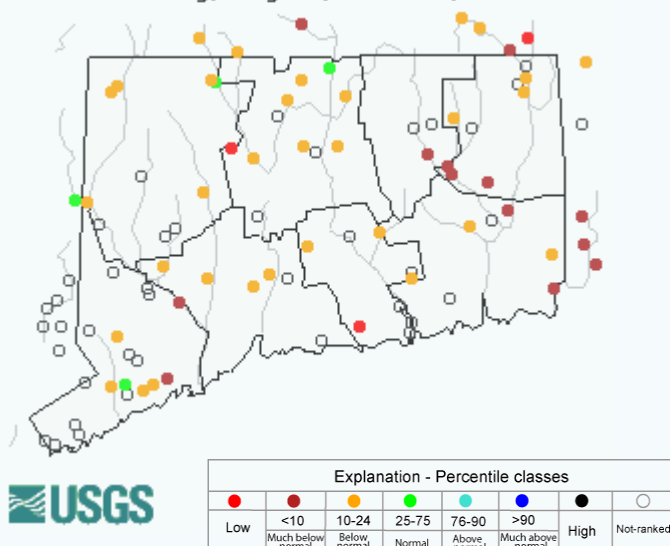
LAKE HOUSATONIC (drawdown). Lake Housatonic will be drawn down three feet this weekend from Friday, 5/20 through Sunday, 5/22 for dam maintenance. Launching trailered boats from the state boat launch will be very difficult to impossible.

LAKE WARAMAUG (rowing regatta). A high school rowing event is scheduled for **Sunday, May 22 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm** in the western most basin. Boaters should use additional caution in the western portion of the lake.

WINCHESTER LAKE (closure). The state boat launch at Winchester Lake is closed, Thursday, May 19 to facilitate site study and preparation for eventual renovations. The launch will reopen on Friday, 5/20.

Stream flow conditions as of 5/19/2016

Thursday, May 19, 2016 16:30ET



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".



Celebrating 150 Years!

The DEEP's Bureau of Natural Resources is celebrating its 150th Anniversary in 2016. Joining in the celebration are the Divisions of Wildlife, Inland Fisheries, Marine Fisheries, Forestry, and the Environmental Conservation (EnCon) Police, as well as many partners.

Throughout 2016, we will look back at our history and also look ahead to the future of natural resources in our state. Follow along with the celebration and participate in special events to be held year-long on our special web page (www.ct.gov/deep/naturalresources150).

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the mid to upper 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 very good especially with the approaching full "flower" moon. There have been some very large stripers being caught in the Thames River (Norwich). 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 for "schoolie"

bass. Casting swimming lures, small jigs (Chartreuse color) with twister tails, soft baits, and Kastmasters and other metal lures will all work. Find the menhaden (bunker) and you will find those beautiful stripers. The evening/night bite is fantastic with bait, including eels.

Bonus Striped Bass Tags are gone for this year. Thank you for everyone who took advantage of this unique program.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is good overall and quickly improving. As squid enter Long Island Sound...fishing will only get better. Mid to western LIS anglers reported fluke from 3 to 7 lbs being common. Anglers targeting fluke report that skates and searobins 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. Fresh squid and or silversides (spearing) have also been producing. **Minimum size is 18 inches and the daily creel limit is 5 fish per person.**

WHITE PERCH fishing is fair, outgoing tide is better along the Connecticut shoreline and its coves. 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.

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.

SCUP (porgy) fishing is phenomenal by Orient Point and the north shore bays. Much better in Gardiners Bay and the Peconics (Little Peconic Bay is hot). **Hook up with a [Party or Charter Boat](#) and enjoy some of the best scup fishing you will ever experience.** These prespawn scup are gigantic! Seriously, try fishing on a party boat and enjoy some great fishing. Porgies measuring 12-18 inches (“hubcap size”) have been caught! Porgy fishing has also been reported at these excellent 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.

BLACK SEA BASS fishing is slow but improving. The early season hot spot is Falkner Island and from New Haven to Woodmont. 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 min. length, 5 fish daily limit from May 1st to December 31st.** Berkely Gulp (swimming mullet) on a jig along with squid with a spinner works great for these “Bucketmouths”.

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. One day they are here in large numbers...the next day you are left wondering...where did they go.

WEAKFISH. Look for weakfish in Guilford/New Haven Harbor over to the Milford/Stratford area along with the Peconics (NY). Some really nice 8 to 12 pound fish have been recently caught at Sandy Point in West Haven.

BLUEFISH. The Race, Millstone Outflow, Plum Gut and the north side of Long Island including Gardiners Bay and the Peconics are the early season hotspots. The “Blues” are coming as we speak...chasing the squid into the sound..

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.

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DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



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