

CT DEEP **2016**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 11
6/23/2016



Bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*)



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.

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INLAND REPORT

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is reported as good to very good. Places to try include Mashapaug Lake, Colebrook Reservoir, Congamond Lakes, Lake Saltonstall, Lake McDonough, Highland Lake, Winchester Lake, Bantam Lake, Candlewood Lake, Lake Wononskopomuc, Batterson Park Pond, Black Pond (Meriden), Lake Lillinonah, Breakneck Pond (great hike in location), Griggs Pond, Lake Waramaug, West Hill Pond, Park Pond, Crystal Lake (Ellington), Gardner Lake, Moodus Reservoir, Still Water Pond, Winchester Lake, Squantz Pond, Maltby Lake 2 & 3, Wood Creek Pond, Pachaug Pond, Ball Pond, Quonnipaug Lake, Silver Lake (Meriden) and Halls Pond.

Tournament angler reports are from Aspinook Pond (slow-fair fishing, "high-pressure weather wise", 2.31 lb lunger for club, fair to good with a 4.7 lb lunger for another tourny), Gorton Pond (good, 4.72 lb lunger, fish average nearly 2 lbs apiece), Lake of Isles (fair-good, 3.99 lb lunger), Long Pond (tough, a 4.77 lb lunger buth few other fish), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (fair action, 3.12 lb, 3.11 lb & 3.07 lb lungers), Pickerel Lake (good fishing, but nothing of any size, and a 1.5 lb lunger), Rogers Lake (very good fishing, "...caught fish off-and-on most of the day...", 4.61 lb & 4.23 lb lungers plus several more 3 lb plus fish), Bantam Lake (fair action, 3.99 lb lunger), Candlewood Lake (fair-good, 4.66 lb, 3.1 lb lungers), and Wononskopomuc Lake (good, 4.3 lb lunger).

SMALLMOUTH BASS fishing is reported as fair (hopefully improving). Try out at Mashapaug Lake, Lake McDonough, Highland Lake, Bantam Lake, Candlewood Lake, Lake Lillinonah, Naugatuck River, Housatonic River and Gardner Lake.

CONNECTICUT HUNTING & FISHING DAYS

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September 10 Saturday 10AM - 4PM Franklin WMA 391 Route 32 North Franklin, CT	September 24 Saturday 10AM - 4PM Sessions Woods WMA 341 Milford Street Burlington, CT
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 www.ct.gov/deep/HuntFishDay
Phone: 860-424-3011 | Email: deep.ctwildlife@ct.gov



Tournament angler reports are from Bantam Lake (fair fishing for those targeting smallies,) and Candlewood Lake (fair for smallmouth, 3.66 lb lunker).

NORTHERN PIKE fishing is reported to be good in Winchester Lake, Bantam Lake (fish to 30"), Upper Housatonic River, and Connecticut River Coves.

KOKANEE are being caught at East Twin Lake (18'+) and West Hill Pond (3 colors). Bads, Mooselook Wobblers, DB Smelt, Flash King lures (blue & silver) are producing. Try fishing corn over lights at nights.

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

CHANNEL CATFISH are providing solid action on live shiners, chicken livers, and chunk bait from community fishing waters, Connecticut River Hartford to Haddam, and Lower Bolton Lake and Batterson Park Pond.

PANFISH are providing excellent summer time action. Any local pond open to fishing near you will give you some action. The kids love this non-stop action and it will keep them occupied for hours. Any type of inexpensive fishing pole or drop line is all you need to catch these fish. Suggested locations include: Tyler Lake, Batterson Park Pond, Amos Pond, Barber Pond, Baummer Pond, Black Rock Lake, Burr Pond, Dooley Pond, Halls Pond, Lake of Isles, Lower Fulton Park Pond and McGrath Park Pond. Check out and download the FREE- CARE "Let's Go Fishing" Workbook available on the DEEP website at www.ct.gov/deep/care

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS – There are big trout around for anglers to catch. Some lakes to try include: East Twin Lake, Mashapaug Lake (riggers @ 20-25'), Colebrook Reservoir (riggers @ 25'+, Mooselook silver/blue) , Lake McDonough (7-8 colors), Valley Falls Park Pond, West Hill Pond, Highland Lake (4 colors), Beach Pond (early @ 20-25'), Long Pond (Kobra 14), Crystal Lake (Ellington; 7-8 colors, troll @ 2mph), Mohawk Pond, Beach Pond, Black Pond (Woodstock) & Bigelow Pond.

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS – Rivers are **at or near record low levels statewide**. Fish should be concentrating in pockets of deeper water and deep runs (more typical of late summer). This season's weather conditions have created excellent river/stream fishing conditions and provided anglers with some superb fishing. Just about all types of gear are working well. Mealworms, night crawlers, live minnows, small castmasters and phoebe goldfish, and many dryflies and nymphs.

Farmington River - Fishing continues to be very good to excellent with the beautiful "survivor browns" providing a thrill (16-20 inches). West Branch flows are clear and moderate (currently 265 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River adding just 17 cfs). Water temperatures are in the low 60's°F.

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

Housatonic River - Fishing continues to be very good to excellent and will remain so through the weekend. Water clarity is fairly

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.



clear. Water temperatures are currently in the high 60's with 371 cfs at Falls Village and 447 cfs at Gaylordsville.

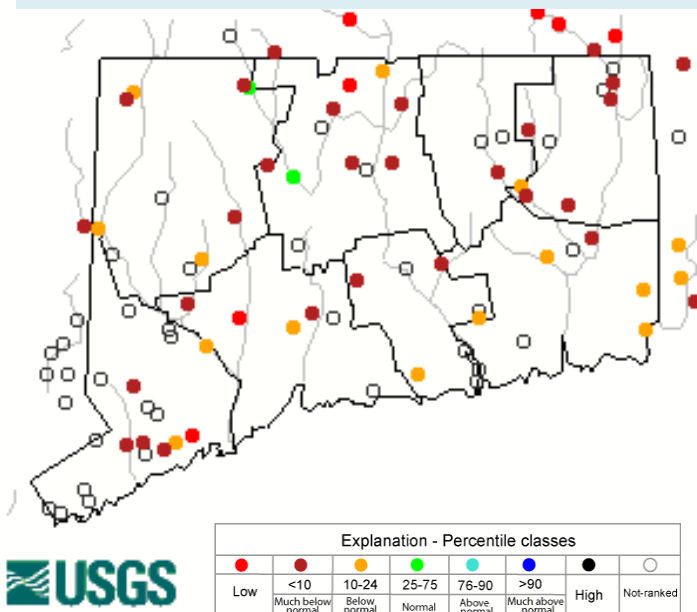
Hatches/patterns: Major insect hatches are here and are providing excellent fly fishing. Alder/Zebra Caddis (#8-10) is underway (should last up to 4 weeks) and will produce some great fishing. Alder flies are very active during hot days. Additional bugs include the Sulphurs (#14-18, evening), Blue Wing 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

Top water catches of **STRIPED BASS** in the lower river continue with some fish good size coming to net. Multiple catches are occurring for some exciting catches. Anglers in the Middletown area have been catching **CATFISH** in the holes. **CARP** including some nice "mirror" and "fantail" have been caught between Middletown and Haddam. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are putting on a good show in the northern part of the River. Try top water plugs and 4", Mr. Twisters, Wacky Style salted worms in motor oil or chartreuse for these feisty jumpers. **BOWFIN** are starting to be more aggressive towards lures and bait resulting in increased catch and calls to the Inland Fisheries Division. The Bowfin (*Amia calva*) has an elongate body, fairly hard (bony plates) head, and long fins on the dorsal and ventral surface. They have some similarity to the infamous "snakehead". A change in the fishing regulations now allows anglers to harvest bowfin (a very tasty fish) if they desire. There are no size limits, daily limits, and the season is open year round.

Stream flow conditions as of 6/22/2016



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:

CT Fishin' Tips is our monthly e-newsletter dedicated to providing information, tips and pointers about fishing in Connecticut. Get CT Fishin' Tips delivered automatically to your in box by subscribing at www.ct.gov/deep/newslettersubscription

Saturday, June 25, 2016: Women Can Fish Too! On this day, our basics of fishing class will be open to women only (16 and up). Come to our class, held at the [CARE](#) education center in Killingworth (10 am to 3 pm), to get a leg up on your significant other - and show them you can fish too! Call 860-663-1656 to reserve your place (FREE!).

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

CANDLEWOOD LAKE (fireworks display). The annual fireworks display is scheduled for Saturday evening, June 25, in the Danbury Arm.

CONNECTICUT RIVER (Windsor, boating event). An Antique Outboard Motor Club, Inc. Club will be conducting a meet to display and run boats and antique outboard motors at the Bissell Bridge state boat launch on the Connecticut River on Saturday, June 25, from 9 am to 4 pm. Although the event will be conducted from the state boat launch, room will be available to the general public to park and launch. Boaters should however use additional caution on the river near the launch.

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.

PHOTO CONTEST: Do you have the next Angler's Guide cover shot? Email us your high quality (high resolution) photos at Deep.inland.fisheries@ct.gov and include [photo contest](#) in the subject line.

NEW! Youth Fishing Passport [Fishing Challenge Scorecard](#): Download the new scorecard for your Youth Fishing Passport Holder on the program web page at www.ct.gov/deep/yfp. Top anglers will receive a great prize pack of fishing gear.



NEW! Join us in celebrating [150 Years of Natural Resource Conservation in Connecticut](#)! 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. Check out our historical timeline: [Connecticut Bureau of Natural Resources Through the Years](#).

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) remain in the 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 remains excellent. The backside of the full moon has provided phenomenal striped bass fishing. Recently there was a 51 pound striped bass caught from shore in Old Lyme. The big fish keep on rolling in to feed on the abundant bait populations. It's also impressive to see how many anglers are catching and releasing so many of these trophy striped bass. **Dawn and dusk is prime time for large stripers on the reefs, rip areas and lower coastal tidal rivers. Live lining eels, bunker or hickory shad has been the ticket.** There is plenty of bunker throughout LIS including the tidal rivers to hold fish. Striper areas 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), Westbrook, 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, Bridgeport Harbor, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands, and Cable and Anchor Reef. **Connecticut River by the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier**

STRIPED BASS ANGLERS FISHING IN RHODE ISLAND WATERS - are advised that the state of Rhode Island has adopted the following regulations pertaining to striped bass. These regulations apply to all Rhode Island state lands and waters including the waters around Block Island: **"Any person recreationally harvesting a striped bass thirty-four (34) inches or larger shall at the time of harvest have the right pectoral fin removed at a point as close to the body of the fish as possible."**

BLUEFISH fishing is improving with more and more bluefish arriving from the Montauk area, after feeding on scup and squid. The Race, Plum Gut, many of the major rocky reefs, rips, and shoal areas in LIS will harbor bluefish. Speed squidding diamond jigs, trolling parachute jigs or umbrella rigs, and using fresh bunker or hickory shad chunks on three-way bottom rigs have all been effective. Other bluefish spots include the Sluiceway, Gardiners Bay, Peconic Bays, and the north shore of Long Island along with the Stratford Shoal area. **My recommendation is to hook up with a [Party or Charter Boat](#) and enjoy some of the best FISHING you will ever experience. These "Alligator Blues" are one of the hardest fighting fish you will ever reel in.** Snappers (juvenile bluefish) have not arrived yet!

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is hit or miss for "keepers" in Long Island Sound. The area north of Montauk (40-60 feet) is producing good numbers of fish...fluke up to 13 pounds this week. Mid to western LIS anglers are still reporting good numbers of sub-legal sized fish and a few keepers mixed in, up to 5 pounds. (Norwalk/Stratford/New Haven/Woodmont area). Fluke spots include south shore of Fishers Island (Isabella Beach, Wilderness Point), Watch Hill to Napatree Point, off the Stonington breakwater, mouth of the Mystic River to Groton Long Point, Thames River channel, Gardiners Bay over to Greenport, NY, Twotree Channel, Black Point/Niantic Bay, Long Sand Shoal, Westbrook-Clinton area, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor to West Haven, off the mouth of the Housatonic River, Norwalk Islands, and across over to Port Jefferson, NY. 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.**

SCUP (porgy) fishing is very good in Long Island Sound. It is much better on the southeast corner of Montauk in approximately 30 feet of water. There are huge schools of scup in relatively shallow water. Hook up with your local party/charter boat to get into some of the best fishing ever! These scup are very large and delicious to eat! Seriously, try fishing for some “*reef slammers*” and enjoy some great fishing...there are lots of scup around for all. Porgies measuring 13-18 inches (“hubcap size”) have been caught! Porgy fishing has also been reported at these shore fishing locations: Rocky Neck State Park, Harkness Memorial State Park, Meigs Point Hammonasset State Park and **Fort Trumbull State Park**. Locate your favorite [Enhanced Shore Fishing Opportunities](#) for these hard fighting and excellent eating “Reef Slammers”. These “panfish of the sea” are easily caught on sandworms/cut squid or any other small piece of bait.

BLACK SEA BASS fishing continues to keep on getting better, showing no signs of slowing down. Fishing over any deep water structure (gnarly bottom preferred) in 30 to 75 ft around slack tide will produce some trophy-sized “humpbacks”. Fish shallower and you will catch plenty of keeper-sized sea bass along with fluke and sea robins. 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”.

STRIPED SEA ROBIN fishing is good in LIS for this “hardhead fish with spines and large pectoral fins”. These beautiful and strange looking fish are now very common especially when bottom fishing at many of Connecticut’s shore fishing sites. With fish measuring over 23 inches and “barking up a storm” (grunting noise they make when handling them). They love sandworms, squid and any live or dead bait. They are also very good to eat. Please be careful when handling them...be mindful of their spines located on top of their head and gill cover.

HICKORY SHAD fishing is very good in the **Black Hall River, lower Connecticut River by the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier and in Clinton Harbor**. Connecticut Tarpon (Hickory shad) can be found mixed in with schoolie striped bass. They move up and down the river systems with the tide. Flood or the beginning of the Ebb tide is typically the best and lures of choice are a willow leaf (silver or copper), kastmaster (single hook), small plastic jigs (white, red or chartreuse), and or shad darts in various colors. You will be impressed with these “high flyers”. It’s great shore fishing and you get to meet a lot of anglers and trade fishing stories (“secrets”)

WEAKFISH fishing continues to keep on plugging along with some very nice fish reported in the central and western sound. Good fishing in New Haven Harbor by the breakwaters over to Woodmont/Milford Point and along Stratford shoals. One of the best eating saltwater fish you will ever catch.

BLUE CRAB are becoming active in the tidal creeks and rivers. However, fishing is really improving for keepers (7.5 inches). Expect a very good year following a relatively warm winter and good survival of juvenile crabs. There are some large “jimmies” (male crabs) being captured (7 inches spike to spike). **Remember...all egg bearing females must be released with unavoidable harm. Minimum carapace length is 5 inches for a hard shell crab.** Please contact your local bait and tackle shop for most updated information (local hot spots), legal crab traps and bait to use for your fun-filled crabbing. Legal gear types include: scoop (dip) net, hand line, star crab trap, circular (topless) trap not exceeding 26 inches in diameter. Maryland Style Crab traps are prohibited. **Chicken with the skin on it (along with a long handle net) is the preferred method to capture these tasty crabs.** [Blue Crab Fact Sheet](#)

SHARK SPECIES YOU MAY ENCOUNTER IN COASTAL WATERS OF CONNECTICUT: Sand Tiger and Sandbar (Brown) Shark are protected and prohibited species and must be released unharmed. **IF YOU DON'T KNOW, PLEASE LET IT GO!** Please visit the [NMFS coastal shark information page](#) for more information.

NOTABLE CATCHES:

Species	Length (in.)	Weight (lbs)	Angler
Summer Flounder	25"	6 lbs 3 oz.	Steven Kamm
Summer Flounder	27"	7 lbs 2 oz.	Max Kamm
Summer Flounder	26.5"	7 lbs, 2 oz.	Charles Fogarty
Summer Flounder	26.5"	7 lbs, 6 oz.	Laurie Macha
Porgy	18"	2 lbs, 10 oz.	Michael Rozanski
Striped Bass	51"	C&R	Juan M.

Caught a Trophy Fish? Check the [criteria](#) and download the [affidavit](#) form.

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 [2016 CT Angler's Guide](#) for CT tides.
- **When fishing under bridges: 33 CFR 165.153(d)(8) Bridge foundations.** Any vessel operating beneath a bridge must make a direct, immediate and expeditious passage beneath the bridge while remaining within the navigable channel. No vessel may stop, moor, anchor or loiter beneath a bridge at any time. No vessel may approach within a 25-yard radius of any bridge foundation, support, stanchion, pier or abutment except as required for the direct, immediate and expeditious transit beneath a bridge.
- **Reciprocity:** Though Connecticut has reciprocity with neighboring states (New York, Rhode Island, Maine and Massachusetts), residents of Connecticut are required to have a CT Resident Marine Waters Sport Fishing License to fish in the Marine District. [Connecticut State Boundary Line in Long Island 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 be accessed on the DEEP website at: www.ct.gov/deep/fishing.

2016 CT Marine Recreational Fishing Regulations

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>.

See a Tangled Turtle? Call the Hotline! 1-860-572-5955 ext. 107

This is the time of year when leatherback, loggerhead, green, and Kemp's ridley sea turtles return to northern waters, with many sightings around Long Island Sound.

Fish Rules App *Saltwater fishing regulations made easy! Fish Rules is a totally new and innovative way to understand recreational saltwater fishing regulations for state and federal waters from Maine to Texas.*

Smart phones have GPS capabilities, allowing you (anglers) to know when they are in NY versus Connecticut or Rhode Island State Fishing Waters. Free download.

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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.