

CT DEEP **2017**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 11
6/22/2017



Bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*)



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INLAND REPORT

LARGEMOUTH BASS Fishing has been variable, sometimes slow but more often fair to good. Places to try include Congamond Lakes, Lake Saltonstall, Lake McDonough, Highland Lake, Winchester Lake, Bantam Lake, Candlewood Lake, Highland Lake, Lake Wononskopomuc, Batterson Park Pond, Lake Lillinonah, Lake Waramaug, West Hill Pond, Park Pond, Crystal Lake (Ellington), Gardner Lake, Rogers Lake, Squantz Pond, Maltby Lake 2 & 3, Wood Creek Pond, Pachaug Pond, Ball Pond, Quonnipaug Lake, Black Pond (Meriden), Cedar Lake, and Silver Lake (Meriden). Creative anglers fishing shallow lakes have been trying some fly-fishing for bass.

Tournament angler reports are from Amos Lake (slow to fair action, but some 2-lb and 3-lb fish caught, including 3.46 lb, two 3.44 lb and a 3.18 lb bass), Aspinook Pond (slow, 3.32 lb lunker), Coventry Lake (fair, 5.44 lb lunker, but average fish size was only a bit over a lb apiece), Rogers Lake (fair to good, 4.02 lb lunker), Bantam Lake (fair to good, 4.47 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (fair for largemouth, 4.4 lb and 2.9 lb lunkers), East Twin Lake (fair to good action, with 4.25 lb and 2.9 lb lunkers), Highland Lake (good fishing, many fish were still "...post-spawn, topwater was the winning pattern," with a 4.69 lb lunker), Lake Lillinonah (fair, with a 3.29 lb lunker), and the CT River (fair, with a 4.46 lb lunker).

SMALLMOUTH BASS fishing has been fairly slow in many waters, with reports from Bantam Lake, Candlewood Lake (some action, but it's been hard work), Highland Lake, Beach Pond, and Lake Lillinonah. Housatonic River smallies are starting up. **Tournament angler** reports are from Bantam Lake (a few caught, with a 3.19 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (slow to fair), and Lake Lillinonah (slow for most, but some were catching fish).



***Cymbella janischii* (rock snot) as observed on June 14, 2017 in the West Branch Farmington River, Barkhamsted (see Notes & Notices)**



NORTHERN PIKE reports are patchy and slow. Pike sharpies will find action in the traditional hot-spots including, Patchaug Pond, Bantam Lake, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Connecticut River, the small impoundments along the upper Housatonic River, and Winchester Lake. Weedlines early and late in the day are producing some nice size pike.

WALLEYE. Some action at Squantz Pond (nights), Saugatuck Reservoir (near the inlet), Mount Tom (nights) and Batterson Park Pond.

CALICO BASS AND SUNFISH: There are still a few reports of post-spawn mortality here and there. Some level of mortality is expected, as the spawning is stressful time, leaving the fish vulnerable to infection and less ability to handle rising water temperatures. Please see our [Post-Spawn](#) fact sheet on our web site. Despite the natural mortality, fishing remains good as fish are “getting back to normal” following the spawn.

CATFISH are providing some nice action at Community Fishing Waters including Birge Pond, Lake Wintergreen, Pickett’s Pond, Mohegan Park Pond, Keeney Park Pond, and Center Springs Pond. Catfish Management lakes like Lower Bolton Lake, and Quinebaug Pond are also yielding some catches. Try live shiners, chunk bait, or night crawlers.

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - Conditions for the weekend should be good. Temperatures have been moderate for much of the spring. Flows are be very fishable, and having been refreshed by recent rain are currently being somewhat above typical late-June levels (*see stream flow graphic on page 5*), s. There are still lots of trout left out there waiting for anglers. Just this week, DEEP Fisheries sampling crews found “lots” of brook, brown and rainbow trout in the Coginchaug River and “lots” of rainbow trout in the Jeremy River. Nice fishing continue from rivers like the West Branch Farmington River, Farmington River, Salmon River, Salmon River TMA, and the Hammonasset River (on both the Salmon and Hammonaset, some big fish are still being found in pools and holes).

Farmington River - Fishing continues to be very good and conditions for the weekend should be good as well. West Branch flows are moderate, clearing and quite fishable (currently 308 CFS at Riverton, with the Still River adding 93 CFS).

Rock Snot is “blooming”. *Cymbella janischii* is a close relative of *Didymo* and has been introduced to the West Branch Farmington River (first noticed in 2011). *C. janischii* is native to the Pacific Northwest and not naturally found on the Eastern seaboard.

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 2017 CT angler’s Guide (www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide).

REMINDER TO ANGLERS-

FISHING IN OR CASTING INTO PERMITTED SWIM AREAS IS PROHIBITED.

State regulations prohibit fishing in or into a swim area that has 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.



Currently this type of “Rock Snot” is very abundant and should continue to grow through July. The primary area of the river is from New Hartford upstream to Riverton. Note: Didymo is still present primarily in the West Branch above the Still River in Riverton. To help prevent the spread to other rivers and streams, all anglers should take extra care to clean and dry waders that have been in contact with rock snot. We recommend having a pair just for use only in the Farmington River.

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 (the main evening hatch, #14), 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). Streamers continue to be good at times.

Housatonic River - Fishing could be a bit tough this weekend following 3+ inches of rain in the upper watershed. The flows are dropping but are still somewhat high (currently 1,020 CFS at Falls village and 1,720 CFS at Gaylordsville). With some rain possible in the weekend forecast, flows may again increase. Morning water temperatures are in the middle to upper 60’s°F. With the higher flows – go to your stream box.

Hatches/patterns include Alder/Zebra Caddis (#8-10, Alder flies are very active during hot days), 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, and Green caddis (#16-18, early morning & evening). Go under the surface with wooly buggers or a variety of flashy streamers (to get the big ‘bows interested).

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.

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS - Trout fishing remains lackluster. Places to try include West Hill Pond, Lake McDonough, West Branch Reservoir, Highland Lake, Colebrook Reservoir, East Twin Lakes, Crystal Lake (fair, target 15-20 feet over 40 feet of water, 2-2.5 mphs), East Twin Lake (on the slow side, but some nice 14 plus inch rainbows are being caught), Mount Tom Pond, and Mashapaug Lake.

CONNECTICUT RIVER The river is back on the high side, well above normal levels for this time of year (more like early spring) and turbid, and may be difficult to fish. Flows are dropping and clearing however. Schoolie **STRIPED BASS** were being found throughout the river, with some s keepers being found. The mouth has improved for good striper action. As always, finding a school of bunker will help you get onto the jumbo bass. **CHANNEL CATFISH/WHITE CATFISH** have picked up again this week. Good locations to try include the lower Mattebesset River. Some **NORTHERN PIKE** action reported from the Haddam Meadows area. **CARP** a few reports indicate the bite is slow due to spawning activity while others have been doing well on small to mid-size carp. **WHITE PERCH** are being found in the coves (grass shrimp, pieces of worms are working). **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are providing some nice action up in the Enfield area.

Special report- AMERICAN SHAD have completed their upstream runs and the post-spawn mortality is starting to show up in places. This year had a near record number of adult shad migrating upstream, so, post-spawn mortality may also be near records (this is normal and not a bad thing).

Shad are not like Sea Lamprey or Pacific salmon that all die after spawning. Many survive, go back to sea and feed for another year and then return to spawn in subsequent years. But some of them die after spawning. It isn't clear what controls that number but it is likely energy depletion and that can be affected by many things: how strong the water current is when they migrate upstream, how far upstream they go, how many dams they pass, and what is the water temperature. They are cold-blooded creatures so the water temperature affects their metabolism. If the river is real warm, many fish "burn out" before getting back to sea and resume feeding. However, past experience tells us that the post-spawning mortality is a proportion of the entire population and if you have a lot of fish come in, you'll have a relatively high number that die (subject to those other factors). So based upon that, we would expect a lot of dead shad in the river this year. It is nothing to be concerned about. It does not reflect upon the quality of the water. It is just what shad do.

NOTES & NOTICES:

CANDLEWOOD LAKE (fireworks). The annual fireworks display is scheduled for Saturday evening, June 24 in the Danbury Arm.

CONNECTICUT RIVER (boating display, Windsor). 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 24, 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.

CONNECTICUT RIVER (invasive species alert). Hydrilla was recently found in the main stem Connecticut River in Glastonbury (near Glastonbury's Riverfront Park & Boathouse). See the Coventry Lake entry below for what river users should do to prevent spread of this invasive plant to other waterbodies.

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

Coventry Lake (Wangumbaug Lake) boaters should avoid the area outlined in red to avoid fragmenting and spreading hydrilla. This is only area in the lake where hydrilla has been found.



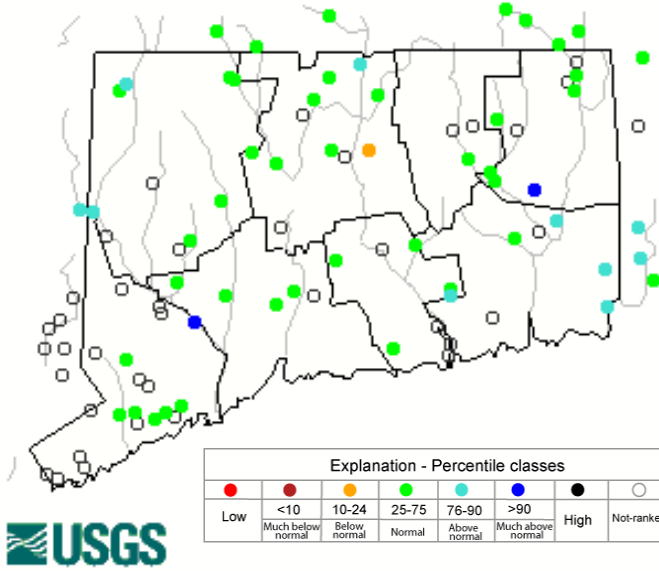
boat launch, or leaving the lakeshore.

WEST BRANCH FARMINGTON RIVER (invasive species alert). *Cymbella janischii* is a close relative of *Didymo* and has been introduced to the West Branch Farmington River (first noticed in 2011). *C. janischii* is native to the Pacific Northwest and not naturally found on the Eastern seaboard.

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Stream flow conditions

Thursday, June 22, 2017 17:30ET



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”.

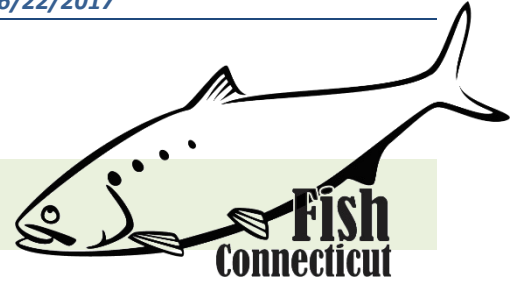
SPECIES TRIVIA:

Do you know which of these fish are “Native” to Connecticut? Hint, there are 7.

The native fish (were the original fish in Connecticut waters) are: **Yellow Perch, Sea Lamprey, Pumpkinseed, Brook Trout, Chain Pickerel, Brown Bullhead, and American Eel.**

All of the others, many are now widespread, were introduced by early fish commissioners from the 1870’s to the early 1900’s.





MARINE FISHING REPORT

Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) continue 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>

Connecticut State Boundary Line in Long Island Sound. Anglers please note: 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.

LICENSE RECIPROCITY & CT RESIDENTS: Anglers please note: Although 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 or all-Waters Sport Fishing License to fish in the Marine District.

STRIPED BASS fishing should improve around the NEW moon this weekend. There continues to be reports of large cow bass being caught (46 pound striped bass caught in the western Sound, Stratford). The big fish keep on rolling in, feeding on the abundant bait. **Six inch Tsunamis, Talking Poppers and Heddon Superspooks have been outstanding performers for striped bass.** Your standard mackerel and bunker chunks as well as live-lining eels have also proved successful. The Morningside area of Milford, Walnut Beach, Gulf Beach Pier and the Milford Audubon Society have been excellent locations for catching that trophy-sized striped bass. 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.** Stripper 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, Six mile 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. Shore locations include...**Connecticut River by Dock and Dine and the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier.**

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is hit or miss for "keepers" in Long Island Sound. Find the sand eels and you're in for a great day. **Several 23-24" summer flounder were caught this week at Walnut and Gulf Beach Piers using small bucktails tipped with Berkley Gulp. Fluke fishing is very good at Buoy 20, Buoy 18 and Sunkin Island - as well as the Middleground, Todd's Point and Greens Ledge Lighthouse.** A lucky angler landed an 11 pound 13 oz. doormat this past week at Masquamicut Beach. 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/River, 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 19 inches and the daily creel limit is 3 fish per person.** Time to get the boat, and fishing gear ready for some phenomenal early season fluke fishing. [CT Bait & Tackleshop List](#)

BLACK SEA BASS fishing is good and getting better in LIS. Hot spots are Falkner Island, the Middlegrounds, Buoy 32A, Green Ledge Lighthouse, Cockenoe Islands, Six Mile Reef and from New Haven to Woodmont. **Black Sea Bass prefer a high-low rig with clams. Black sea bass have been inhabiting the Stratford Shoal Lighthouse area in 35-45' of water especially near green can "C". They are gobbling-up clams, squid and spearing in the western Sound.** Fishing over any deep water structure in 30 to 100ft, 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 and a spinner works great for these "Bucketmouths". Reminder: New York back sea bass opens June 27th.

SCUP (porgy) fishing is very good in Long Island Sound. It is much better on the north shore of Long Island. 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. **Saint Mary's by the Sea, Seaside Park, Sherwood Island State Park and Fort Nathan Hale have been producing some pretty impressive scup from shore, especially when enticing them with sand worms on a high-low rig or drift rig with a 3-way swivel.** Porgy fishing has also been reported at these shore fishing locations: Mystic River Park, UCONN Avery Point, 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. Contact your [local bait and tackleshop](#) for updated fishing information.

WEAKFISH bite is consistent from West Haven to Madison, especially at night using plastic baits and swimming lures. **Weakfish have also been preferring sand worms and clams at low light and dusk.** Other locations to try are...Branford/Guilford/East Haven/West Haven/New Haven Harbor (Sandy Point) over to the Woodmont/Milford/Stratford area along with the Peconics (NY).

BLUEFISH fishing continues to be excellent. The Race, Millstone Outflow, Plum Gut and the north side of Long Island including Gardiners Bay and the Peconics are the early season hotspots. Most of the local Long Island Sound reefs have many harbor-sized blues cruising around them.

STRIPED SEAROBIN 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

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 [2017 CT Angler's Guide](#) for CT tide information.

when bottom fishing at many of Connecticut’s shore fishing sites. Searobin are in abundance almost everywhere, and more and more anglers are realizing the somewhat tedious task of filleting them is well worth it - they are quite tasty. 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. Searobins are very good eating.

HICKORY SHAD fishing is fair in the lower Connecticut River by the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier and by Dock and Dine (Old Saybrook). Connecticut tarpon (hickory shad) can be found mixed in with “schoolie” striped bass. 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.

BLUE CRAB are in the molting phase (sally crab) and becoming more active in the tidal creeks and rivers. With a little time...there should be beaucoup blue crabs of legal size to catch. Also, please remember it’s mating season for the crabs and release all egg-bearing females (sooks or lemon bellies). There are some large “jimmies” (male crabs) being captured (8.25 inches spike to spike) along with some impressive sooks. **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](#)

NOTABLE CATCHES –

<i>Species</i>	<i>Length (in.)</i>	<i>Weight (lbs)</i>	<i>Angler</i>
Striped Bass	44"	35 lbs 15 oz.	Zakkary Wallace
Striped Bass	47"	36 lbs 2 oz.	Albert Zuppe
Striped Bass	45"	35 lbs 7 oz.	Albert Zuppe
Summer Flounder	33"	11 lbs 13 oz.	John Wallace
Weakfish	26"	6 lbs 1 oz.	Albert Zuppe
Weakfish	24.5"	5 lbs 3 oz.	Albert Zuppe
Scup	16.5"	2 lbs 15 oz.	Jennifer Zuppe
Black Sea Bass	22"	5 lbs 1 oz.	Albert Zuppe
Black Sea Bass	20"	4 lbs 8 oz.	Jennifer Zuppe

CAUGHT A TROPHY FISH - MARINE TROPHY FISH AWARD PROGRAM AFFIDAVIT

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DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



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