

**CT DEEP** **2017**  
**FISHING REPORT NUMBER 12**  
**6/29/2017**



Blackfish or Tautog (*Tautoga onitis*)



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## INLAND REPORT

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing is generally good. Places to try include Congamond Lakes, Lake Saltonstall, Candlewood Lake, Ball Pond, Lake Wononskopomuc, Highland Lake, Park Pond, Stillwater Pond, Wood Creek Pond, Bantam Lake, East Twin Lake, Aspinook Pond, Pachaug Pond, Bashan Lake, Quaddick Reservoir, Rogers Lake, Halls Pond, Morey Pond, Babcock Pond, Hopeville Pond, Lake Hayward and Pickerel Lake.

Bass fishing is getting cranked up in southern CT lakes and ponds such as Quonnipaug Lake, Cedar Lake and Pattaconk Lake according to local reports, with poppers on top, jerk baits and spinner baits all providing some action.

**Tournament angler** reports are from Aspinook Pond (fair to good, 3.69 lb lunker), Ashland Pond (good, 5.0 lb lunker), Gardner Lake (fair at best, 3.38 lb lunker), Glasgow Pond (slow to fair, with a 5.42 lb lunker), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (good, 3.62 lb lunker), Pachaug Pond (fair to good, 3.47 lb lunker), Quaddick Lake (good, fish averaged nearly 2 lbs apiece with a 4.7 lb lunker), Rogers Lake (good for two clubs, 3.8 lb and 3.23 lb lunkers), Candlewood Lake (good for many, 5.19 lb lunker), and East Twin Lake (good for most, 2.87 lb lunker).

**SMALLMOUTH BASS** fishing remains fairly slow in many waters, with reports from Candlewood Lake (some action, try at 2-20 feet), Gardner Lake, Mashapaug Lake and Lake Zoar. With temperatures warming again, Housatonic River smallies should be active. **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake (fair, 4.26 lb lunker) and Gardner Lake (very hard to find fish).

**NORTHERN PIKE** Fishing should be picking up. Traditional hot-spots include Pachaug Pond, Bantam Lake, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Hopeville Pond, Connecticut River, the small impoundments along the upper Housatonic River, and Winchester Lake. Weedlines early and late in the day typically hold pike.

### 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 2017 CT angler's Guide ([www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide](http://www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide)).



**WALLEYE** action reported from Squantz Pond (nights), Saugatuck Reservoir and Lake Saltonstall. Other places to try include Batterson Park Pond, Beach Pond, Mount tom Pond and Mashapaug Lake.

**PANFISH:** Sunfish are providing super action for kids and adults alike in most every pond. Some hit and miss for calico at Candlewood Lake and South Spectacle Pond (Kent). Yellow Perch are providing some action at Candlewood Lake on small shiners.

**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** – Flow and temperatures have been very favorable for trout this spring and early summer. The lack of long bouts of significant heat and the normal to above normal stream flow (see stream flow graphic on page 5) are keeping trout spread throughout our rivers. Summer DEEP Fisheries sampling crews continue to find good numbers of brook, brown and rainbow trout at many of their sample locations. Nice fishing continue from rivers like the West Branch Farmington River, Farmington River, Salmon River, Natchaug, Willimantic, and the Hammonasset River.

**Farmington River** – The upper section of the Farmington River TMA from Hogback Dam to the old bridge abutments (upper boundary for the year-round catch-and-release area) will be stocked with 2,000 large (12+ inches) Cortland Browns in time for the long (for some) holiday weekend. The fishing should be to be very good to excellent. West Branch flows are clear, moderate and quite fishable (currently 275 CFS at Riverton, with the Still River adding 30 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.

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

**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.



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

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) working their way upstream, Vitreus [a.k.a. pale evening dun] (#16-18, from 5:00 pm to dark), Tan Caddis (#16-18, good all day), Sulfurs, (Invaria #16-18, hatches mid-day and Dorothea #16-18) 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) and the ole reliable red and black ant. Streamers are also good at times (early and late, or when cloudy).

**Housatonic River** - Conditions for fishing should be very good this weekend. Flows have dropped to typical levels for late June/early July, currently 479 CFS at Falls Village and 672 CFS at Gaylordsville) and are perfect for wading. Morning water temperatures remain favorable for trout and are in the middle to upper 60's°F.

**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). Streamers fishing and nymphing with big stoneflies have been very productive.

**TROUT-LAKES & PONDS** - Trout fishing continues to be lackluster. Some trout catches reported from Candlewood Lake (trolling, mostly stockie size, with some 2-3 lb fish found in the New Milford Arm), Ball Pond, West branch Reservoir, West Hill Pond, Crystal Lake and East Twin Lake.

**CONNECTICUT RIVER** The River is a bit higher than levels for this time of year and on the turbid side, but very fishable and boat-able. Schoolie **STRIPED BASS** are starting to thin out a bit. Action will be moving back towards the sound. The mouth continues to have fair action from shore at the DEEP Old Lyme boardwalk. **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. **WHITE PERCH** are being found in the coves (grass shrimp, pieces of worms are working). **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are providing some entertainment in the Enfield area with fish up to 3 lbs being caught.



**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.**



**Special report- AMERICAN SHAD** have completed their upstream runs and some post-spawn mortality may 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:

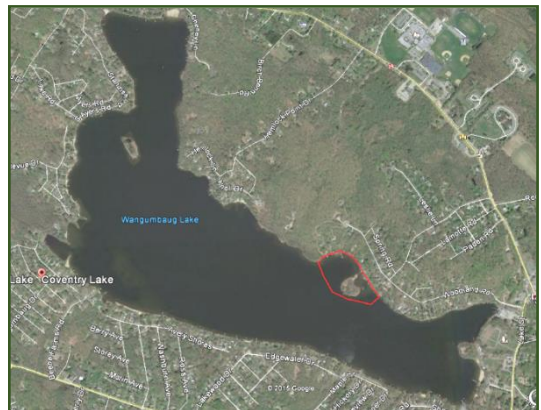
**BASHAN LAKE (boating event).** A boat Parade will be held on **Tuesday, July 4** from **11 am to 12:30 pm**. Boats will be completing a counter-clockwise circuit along the shoreline.

**CONNECTICUT RIVER (fireworks - Middletown area).** A fireworks display scheduled for 9 pm on the river in the Middletown area. There will be a temporary restriction on navigational access in the area of the fireworks barges.

**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 boat launch, or leaving the lakeshore.

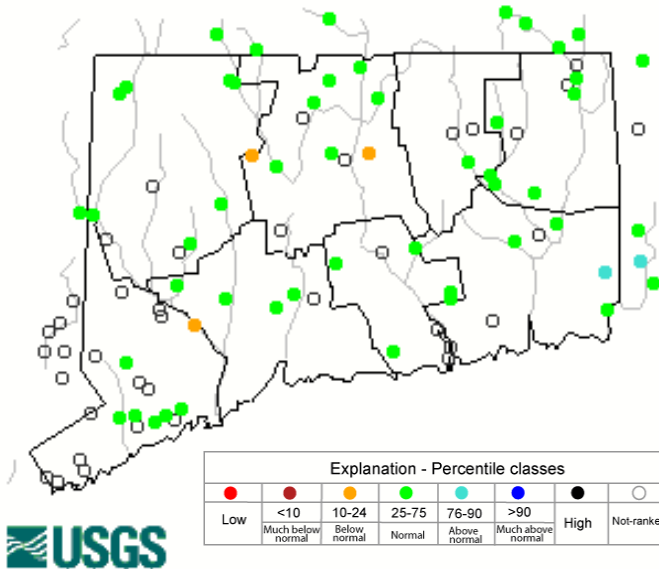
*Coventry Lake (Wangumbaug Lake) boaters should avoid the area outlined in red to avoid fragmenting and spreading hydrilla. This is only area in the lake where hydrilla has been found.*



**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. 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.

### Stream flow conditions

Thursday, June 29, 2017 13:30ET



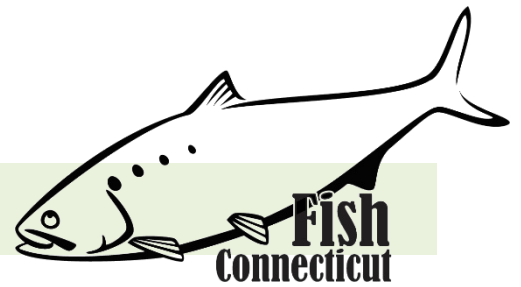
Data in the state graphic to the left are generated by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) and are available on line at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/rt>  
 A percentile is a value on a scale of one hundred that indicates the percent of data in the data set equal to or below it. For example 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”.

**f** FACEBOOK FISH OF THE WEEK: Post your catches to [facebook.com/ctfishandwildlife](https://www.facebook.com/ctfishandwildlife)



Post Spawn Largemouth (Andrea Nivolo), Fluke on the Fly (by Shawn Durand), Beauty Largemouth (Angel Diaz), Impressive Weakfish (by Jack Wallace), and hefty Striped Bass (by Otto Pernek)

## **MARINE FISHING REPORT**



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the 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://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1)

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

<http://www.wunderground.com/MAR/AN/330.html>

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

**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 RECIPROCALITY & 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 lately has been all about how much daylight there is. As water temp warms these cow bass really get lazy and prefer to stay in 50' of water during the day off New Haven, Milford and Stratford and Bridgeport to Greenwich. But once the sun sets and darkness arrives – the striped bass are on the prowl. Anglers have been catching some real beauties from shore just after dusk until dawn. Penfield Reef, Middleground, BH Buoy and Sunken Island have been producing. As they say try "bunker dunkin at Sunkin." These bass have been gulping up FRESH bunker and live eels. Six inch Tsunamis, Talking Poppers and Heddon Superspooks have also been outstanding performers for striped bass. 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. **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 the **Connecticut River by Dock and Dine and the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier.**

**SUMMER FLOUNDER** (fluke) fishing is improving and has also been fairly good at Woodmont, Gulf and Walnut beach areas. Although this past week fluke fishing has been slow on both sides of the Sound (NY & CT) there have been some impressive reports coming in of doormat-sized fluke being caught using

Gulp Alive, Spearing, Squid attached to a bucktail using a high-low rig. Another winning spot this week for fluke has been buoy 20 off the Housatonic. Mid to western LIS anglers are still reporting good numbers of sub-legal sized fish and a few keepers mixed in, up to 7 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. **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 (Six Mile Reef). Black Sea Bass have been enjoying water in the 35'-55' range of depth as they prepare to spawn. Clams and squid have been working well, along with spearing. Penfield Reef Lighthouse and the green can "C" just outside the lighthouse has been holding black sea bass. Always try fishing over any deep water structure in 30 to 100ft, around slack tide to 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 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>.** Berkely Gulp (swimming mullet) on a jig along with squid and a spinner works great for these "Bucketmouths".

**SCUP** (porgy) fishing is very good in Long Island Sound. Like sea bass...they are everywhere. 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. **Scup have been the prime target of shore anglers in Milford this week, and with great success.** Scup have been preferring sand worms but squid and clams are working as well. Although the scup fishing is good throughout, **Milford, Walnut Beach, Gulf Beach and Woodmont are red hot.** While scup have not been as plentiful as last year between Greenwich to New Haven, they are much larger in 2017. We are talking 4 1/2 - 5 pounders being taken. **Scup fishing has also been exceptional when using a high-low rig, and they are eating up clams in deep water.** Hot spots also include Todds Point, Seaside Park, Saint Marys by the Sea, Pleasure Beach Family Pier, Fort Nathan Hale and Sherwood Island State Park. 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** fishing continues to keep on getting better with good numbers of 20-28 inch size fish being caught in the central Sound (West Haven beaches). Central and western Sound catches are improving as the population rebounds. Good fishing in Niantic, New Haven Harbor by the breakwaters over to Woodmont/Milford Point and along

#### **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.



Stratford shoals. **Weakfish prefer sand worms and clams at low light and dusk.** One of the best eating saltwater fish you will ever catch.

**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 hotspots. **Most of the local Long Island Sound reefs have many harbor-sized blues cruising around them.** Bluefish schools have been scattered, sometimes mixed in with striped bass during the day in deeper water, sometimes arriving inshore during daylight hours. These “shark wannabes” will eat just about anything and they are real fun to catch. With WICC's Greatest Bluefish Contest on Earth coming up, now is the time to start scouting good fishing locations.

**STRIPED SEAROBIN** fishing is awesome in LIS. These beautiful and strange looking fish are now very common especially 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.

**BLUE CRAB** are in the molting phase (sally crab) and becoming more active in the tidal creeks and rivers as the water warms up. **There appears to be a lot of smaller crabs out there...a good sign for a great year of crabbing.** With a little time...there should be beaucoup blue crabs of legal size to catch. Please release sub-legal crabs with care. 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 (8.0 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	37”	24 lbs 1 oz.	Marina Molnar
Summer Flounder	27”	7 lbs 15 oz.	David Fried
Black Sea Bass	25.5”	6 lbs 1 oz.	Joe M.

**CAUGHT A TROPHY FISH - MARINE TROPHY FISH AWARD PROGRAM AFFIDAVIT**

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**DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report**



**Connecticut Department of ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

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