

**CT DEEP** **2018**  
**FISHING REPORT NUMBER 2**  
**5/4/2018**



Brook Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*)



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## INLAND REPORT

**THIS IS A GREAT WEEKEND TO GET OUT AND FISH FOR TROUT!** DEEP's in-season stockings are well underway, temperatures are expected to be seasonable and flows are near ideal in many places.

**TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS** - Conditions for trout fishing should be very good this weekend in most areas. River and stream flows are at very fishable levels (*see stream flow graphic on page 5*), seasonable weather (with a few showers on Sunday) in the forecast, and there are plenty of stocked trout waiting for anglers. With water temperatures warming and flows slowing further, fishing will continue to improve.

Reports are promising with good action in many of the waters that were previously difficult to fish, the Hammonasset and Farmington were fishing much better, some nice reports from the Fenton River, Willimantic River (Stafford), and Norwalk River, and the Housatonic was picking up.

Fly fishing has been best with streamers, but as the variety of spring hatches expands, get the dry flies ready. Mayflies like the Hendricksons, Blue-Wing Olive, and a variety of Duns will become active with the sudden burst of warm temperatures.

Get the latest on our Trout Stocking through

- Daily Facebook Posts ([@CTFISHANDWILDLIFE](#))
- Current Stocking Report (on our [webpage](#))
- [Interactive Trout Stocking Map](#)
- See last year's [stocking numbers](#)



**Connecticut's Trout & Salmon Stamp:** Connecticut has implemented a Trout and Salmon Stamp. 100% of the revenue from your investment comes to the DEEP Bureau of Natural Resources for Fisheries programs.

The Trout and Salmon Stamp is \$5 for anyone age 18 or older, including those 65 or older, and \$3 for CT residents age 16-17.

The Stamp is required for the harvest (keeping) of trout or salmon.

The Stamp is required to FISH in these four types of areas:

- A Trout Park
- A Trout Management Area (River or stream not a Trout Management Lake)
- A Wild Trout Management Area Class 1,2 or 3
- A Broodstock Atlantic Salmon Area

Please take a look at our [FAQ page](#) for more details. Questions about the Trout and Salmon Stamp may be emailed to [deep.inland.fisheries@ct.gov](mailto:deep.inland.fisheries@ct.gov) or by call us at 860-424-3474

**New and Improved. You Asked, We Obligated.** In response to your suggestions on how to improve our Weekly Fishing Report, this year we are incorporating more of “your” feedback. As such, there will be a new information, beginning on the next page, that will present feedback from anglers hitting the water.

**If you would like to contribute to our report, please email [mike.beauchene@ct.gov](mailto:mike.beauchene@ct.gov). Each week you will be emailed a link to a short online survey about your fishing experiences.**

Thank you to the following for adding to our Fishing Report this Week: **Al Horila, Alex Perry, Andrea Nivolo, Ben Joseph, Chuck Salvatore, Darin Barber, George Kozieradzki, James Swiatek, John, Justin Coleman, Matthew Morin, Mike Paradis, Nate King, Paul, Peter Pozucek, Peter Anderson, Rene Boislard, Rich Patla, Rick N., Ryan Lemieux, Steve Bonacci, Steven Rozanski, Wayne Barber, William Kaminski,**

On average, these folks fished 1-5 times spending an average of 6-10 hours on the water. Over half were wading or shore fishing using lures. Live bait and fly fishing were next most popular. The table below shows how those contributing to this week’s report rated the fishing for various species.

<i>Species</i>	<i>Terrible</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Excellent</i>
Trout	11	6	4	10	11
Bass	9	4	3	1	2
Pike	1	1	1	1	1
Walleye	2	1			
Channel Catfish			1	1	
Panfish	3	1	2	2	2
Common Carp	2	1			

**Notable Catches Reported:** Mostly large rainbow trout, a few large brown trout, and lots of wild Brook Trout, Largemouth Bass in the 3-pound range, plus some other catches.

**What was HOT!** Gold Rapala, Size 18 Pheasant Tails, Hendrickson Nymphs, Night Crawler, Hot Shot lure, Johnson Beetlespin, Perch Jerkbait with red tail, Green Michigan Stinger, Live minnows, Streamers, Berkley Powerbait (chartreuse nuggets) and some saying “nothing”.

**What was NOT!** Prince nymphs, woolly buggers, top water plugs and rapalas, inline spinners and rooster tails, large spinner baits and chatter baits, plastic worm, meal worms, dry flies, and “Everything”.

**Good or better places to fish included:** West Hill Lake, Farmington River TMA, Norwalk River, Salmon River, Fenton River, Day Pond Trout Park, Bigelow Pond, Bigelow Brook, Gardner Lake.

**Fair or worse places to fish included:** Menunketesuck River, Saugatuck River, Great Hill Pond, Hockanum River, Connecticut River, Valley Falls Park Pond, Mount Hope River, Blackledge River, Sandy Brook, Babcock Pond, Day Pond Trout Park.

**Friendly Angler Advice:**

Rain timing continued to cause issues with fishing rivers. Water levels are high and moving fast most of the time. Hopefully that will slow down.
Again, this week, I caught 31 trout and only two bass. As usual, I kept none. It looked like a stocking had been done on the previous day because all the fish were near the launch. The water temperature has gone up to 47 in the main lake and 50 in some of the coves. The bite died as soon as the breeze kicked in around 10 AM.
River levels on the upper Farmington dropped as MDC decreased the dam release. Water temperatures warmed and flows decreased. These conditions combined with stocking made for excellent Fishing. Holdover and wild fish were on the feed. There were a few days of intense blue wing olive hatches. The Hendrickson's and the fish recognition of them won't be far behind
The largemouth bass fishing has been excellent. These fish are moving up to shallower water in preparation of spawn. Water on most lakes are 50-55 degrees. Catching largemouth between 3-8 feet of water with slow moving baits and jigs on the bottom.
My advice is if you're not catching many trout in one area, then move to a different location! Location as in different hole or sometimes even different river
Fished the ct. river in east haddam, only perch. fished the east end of gardner lake, panfish and pickerel
That big rainstorm last week really kill the trout fishing in the Farm mill River in Shelton I also tried fishing the sleeping giant river no luck there either after that big rainstorm even a few days later no luck
I am switching over to pre-spawn Largemouth Bass because of the challenge of staged females and the timing of transition from deep water to swallow spawning area's pre-pared by the much smaller male bass. A solid choice for pre-spawn bass is the jig and pig combo. Of course, jig size and color will be determined by fishing conditions, but I'll usually opt for a 3/8-to 1/2-ounce stand-up or football-head brown or purple fine living rubber jig. I'll then tip this off with an Uncle josh #11 or #101 pork frog trailer. Although pork is a pain to work with, it offers some advantages that cannot be found with plastic trailers. Nothing has a more natural feel or is as durable as pork. Additionally, pork's ability to hold scents and float off the bottom gives it a natural look and smell that presents a more realistic offering to the fish. Did anyone catch that I just mentioned "floating" pork? This is an important little trick that applies to all bottom jig fishing. I'll buy my Uncle Josh pork in the "Pint-o-Pigs" size, containing 28 baits in the #11 or 35 baits in the #101 size. I'll take the baits out and throw them into a bowl of fresh water. The baits that float are the ones I'll keep and fish, the rest I'll usually give away to the kids on the block who fish. Why? When fishing a jig, you want the claws of the pork trailer to float, not drag on the bottom. Crawdads don't drag their claws on the bottom and typically raise them upward when in a defensive position. This is why "floating" pork is important for realism in jig and pig fishing. The Connecticut State record is still 12 lbs, 8 oz which is the bar I will be trying to eclipse in the spring of 2018. Wayne G. Barber
Water flows are down again and fish were active. Pulled in several trout and had a number of strikes/follows on the lures I was using. fish from 8" to 15"
Sandy brook was poor fishing. very disappointed. usually there are plenty of trout there. I've fished it my entire life.
You need to pay attention to your speed and the depth the fish are holding at. The water temperature was 46 degrees in most of the lake. There were some rises early in the morning until about 8 AM. I have not found the larger fish yet.

## FROM FISHERIES

**TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS** – As mentioned on page 1, conditions should be very good for trout fishing in most areas this weekend. Currently, flows are generally at typical levels for early May (*see stream flow graphic on page 5*), generally comfortable weather (temperatures moderate some, but with some showers on Sunday) is forecast, and there are plenty of recently stocked trout waiting for anglers. As water temperatures continue to warm, fishing should improve from April's slow start.

**Farmington River** - West Branch flows have improved since last week, now clear and moderate, currently 236 CFS at Riverton plus an additional 143 CFS from the Still River (some Thunderstorms may increase flows some, especially from the Still River, before the weekend). Conditions should be fair to good for the upcoming weekend with comfortable weather forecast and moderately high flows (note that there may be an additional reduction in flows through the weekend). Anglers who put in their time will get some nice fish.

Keep an “eye” out – the yearling Survivor Browns (8-12 inches) were stocked this past week. Check for a small green thread-like mark just behind the eye (this is our tag so when we see this fish several years from now, we know when it was stocked).

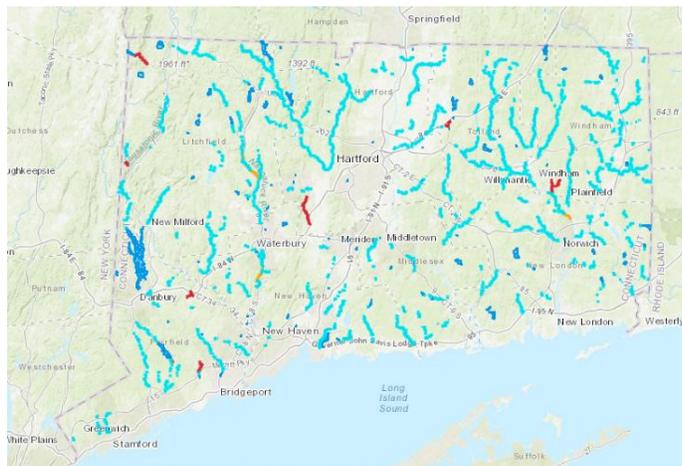
Hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive, Hendrickson (will appear mid-April when it warms up a bit), Winter/Summer Caddis, Stonefly nymphs, Midge and Blue Quill. Nymphs (#18-22) are always a good go-to fly, try Bead Head, Midge Pupa, Brassie, Zebra Midge or Copper John patterns. Streamers are also a good option (White Zonkers & Buggers (#4-12) as well as Muddlers, Mickey Finn, Grey or Black Ghost).

**Housatonic River** - Conditions for the weekend will be fairly good. The Bulls Bridge TMA section was stocked on 5/2 and the fish should be willing to bite. Comfortable weather is forecast, flows are a bit high but very fishable, currently 1,670 CFS at Falls Village and 2,580 CFS at Gaylordsville. Morning water temperatures are currently in the low-mid 40's °F.

**Hatches/patterns.** Typical patterns include March Brown (#10-12), Pheasant Tail (#12-18), Stoneflies (#6-10), Pheasant Tails (#14-20), and Black Stoneflies (#18-22). Look for Hendricksons soon. Nymphing (try Bead Head, Midge Pupa or Copper Johns) and streamers (such as White/Yellow Zonkers or Woolly Buggers) are good options.

**RIVERS & STREAMS- Stocking update for the week of 4/30-5/4.** Note that other stockings can be found in our [current stocking report](#) or by using the [interactive trout stocking map](#).

- **In eastern Connecticut;** the Willimantic River TMA, the Willimantic River above and below the TMA, Roaring Brook (Stafford), Middle River, Roaring Brook (Glastonbury), Little River, Mount Hope River, Fenton River, Quinnipiac River, Tankerhoosen River, Mashamoquet Brook and the Hockanum River (above and below the TMA), the Yantic River TMA, Quinebaug River (Thompson-Putnam-Killingly), Moosup River, Skungamaug River and Hop River.
- **In western Connecticut;** the Farmington River TMA (year-round catch-and-release area), Pequonnock River (Trumbull Basin), the Farmington River TMA (from the lower end of the year-round catch-and-release area at Route 219 to the lower Collinsville dam), the Bulls Bridge TMA (Housatonic River), Tenmile River (Sherman-Kent), lower Saugatuck River, Macedonia Brook (in state park), Pequonnock River (Trumbull-Bridgeport), Mianus River TMA, Mianus River (outside the TMA), Farmington River (Farmington-Tariffville),



### INTERACTIVE TROUT STOCKING MAP

Anglers can find more information on trout stocking online. A list of the waters that were dropped from this year's stocking schedule is on our webpage at: [www.ct.gov/deep/fishing](http://www.ct.gov/deep/fishing), along with an interactive trout stocking map ([www.ct.gov/deep/troutstockingmap](http://www.ct.gov/deep/troutstockingmap)) that anglers should find very useful for planning their next outing. The new application (mobile friendly) provides the number of days since the last stocking at each of our stocked waters enabling anglers to search for their favorite waterbody or by that have been recently stocked.

Mill River (Hamden, above and below the TMA), the lower Farmington River TMA (from the lower Collinsville dam to the Route 177 bridge) and the upper Naugatuck River.

**LAKES & PONDS** – With more reasonable air temperatures, the water temperatures are slowly rising and so will fish activity. Some report that the fishing has picked up, especially in the shallows.

**Lakes and ponds stocking update for the week of 4/30-5/4:**

- In **eastern Connecticut**; Angus Park Pond, Shenispit Lake, Black Pond (Middlefield-Meriden), Moosup Pond, Quanduck Pond, Pataconk Lake and Cedar Lake.
- In **western Connecticut**; Huntington Pond (Starret Pond) and Twin Brooks Pond.

**TROUT PARKS:** The Wharton Brook, Black Rock (pond & brook), Kent Falls, Stratton Brook, Valley Falls Park Pond, Mohegan Park Pond and Chatfield Hollow (pond & brook) Trout Parks were stocked this week. Good reports from the Wharton Brook Trout Park.

**COMMUNITY FISHING WATERS:** Colony Pond (Abe Stone Park) and Lake Wintergreen were stocked this week

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing continued to be slow last weekend, but with water temperatures getting a jumpstart this week anglers should start bringing more bass in, target dark bottom warmer back water coves.

**Tournament angler** Largemouth Bass reports are from Amos Lake (wow- very tough, 4 fish for 18 anglers, 2.84 lb lunker), Aspinook Pond (tough, 1.44 lb lunker), Gardner Lake (good fishing for late April, but not much size, fish averaged a bit over 1 lb apiece with a 2.63 lb lunker), Hopeville Pond (fair to good fishing, 5.94 lb lunker), Mashapaug Lake (slow to fair), Quaddick Lake (fish were caught, but it was tough fishing, fish averaged a bit over 2 lbs apiece with a 5.63 lb lunker), Rogers Lake (slow, 3.4 lb lunker), Moodus Reservoir (upper- slow with only a 1.23 lb lunker; lower- just as slow with a 1.86 lb lunker), Bantam Lake (good for a few, fair for most, 3.7 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (slow to fair, 5.0 lb, 3.98 lb lunkers) and Lake Lillinonah (mostly slow for largemouth, 5.53 lb lunker).

**SMALLMOUTH BASS.** Smallmouth are being caught at Candlewood Lake. Also some good reports from Rainbow Reservoir. Even for smallies, water temps need to warm some. **Tournament angler** reports are from Bantam Lake (fair to good for some, 4.05 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (fair-good, 5.06 lb, 4.44 lb, 4.36 lb lunkers), Lake Lillinonah (good smallie action for some, 5.01 lb, 2.68 lb lunkers).

**CONNECTICUT RIVER.** The Connecticut River remains high and somewhat muddy. It is still cold and still has some logs and debris floating down. The flow is close to double the typical flow for early May —at 53,000 CFS. The river is proving a bit difficult to fish, suggest hitting the back coves and mouths of larger rivers (Salmon, Mattebasset, Eightmile, Scantic, Farmington). Anglers along the shore (Windsor-Enfield) are finding some nice smallmouth action in spots.

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**ZEBRA MUSSELS REMINDER**

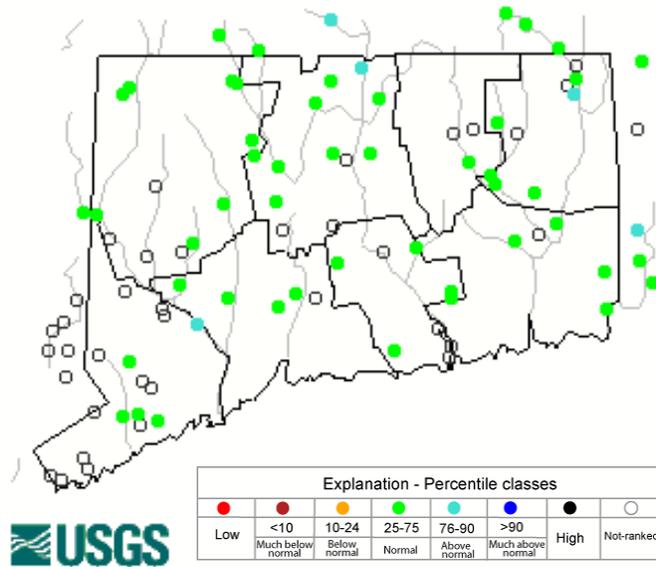
**Zebra mussels are now found in a number of locations scattered throughout the Housatonic River and its impoundments including Lake Lillinonah (since 2010), Lake Zoar (since 2010) and Lake Housatonic (since 2011).**

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 2018 CT angler's Guide( [www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide](http://www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide)).

### Stream flow conditions

Thursday, May 03, 2018 14:30ET



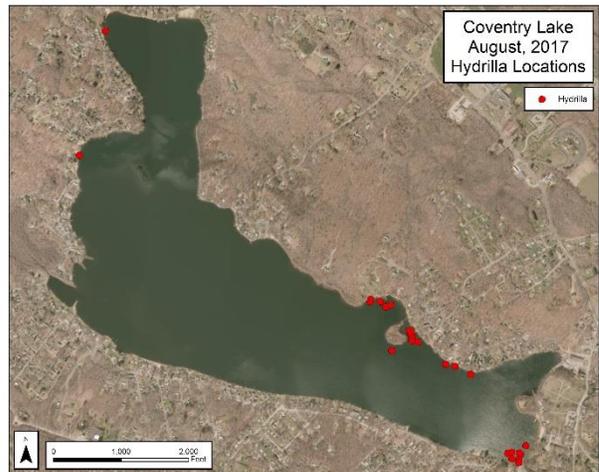
Data in the state graphic to the left are generated by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) and are available on line at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/rt> A percentile is a value on a scale of one hundred that indicates the percent of data in the data set equal to or below it. For example streamflow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

### NOTES & NOTICES:

**DRAWDOWN UPDATES.** Pachaug Pond remains drawn down approximately 2 feet to facilitate dam repairs.

**CONNECTICUT RIVER (invasive species alert).** Last year hydrilla was found in the main stem Connecticut River in Glastonbury (near Glastonbury’s Riverfront Park & Boathouse). **There are now reports of plants found at other locations along the river including Wethersfield and Crow Point coves and at a site in Enfield.** 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 areas noted with red dots to avoid fragmenting and spreading hydrilla.



## MARINE FISHING REPORT

Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) in the 50's °F. Check out the following web sites for more detailed water temperatures and marine boating conditions:

<http://www.mysound.uconn.edu/stationstat.html>

[http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat\\_data/?nothumbs=1](http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1)

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

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

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOUNDARY LINE IN LONG ISLAND SOUND.** 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 Sport Fishing License to fish in the Marine District.

**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 **2018 CT Angler's Guide** for CT tide information.

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**STRIPED BASS** fishing is good to excellent for "schoolies" along Connecticut's shoreline. Bass fishing continue to be good around the Full "Flower" Moon in all of the tidal rivers. There are also some keepers in the mix as well (51 inch striped bass from the lower CT and upper Housatonic Rivers). 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), the Sound School Fishing Pier, Housatonic River and Norwalk Harbor including the islands. Sand and blood worms have been working the best, especially in turbid waters around the high tide. Casting swimming lures, small jigs (Chartreuse and other light colors) with twister tails, soft baits, and Kastmasters and other metal lures will also work. A 44" Striped Bass this week was caught in the Western Sound off of Rye, NY. This fish was caught with a Mojo (jig with a plastic shad body). Other keeper sized striped bass were also caught in the Housatonic while trolling with Umbrella Rigs (the night bite is hot). Fishing should get better as we approach the magical 55°F mark! Top-water fishing has also been fantastic during low light conditions. The fish are hugging the shoreline in less than 10' of water... go out enjoy some of the best fishing in New England. Schools of Bunker (menhaden) are arriving as we speak.

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

**WHITE PERCH** fishing is good to excellent for these tasty panfish in most of the tidal rivers and coves along the Connecticut shoreline. Perch spots include the Pawcatuck River, Mystic River, Thames River, upper Niantic River, lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier), Black Hall River, Lieutenant River, North/South Cove and Hamburg Cove. Shrimp and small worms are the key to success.

**SUMMER FLOUNDER** fishing season opens May 4 through September 30. Time to get the boat, and fishing gear ready for some phenomenal early season fluke fishing. [CT Bait & Tackleshop List](#)

**WEAKFISH** have also arrived in Long Island Sound! Look for these awesome eating fish in Guilford/New Haven Harbor over to the Milford/Stratford area along with the Peconics (NY).

**SHORE FISHING** If you don't have access to a boat, CT DEEP provides better prospects to shore anglers by offering a variety of [Enhanced Opportunity Shore Fishing](#) sites. These specially designated sites improve anglers the ability to enjoy outdoor recreation and relaxation by allowing shore anglers to keep Summer Flounder at 17" and Scup at 8". Enhanced sites provide wonderful opportunities to catch and bring dinner home. Such sites include the brand new **Fort Nathan Hale Pier in New Haven**; a beautiful pier designed with both the novice and expert angler in mind. The pier includes handicapped access, two different railing heights, rod holders, an ample amount of fillet stations with running water at each station, and a beautiful view. Most importantly - the location is known for holding an abundance and variety of fish.

**LEARN TO FISH WITH THE PROS.** We talked with many Party/Charter Boat Captains this week who are looking forward to the 2018 deep sea fishing season. They start fishing this month, so make those reservations. Marine anglers bring a great deal of money into the local economy via; hotels, delis, restaurants, bait & tackle shops, Charter & Party Boat businesses, convenience stores, and much more. Anglers provide invaluable data and information to the [MRIP \(Marine Recreational Information Program\)](#). These are the courteous and hard-working CT DEEP Field Interviewers that you see after your fishing trips at coastal access sites. We thank you for your participation, and the local communities thank you tremendously.

***For Current Connecticut Recreational Fishing Regulations:** Anglers should consult the 2018 Connecticut Anglers Guide which is now available at most Town Clerks Offices, DEEP offices and at tackle stores selling fishing licenses. Current regulations, electronic versions of the Angler's Guide and additional information can all be accessed on the DEEP website at: [www.ct.gov/deep/fishing](http://www.ct.gov/deep/fishing).*

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## DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of  
**ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

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