

CT DEEP **2018**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 20
9/6/2018



Striped Bass (*Morone saxatilis*)



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

Providers of some of the information below included **Bob's Place, Captain Morgan's Bait & Tackle, Candlewood Lake Bait & Tackle, JT's Fly Shop, Yankee Outdoors, CTFisherman.com, and a number of bass fishing clubs & organizations.**

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is variable, mostly fair with some good and some slow, but overall beginning to pick up. Until it cools off, early in the day and in the evening and night may provide better action. Places to try include Candlewood Lake (continue to work the weeds), Ball Pond, Silver Lake, East Twin Lake, Mudge Pond, Burr Pond, Tyler Lake, Wononskopomuc Lake, Anderson Pond, Billings Lake, Cedar Lake, Rogers Lake, Quaddick Lake, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Glasgo Pond and Wauregan Reservoir. Mashapaug Lake, Long Pond and Lake Lillinonah reported as slow.

Tournament angler reports are from Amos Lake (fair, 4.8 lb lunger), Long Pond (slow to fair, 3.14 lb lunger), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (fair to good for many, tough for some, 4.38 lb lunger), Pachaug Pond (fair at best, 5.20 lb lunger), Silver Lake (fair, 4.50 lb lunger), Candlewood Lake (slow to fair for a night tourney, 4.25 lb lunger), East Twin Lake (fair to good, 3.40 lb lunger), and the Connecticut River (slow to fair for one club, with 3.2 lb lunger, but good for a second club with a 4.63 lb lunger and an average weight of 2 lbs per fish).

SMALLMOUTH BASS. It's a bit spotty at Candlewood Lake (if you find the right hump, you're golden, if not it's going to be a long day) and both Lake Lillinonah and Lake Zoar are also providing some action. For river smallmouth, fishing on the upper Housatonic River is very good and some fish are also being found in the Quinebaug River and Naugatuck River.

Discover Outdoor Connecticut and Join the Force for the Resource

A [FREE event](#) sponsored by DEEP's Bureau of Natural Resources on **Saturday, September 22, 2018 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at Franklin Swamp Wildlife Management Area (391 Route 32, North Franklin).**

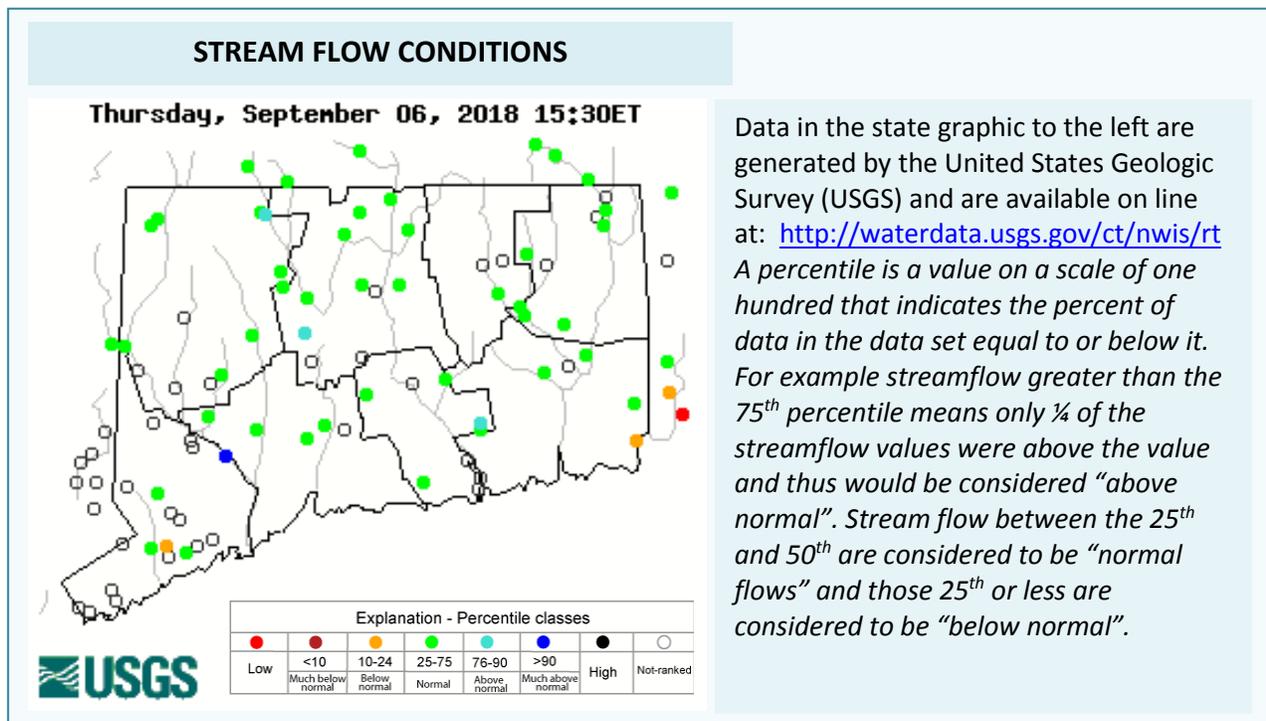


This fun-filled event explores Connecticut's fish and wildlife resources and legacy of outdoor traditions, with live animals, demonstrations, archery, fish casting, fly tying, shooting clays, kid's activities, outdoor skills, a photo contest, and more. Bring a picnic lunch and stay for a few hours or the whole day!

Tournament angler reports are from Candlewood Lake (fair to good for a night club, 3.53 lb lunger), the Connecticut River (tough for most from one club out of Salmon River, but good for a few with a 3.6 lb lunger; a second club did much better, with 12 smallies averaging 2 lbs apiece) and Pachaug Pond (a few in the bags).

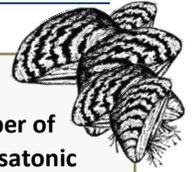
TROUT- Stocking Update- The absurdly hot and humid temperatures require that we hold off on stocking trout into most waters. A break in the weather pattern, especially a string of very cool nights, will be helpful for us to begin stocking trout – we know you are eager, but hold tight.

RIVERS & STREAMS – Conditions for trout fishing remain variable, with flows throughout the state mostly at typical August levels (see stream flow graphic below) and some rain from a front beginning to move through possibly increasing flows some. However, the hot, humid weather is keeping water temperatures up in many areas. This weekend the forecast is for some “very cool – fall like weather”. This should help to get trout fishing back on track as trout that have made it through this hot summer should begin to increase activity. Some good waters to fish include the Mianus River, Naugatuck River (Campville section), Salmon River and Natchaug River in the deeper pools and cooler riffles. Try some of the Wild trout Management Areas (these tend to have good cold flow year round) for some wild brookie and brown action.



Farmington River. The upcoming weekend looks very good for the West Branch and main stem Farmington with flows moderate, clear and quite fishable, currently 324 CFS at Riverton plus 17 CFS from the Still River (passing storms may increase flows some). Water temperatures range from the mid 50’s °F through the upper 60’s and even into the mid 70’s °F the farther you move downstream and the later in the day.

Hatches/patterns. With the heat and humidity, most of the insect activity is evening to dark. During the daylight hours, nymphing has been good as well as the typical ant patterns. Others for this time of year include Tricos (*Tricorythodes* #22-24 in the morning; started in the mid-section of the river), *Ephemerella needhami* (#22-26, early morning), Leadwing Coachman (*Isonychia bicolor*, #12-14, fast water, afternoon/evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* *sps.* & *Baetis* *sps.*; #18, 22-24, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #16-20, all day; green #22-26, evening; summer pupa #18-20 morning), Cahills/Summer (*Stenonema ithaca*, #12-14, early morning), Midges (#22-28, morning), Black Ants (#12-18, midday in fast water), Black Beetles (#16-18, midday), Flying Ants (#18-22, midday, when windy/humid), Stone Hopper (#8-12, mid-day).



Housatonic River – Flows in the Housatonic are around typical early September levels and are very comfortable for fishing, currently at 332 CFS at Falls Village and 475 CFS at Gaylordsville (note that flows may increase some due to passing storms). Morning water temperatures are beginning to drop, currently in the mid 60's °F.

Hatches/patterns. Most activity at dusk and dawn (Black Caddis) with mayfly and stonefly activity to pick up with the dropping flows and dropping temperatures. Patterns to try include White Zonkers, Wooly Buggers (go big- larval dobsonflies can be up to 4" in length and are a favorite food item), Muddlers, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). Other insects include flying ants (#14-16, mid-day, when windy/humid, September is peak month), Fall Sulfurs (#16-18), Blue Wing Olives (#18-22), Tricos (#20-22), Leadwing Coachman (#10-12 evening, September is peak month), Sulfurs duns (#16-18, below the dam due to low temperatures, morning; afternoon to early evening for spinners), Light Cahill (#14-18, early morning & evening). Golden stonefly nymphs hatch at first light and adults egg-lay after dark.

Streamer fishing and nymphing with big stoneflies is usually productive. Streamer patterns to try include White Zonkers, Wooly Buggers (#2-12), Muddlers, Lion Buggers, and Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10).

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS. Trolling the deeper cooler lakes such as Crystal Lake, West Hill Pond, East Twin Lake, Colebrook River Lake and Highland Lake should provide some action (especially mornings). Look for any holdover trout to move into shallower water as surface temperatures begin to slowly drop (hopefully).

KOKANEE. West Hill Pond has been producing decent size fish here and there. The fish will begin to transition into the spawning mode shortly, so now is the time fish for the Kokanee.

CATFISH (CHANNEL AND WHITE). Please take our [Catfish Survey](#). Good catches of 14-20 inch catfish from our Catfish Management Lakes like Black Pond (Meriden), Wauregan Reservoir, Lake Kenosia, Mohegan Park Pond, Burr Pond, Birge Pond, and the Maltby Lakes.

CHAIN PICKEREL The best fishing is at smaller ponds with a decent amount of emergent vegetation and lily pads. Toss a weedless rubber worm and jig through the vegetation.

COMMON CARP. Activity is picking up with September and October prove to be great times to fish for these huge fish. Try south of Middletown in the CT River and the coves, also some good action reported in the Enfield area. Other carp favorite water include Lake Zoar, the upper Housatonic

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 2018 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.



River, Batterson Park Pond, Aspinook Pond and West Thompson Reservoir. Pre-Bait your area to bring in plenty of hungry carp.

WALLEYE. Slow fishing but cooler nights should bring the Walleye up into the shallows, especially along steep drops. Nighttime is best now, places to try include Coventry Lake, Squantz Pond, Mount Tom Pond, Lake Zoar, Mashapaug Lake, Lake Saltonstall (some 2-4 lb fish are being caught morning and evening, deep diving lures working) Cedar Lake and Beach Pond.

NORTHERN PIKE. Places to hit include the Housatonic River (Kent as well as above the Falls in Falls Village), Pachaug Pond, which has great pike but very little fishing pressure for pike in the summer (also try the downstream lakes – Hopeville, Ashland), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Winchester Lake, Bantam Lake, and the CT River.

PANFISH. Perfect time of year to go to your favorite pond and load up on bluegill and perch. It's great for families and will get kids hooked on fishing. Fly-fishing with small poppers will provide some great catches. Also, try suspending poppers to catch a few crappie. Looking for a new place to fish? Check out our [interactive mapping application](#).

CONNECTICUT RIVER Flows are now typical late August levels north of Hartford (currently 4,410 CFS at Thompsonville). With the drop in flows, the fishing in the upper part of the River should be good for Smallmouth, Walleye, and Common Carp. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** has been on and off, with the side channels and coves providing some action. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** fishing in the Windsor-Enfield has gotten better with the lower flows, hit the boulders with crayfish imitations or small grey grubs. Also some action along the mainstem from Middletown to Haddam. **CHANNEL CATFISH/WHITE CATFISH** is really good, especially with 3" sections of eel in Glastonbury, Salmon River, and some reports from the Enfield area. **COMMON CARP** were providing some steady action, especially in the Haddam/East Haddam area. Some action for smaller carp reported from Enfield.

GOT CRAYFISH? We do. Check out DEEP's NEW Interactive Map

[Interactive Atlas of Crayfish of Connecticut](#)

An interactive map showing the distribution of the nine species of crayfish observed through DEEP's Fisheries and Water Quality Monitoring programs. The application contains a map for each species, an overview of crayfish anatomy, key identification characteristics, and detailed photographs. Contact DEEP Fisheries at 860-424-3474 or email DEEP.inland.fisheries@ct.gov to contribute additional information.



NOTES & NOTICES:

STORM DAMAGE UPDATE. Due to damage from storms in May, Sleeping Giant (including the Sleeping Giant TMA) and Wharton Brook (including the Wharton Brook Trout Park) state parks remain closed.

ASPINOOK POND (drawdown). A 30-inch drawdown of Aspinook Pond to facilitate dam maintenance is scheduled to begin Monday, September 10. The drawdown is expected to last approximately one week.

CENTER SPRING POND (Manchester - dredging). A dredging project is ongoing at Center Spring Pond. Hydraulic dredging will be used so there will be no drawdown but access to a portion of the park may be limited.

CONNECTICUT RIVER (invasive species alert). In 2016 hydrilla was found in the main stem Connecticut River in Glastonbury (near Glastonbury’s Riverfront Park & Boathouse). **Last year hydrilla was found at other locations along the river including Wethersfield and Crow Point coves and at a site in Enfield.** See the Coventry Lake entry on the next page for what river users should do to prevent spread of this invasive plant to other waterbodies.

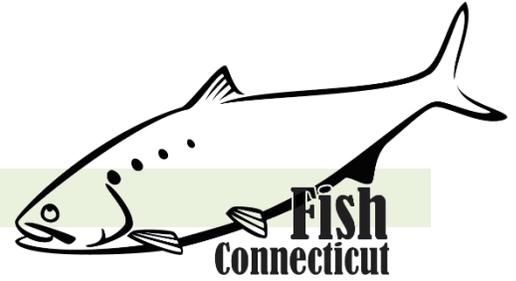
COVENTRY LAKE (invasive species alert). Hydrilla, a very highly invasive aquatic plant, has been found growing in Coventry Lake. All lake users should take extra care to check and clean their boats (including canoes, kayaks and rowing sculls), trailers, and fishing equipment before leaving the boat launch, or leaving the lakeshore.

HOUSATONIC RIVER (bridge closure). The CT Department of Transportation has announced that the covered bridge over the Housatonic River in West Cornwall will be closed to motor vehicle and pedestrian traffic from September 4 through October 2 for repairs.

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.



Known locations of hydrilla at Coventry Lake (Wangumbaug Lake). Boaters should avoid these areas noted with red to avoid fragmenting and spreading hydrilla.



MARINE FISHING REPORT

Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the 70'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 or All 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.

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.

HUMPBACK WHALES have been reported in Long Island Sound, please see check **WHALE WATCHING GUIDELINES**.

Note: All marine mammals are protected by the Federal Marine Mammal Protection Act. Following these recommended operational guidelines helps minimize chances of harassing or injuring whales and violating Federal law. Guidelines apply to all large whales from Maine through Virginia, except North Atlantic right whales. It is illegal to approach a right whale within 500 yards (1500 feet) unless granted specific exemption or authorization.

SPECIAL REMINDER: The TAUTOG (blackfish) fishing season closed September 1 and will reopen October 10.

STRIPED BASS fishing remains very good during low light conditions (overcast days). Live lining bunker (Atlantic menhaden) or an eel on the reefs at dawn and dusk still producing some nice bass (50 inches – 54 pounds, (Plum Gut). Striper spots include the Watch Hill reefs, Ram Island Reef in Fishers Island Sound, lower Mystic and Thames River, the Race, Sluiceway, **Plum Gut**, Pigeon Rip, outer Bartlett Reef, Black Point, the "humps" south of Hatchett Reef, lower Connecticut River, Long Sand Shoal, Cornfield Point, Southwest Reef (outer), Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island area, the reefs off Branford, New Haven Harbor (Breakwalls) and the upper reaches, Charles Island area, lower Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford

Shoal/Middle Ground, Milford Point, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands, and Cable and Anchor Reef. **Please use circle hooks when fishing with bait (prevent gut hooking) and practice catch & release.**

Don't have a Boat? Hook up with the many [Party or Charter Boats](#) found throughout CT's shoreline from Greenwich to Stonington.

BLACK SEA BASS fishing has been very good and consistent in the Sound. The sea bass have finished spawning and are feeding heavily on crabs, squid and small fish throughout Long Island Sound. Better fishing for large adults in the central sound. Plan a trip on a [party/charter boat](#) trip to fish off of Block Island...there are many giant-sized sea bass out there. Eastern Sound (Fishers Island to Block Island and northeast of Montauk) anglers are having better success. For those willing to travel, Block Island Sound is the place to be for humpback sea bass. Closer to home, the rocky reefs from Niantic, to Branford (Faulkner Island) have been consistent all season. A reminder to all anglers...if you are fishing in water deeper than 100', barotrauma can cause released fish to struggle to make it back to the bottom. A descending device such as the Shelton Fish Descender can help assist the sea bass air bladder to recompress and get safely back down to the depths. See Fishsmart.org for more information. **CT Black Sea Bass regulations are as follows: 15 inch minimum length, 5 fish daily limit from May 19 to December 31.**

SCUP (PORGY) fishing is excellent throughout Long Island Sound. They continue to be everywhere. In the west the Norwalk area (Cockenoe Island) is fishing very well. Otherwise, some good locations in the west are: the lower Housatonic River to Charles Island, Morningside (Milford), Coast Guard Jetty at Southport Beach, Rick Jetty at Calf Pasture beach, **South Benson Fishing Pier, Sherwood Island, Pleasure Beach Fishing Pier, St Mary's by the Sea and along Long Beach** (excellent shore spots). Other shore spots include **The Sound School Fishing Pier/Dock, Rocky Neck State Park, Harkness Memorial State Park, Meigs Point, Hammonasset, Sherwood Island State Park and Fort Trumbull State Park.** Fish during the high tide at these shore locations. Locate your favorite [Enhanced Shore Fishing Opportunities](#) for these hard fighting and excellent eating "Reef Slammers". Contact your [local bait and tackle shop](#) for updated fishing information.

BLUEFISH fishing is finally very good. Large numbers of bluefish have found their way into the lower estuaries and rivers feeding on juvenile menhaden. The "Top-water" bite has been phenomenal. Eastern Sound has seen much better fishing for "alligator-size" blues. Bluefish fishing spots include the reefs off Watch Hill, the Race, Thames River, Sluiceway, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, lower Connecticut River, Long Sand Shoal, Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor and upper reaches, lower Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middleground, Penfield Reef, and Cable and Anchor Reef. **SNAPPER fishing has improved in the tidal creeks and rivers with fish measuring 6 to 10 inches in length.**

SUMMER FLOUNDER (FLUKE) fishing is getting better as water temperature slowly decrease and fish begin to migrate. Fishermen are reporting some very large doormat fluke being caught (11 lbs 8 ozs, eastern sound). Apparently, the bite is in deeper water (40 to 110 feet). Live lining snapper blues in deep water (80 to 120') is the preferred method by fluke sharpies. The usual summer flounder spots include the south shore of Fishers Island (Isabella Beach, Wilderness Point), Napatree Point and along the beach, off the Stonington breakwater, mouth of the Mystic River over to Groton Long Point, Twotree Island Channel, Black Point/Niantic Bay including the Bloody Grounds, Sound View Beach, Long Sand Shoal, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor, off the mouth of the Housatonic River during the flood tide, and around the Norwalk Islands. **Minimum size is 19 inches and the daily creel limit is 4 fish per person.**

WEAKFISH fishing is surprisingly good in the central and western Sound. Many scup anglers are catching them. Fish up to 29 inches are being reported in the West Haven beaches and Charles Island area. Also, look for weakfish in Guilford/Madison/New Haven Harbor areas. Interested in a boat ride hit the Peconics...fishing has been hot for weakfish.

BLUE CRAB fishing is good in all tidal creeks and bays, especially around pilings in the evening. There are some gigantic “jimmies” (male crabs) out there. **Remember...all egg bearing females must be released without avoidable injury. Minimum carapace length is 5 inches for a hard shell crab.** 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) and a small circular crab trap is the preferred method to capture these tasty crabs.** [Blue Crab Fact Sheet](#). **Angler’s please also note: It’s illegal to snag blue crabs.**

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!** [Coastal shark information](#).

Need a fishing spot you’ve never been to? Want to know details about the site, like coordinates? Are there nearby restaurants, is there an adequate amount of parking spaces and more? Just visit the site below, click guest and then on the next screen select the state of Connecticut:

<https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/msd/html/siteRegister.jsp>

NOTABLE CATCHES –

Species	Length (in.)	Weight (lbs)	Angler
Striped Bass	48.5”	C & R	Andrew Bertrand

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 is on the DEEP website at: www.ct.gov/deep/fishing. For the latest marine regulations also click this link: [2018 CT Marine Recreational Fishing Regulations](#). **PLEASE CALL 1.800.842.4357 TO REPORT FISHING VIOLATIONS.**

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact us at (860) 418-5910 or deep.accommodations@ct.gov if you have a disability and need a communication aid or service; have limited proficiency in English and may need information in another language; or if you wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint.

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



**Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

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www.ct.gov/deep