

CT DEEP
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 29

11/8/2018

2018



Blackfish (*Tautoga onitis*)



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MARINE FISHING REPORT

Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) range from 55 °F to around 60 °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>

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.

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.

TAUTOG (Blackfish) fishing is very good. Time to fish deeper (40-80 ft) around slack tide, especially with the new moon leaving. Rapid Rock, Race Rock, Sarah's Ledge, inner Bartlett Reef, Two Tree Island (flood tide), various smaller locations east to Watch Hill are still fishing well. You may want to try rock piles or reefs that are away from the more popular areas to increase your chances of finding a keeper sized fish. Green,

Asian or Hermit Crabs will work, especially on jigs. **Consider putting the crab (bait) on a chartreuse and orange jig (1.5 – 3.0 ounces in weight/depending on tide and wind). The lighter the jig the better...feel more bites. Use braid in 30-50 lb class and/or a 50 lb fluorocarbon leader (sensitivity to feel the bites is important). Also use a 4/O Gamakatsu hook (Octopus style) when using bait.** I would highly recommend planning a trip on a [party/charter boat](#) trip to fish for tautog this fall.

STRIPED BASS fishing is excellent. **The Housatonic River is red hot, along with the CT River up to Wethersfield Cove and the upper Thames River (north of Montville).** Fish have been moving into the estuaries and tidal rivers to feed heavily on the bait. The reefs (Long Sand Shoal) in Long Island Sound are still producing fish that have begun their annual fall migration. There is still plenty of Atlantic menhaden (bunker) or hickory shad around that can be used as bait. Live bunker or an eel on a three-way or slider rig on the local reefs and rip areas can still provide some results. Other striper spots include the 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 (Dock & Dine shore fishing access)**, 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.**

BLUEFISH fishing is good. **Especially inshore along the beaches (coastal state parks) and fishing piers.** If you're looking for these “choppers” now's the time before it's too late. They can be found throughout the Sound (find the bait/birds). The top-water bite is fantastic. 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, **Norwalk Islands** and Cable and Anchor Reef.

LITTLE TUNNY fishing is amazingly very good. These tunas are getting bigger, with many topping 10 pounds or more. Niantic Bay to Watch Hill is your best bet. You can also find large schools from Millstone Point to Race Rock and the western shore of Fishers Island. Fish the current brakes and choppy water...be ready for a quick strike. Dawn and dusk is typically the best time to fish for these inshore tunas but they can be caught during the daytime. A quiet approach and finding birds (gulls/terns) actively feeding is the key to a successful trip.

BLACK SEA BASS fishing is red hot on all the major reefs and wrecks throughout Long Island Sound. Fish deep (80' -120') with 8 to 12 ozs of weight. When releasing fish suffering from “barotrauma”, a buildup of swim bladder gases, try using a recompression tool to help get them back to the bottom quickly. More information is available at [FishSmart.org](#).

HICKORY SHAD fishing has really picked up. Large schools can be seen on the surface feeding in lower rivers and estuaries. Your best chances are in the lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier), Housatonic River, East and West River, Lieutenant River, and Black Hall River.

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](#).

NOTABLE MARINE CATCHES –

Species	Length (in.)	Weight (lbs)	Angler
Tautog	22.5"	8 lbs. 1 oz.	Sebastian Vernali
Tautog	23"	8 lbs. 2 oz.	Jerry Saville
Tautog	24"	8 lbs. 11 oz.	Sara Roman
Bluefish	34"		Timothy G.
Little Tunny	30"	12 lb. 5 oz.	Doug C.
Gray Triggerfish	18"	4 lbs. 15 oz.	Dave S.
Oyster Toadfish	14"		Paul Hyatt

*Mark your
calendars
now!*



INLAND FISHING REPORT

Providers of some of the information below included **Captain Morgan’s Bait & Tackle**, **JT’s Fly Shop**, **The Fish Connection**, and **CTFisherman.com**, and a number of bass fishing clubs & organizations.

TROUT & SALMON STOCKING UPDATE. Fishing in rivers and streams this weekend has been a “Bust” at times with too much water in most places. Check our [Current Stocking Report](#) and [Interactive Trout Stocking Map](#) to see where and what fish were stocked this fall.

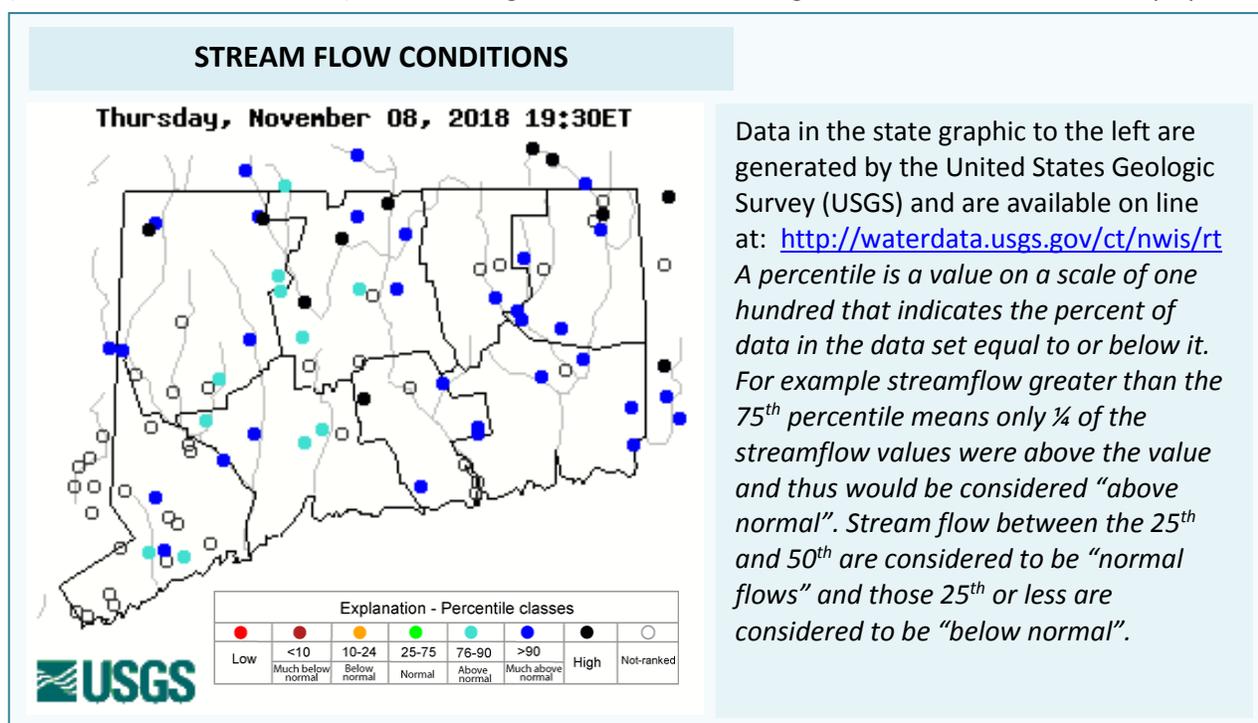
ATLANTIC SALMON. Anglers continue find some OK or better fishing for salmon on both the Shetucket River (with the higher flows, spinning gear working better than flies) and the Naugatuck River (especially the upper Broodstock Area). Mount Tom Pond and Crystal Lake are also providing some action but with the weather (rainy, windy) anglers it’s been challenging at times to get out on boats.

Please remember that a [Trout and Salmon Stamp](#) is required to fish the Broodstock Areas on the Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers and if you **keep** an Atlantic salmon from either Mount Tom Pond or Crystal Lake. If you are strictly practicing Catch and Release, the Trout and Salmon Stamp is not required to fish in either of the

two lakes. For a summary of Atlantic salmon fishing regulations see page 4 of this report or page 28 of the 2018 Angler's Guide.

TROUT - RIVERS & STREAMS. Conditions for the weekend will once again be variable (leaning heavily towards fair to poor). Rainy weather is once again in the forecast for Friday and possibly early Saturday. DEEP's fall stockings wrapped up just last week and there are plenty of fall stocked trout still out there waiting for anglers, but flows remain higher than is typical for early November and clear and are at borderline fishable levels in many areas statewide (see stream flow graphic below). Flows are also likely to increase again with an inch or more of rain (plus some wind) forecast for the start of the weekend (just like the last two weekends). **For up to date real time stream flow data from 68 USGS gauging stations you can check** the following web site: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/current/?type=flow>.

The more intrepid anglers have been finding some action on the Hammonasset River (interestingly, anglers using small Gulp! Worms and small pink & green or brown ice jigs have been catching fish), Shetucket River (some nice 14 inch rainbows) and the Naugatuck River TMA. It's a good time for streamers and nymphs.



Farmington River. Conditions for the upcoming weekend will be very difficult and challenging with many usual spots not really fishable. Flows are currently clear, high and very difficult to fish (1,280 CFS at Riverton plus 399 CFS from the Still River), and with rain in the forecast for parts of Friday and Saturday (again), look for flows to increase well above these levels, especially below the confluence of the Still and West Branch. Anglers can expect flows to remain high through the weekend and most of next weekend. Water temperatures range from the mid 40's °F to the upper 50's as you move downstream and through the day.

Hatches/patterns to try (if the water levels come down over the next week or two) include Isonychia (#12-14, parachute style), Blue Wing Olives (#18, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; brown #16-18), Midges (#20-32, morning), and Rusty Spinner (#14-20, mornings). With higher water this fall, streamers and nymphs are really working, try dryflies in the afternoon after things warm up. Big stonefly nymphs are doing well. White Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, or Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10) are standard streamers. Standard nymphs include Caddis pupa (#14-16), Serendipity (#14-16), Prince (#6-18) and Hare's ear (#8-20).

Housatonic River. There are still plenty of recently stocked trout in the river but flows are ridiculously high (at or near flood stage this week), turbid and not very fishable in most places, but they are dropping now, currently 4,340 CFS at Falls Village and 6,010 CFS at Gaylordsville. Water temperatures are currently in the 50's °F. however, with rain in the forecast to start the weekend, flows may again increase and anglers may wish to call the FirstLight Power Resources at 1-888-417-4837 or check the USGS website (<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/current/?type=flow>) for updated Housatonic River flow information (and also check with a local bait & tackle shop). Also check the tributaries, they'll moderate the quickest.

Hatches/patterns. Hatches are disrupted with the extreme flows, however, patterns to try (should flows moderate) include Blue Wing Olive (#18-22, early morning; spinner fall in evening), *Isonychia* (#10-12 evening), Midges (#20-26) and Brown/tan caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening), Flying Ants (#14-18), Black and Cinnamon Ants (#16-18, midday, when breezy) and large streamers (see Farmington river above for some suggestions). Try nymphing the pockets, deeper riffles and pool heads.

TROUT - LAKES & PONDS. There are few reports this week (again) for trout from lakes and ponds. Good reports from the Chatfield Hollow Trout Park (Schreeder Pond) and West Hill Pond. A number of lakes and ponds were stocked this fall, check our [Current Stocking Report](#) and [Interactive Trout Stocking Map](#) to see where and what fish were stocked.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing been OK but angling pressure continues to be light (with the weather rainy/windy a lot, anglers are staying home more). Smaller lakes & ponds may warrant more attention from anglers with the recent weather conditions. Try targeting suspended fish over deeper water using jigs (1 oz.). Also, the outside edges of weed lines tend to hold some bigger fish. Places to try include Amos Lake, Bantam Lake, Highland Lake (remember a drawdown is starting), Park Pond, Gardner Lake, Patagantsett Lake, Crystal Lake, Mudge Pond, Long Pond, Silver Lake (Berlin/Meriden), Pataconk Lake, Lake Hayward, Pickerel Lake, Tyler Lake, Wauregan Reservoir and Pachaug Pond. **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake (slow to fair, 4.60 lb lunger) and Highland Lake (slow to fair, 4.42 lb lunger).

SMALLMOUTH BASS. Smallie fishing is up, at Candlewood Lake look for them from the weed lines out to about 28 feet (dropshots and the like suspended vertically). Also some nice reports from Highland Lake. **Tournament angler reports** are from Candlewood Lake (fair to good, 4.64 lb lunger) and Highland Lake (fair to good, 3.62 lb, 3.38 lb and 3.33 lb lunkers).

CATFISH (CHANNEL AND WHITE). Please take our [Catfish Survey](#). Catfish Management Lakes that are worth a try include Silver Lake, Wauregan Reservoir, Lake Kenosia, Mohegan Park Pond, Burr Pond, Butternut Park Pond, Birge Pond, and the Maltby Lakes.

COMMON CARP. There's still time to find some good fishing for these huge fish. Carp favorites include the Connecticut River, Lake Zoar, the upper Housatonic River, Batterson Park Pond, Squantz Pond, West Thompson Reservoir and the Quinebaug River (West Thompson and Aspinook Pond). Pre-Bait your area to bring in plenty of hungry carp.

NORTHERN PIKE. No reports this week (again) but the fish should be eager to feed. Favorite Pike Waters include Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Winchester Lake, Bantam Lake, and the CT River.

WALLEYE. Walleye are being found up into the shallows, with good reports from Beach Pond, Gardner Lake and Squantz Pond. Late in the day (and also into the night) have been the best times, with fish also being caught midday on overcast days. Other places to try include Lake Saltonstall, Saugatuck Reservoir, Coventry Lake, Mount Tom Pond, Lake Zoar, Mashapaug Lake, and Cedar Lake.

PANFISH. Perch, sunfish, and Crappie continue to provide some action in most places. Look for white perch in the tidal rivers.

CONNECTICUT RIVER. Flows have again increased significantly (currently 54,900 CFS at Thompsonville), and are very challenging for boating and fishing. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** has been slow, with the side channels and coves providing better action. For **CHANNEL CATFISH/WHITE CATFISH**, try live shiners, chicken livers and chunk bait (staff favorites are 3" sections of eel). **COMMON CARP** were providing some action, especially in the Haddam/East Haddam and Mattebesset areas.

Atlantic salmon fishing regulations and areas summary

- **Regulations for Atlantic salmon on the Shetucket and Naugatuck Rivers.** In the Naugatuck, Housatonic and Shetucket Rivers, from September 1 through November 30, angling for Atlantic salmon is restricted to **catch-and-release only**. From December 1, 2018, through March 31, 2019, the daily creel limit for Atlantic salmon will be one. During the open season in the rivers, the legal method for taking Atlantic salmon is limited to angling using a single fly, or an artificial lure with a single free swinging hook and no additional weight can be added to the line above the fly or lure. Also, from September 1st through March 31st, fishing for other species in the designated Atlantic Salmon "Broodstock Areas" is restricted to the gear legal for Atlantic salmon.
- On the **Shetucket River**, anglers can fish for salmon downstream from the Scotland Dam (Windham) to the Water Street Bridge in Norwich (the first bridge upstream of Norwich Harbor). The salmon are stocked into one designated Atlantic Salmon "Broodstock Area", from the Scotland Dam to the Occum Dam.
- Anglers are allowed to fish for salmon in the **Naugatuck River** from the confluence of the East and West Branches (Torrington) downstream to the Housatonic River (Derby). Anglers may also fish for Atlantic salmon in the Housatonic River downstream of Derby Dam. The salmon are typically stocked into two designated Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas on the Naugatuck River, the "Campville Section" of the upper Naugatuck River from Route 118 downstream to the Thomaston Flood Control Dam (Litchfield-Thomaston) and the "Beacon Falls Section" of the lower Naugatuck, from Prospect Street (Naugatuck) downstream to Pines Bridge Road (Route 42 bridge, Beacon Falls). From September 1st through March 31st, fishing for other species in these designated Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas is restricted to the gear legal for Atlantic salmon.
- The regulations for Atlantic salmon released into lakes and ponds are different from the regulations for salmon on the Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers. **In each lake, the regulations for methods, seasons and minimum lengths for salmon will be the same as for trout in that specific water body but the daily creel limit will be one salmon per day.** (Please refer to the 2018 CT Angler's Guide for trout regulations).

NOTES & NOTICES:

STORM DAMAGE REMINDER. 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 and were not be stocked with trout this fall.

CANDLEWOOD LAKE (safety buoy removals). The Candlewood Lake authority has removed the hazard, navigation and speed buoys for the winter. Boaters, especially those unfamiliar with the lake should use extra caution out on the lake.

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

VALLEY FALLS POND (Vernon – dam repair). DEEP did not stock the Trout Park at Valley Falls Pond this fall due to dam repair work.

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.

QUADDICK LAKE (launch access). The park gates were closed for the season to vehicular access on October 29.

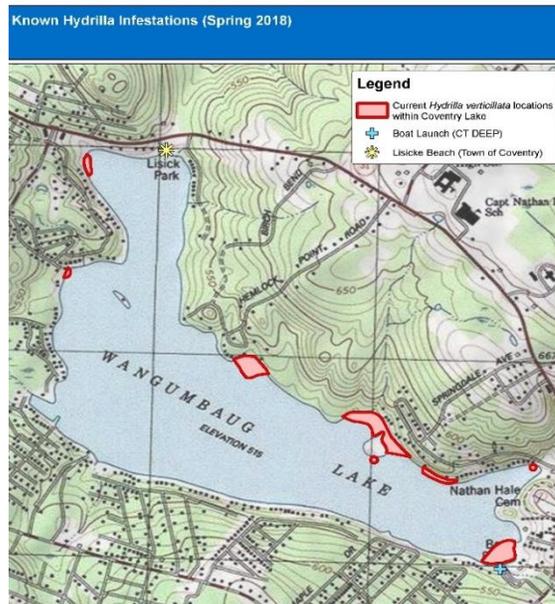
DRAWDOWNS. In western CT, **Lake Lillinonah** is currently drawn down with refill scheduled to begin November 9. Launching of trailered boats from the Route 133 state boat launch will be difficult and launching from the Pond Brook boat launch is likely not possible during this drawdown.

Lake Zoar is scheduled for a drawdown from November 10 to November 24 (launching of trailer boats at the state boat launch may be challenging), and the winter drawdown of

Highland Lake started in early November. In eastern CT, winter drawdowns of **Bashan Lake, Beseck Lake, Middle & Lower Bolton Lakes, Gardner Lake, Mashapaug Lake** and **Pickerel Lake** began in early November.

FISHING SEASONS. Anglers are reminded that the fishing season at several lakes and ponds scattered throughout the state closes at the end of the month (Wednesday, October 31 is the last day), most notably **LAKE WONOSKOPOMUC** and **SHENIPSIT RESERVOIR**. Please refer to the 2018 CT Angler's Guide for additional locations.

CORRECTION. Last week's report incorrectly stated that the fishing season at Green Falls Reservoir closed on October 31. The season at **GREEN FALLS RESERVOIR** was recently extended and it now closes on the last day of February.



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

For Current Connecticut Recreational Fishing Regulations: Anglers should consult the 2018 Connecticut Anglers Guide, which is 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 VIOLATION**

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DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



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