

CT DEEP **2019**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 4
5/9/2019



Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*)



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.



INLAND REPORT

Get the latest on our Trout Stocking through

- Daily Facebook Posts (@[CTFISHANDWILDLIFE](https://www.facebook.com/CTFISHANDWILDLIFE))
- Current Stocking Report (on our [webpage](#))
- [Interactive Trout Stocking Map](#)
- See last year's [stocking numbers](#)

CONNECTICUT'S ANNUAL FREE FISHING DAY

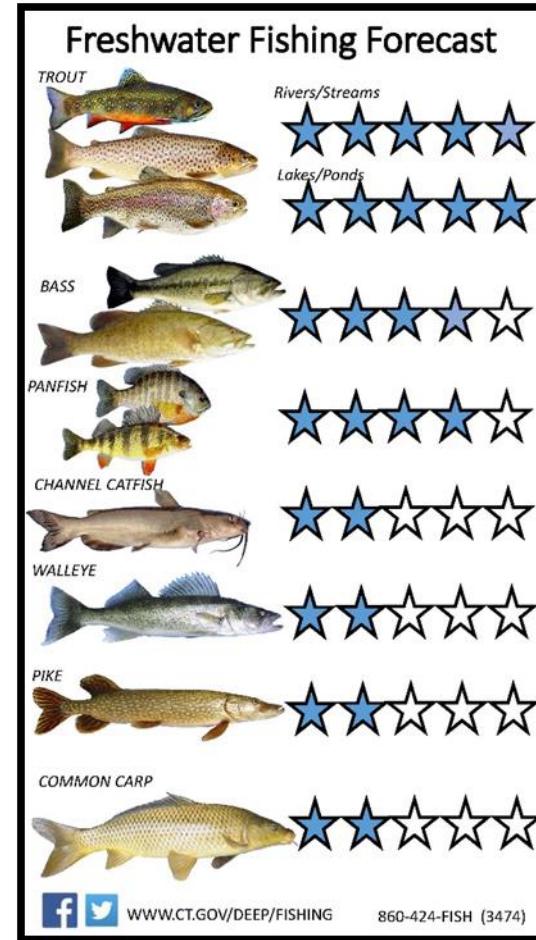
THIS SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2019

SEE PAGE 2 FOR MORE INFO

Providers of some of the information in this report included Bob's Place, Captain Morgan's Bait & Tackle, JT's Fly Shop, , CTFisherman.com, and a number of bass fishing clubs & organizations.

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - Trout fishing continues to improve and is just about peaking in most areas. The difficult conditions of the past weeks, meaning high flows and cool water temperatures, continues to keep some folks away so there are still lots of stocked trout waiting for anglers (**and a number of rivers and streams were stocked this week**). Flows in small to medium waters are near ideal but continue to remain on the high side in the larger the rivers (*see stream flow graphic on page 4*). **For real time stream flow data from 68 USGS gauging stations you can check the [USGS web site](#).**

Although flows are generally higher than typical levels, anglers are finding improving action and less difficult fishing on a number of rivers and streams. Some places reporting very good fishing as the flows drop included the Salmon River, Mianus River, Mill River (Fairfield), Norwalk River, Sandy Brook, Nepaug River, Naugatuck River TMA (good action on 14-17 inch rainbows), upper Naugatuck river (near the confluence of the East & West Branches, 13-15 inch fish, mostly browns, but a few rainbows), Naugatuck River (Watertown- Waterbury, mostly 11-13 inch browns, and a few bigger rainbows, flows were still on the tough side to fish), Pomperaug River (mostly 11-13 inch fish, some up to 14 inches or so, mixed species), Hammonasset River, Natchaug River (catches include at least one 5 lb trout), Willimantic River TMA, Mount Hope River, Fenton



River, and the Farmington River (has been high, but at least a few intrepid anglers are catching some nice fish, upstream areas a bit more comfortable for fishing). For fly guys, find a nice comfy hole back of a bend and go deep or fish close to shore out of the main current. Nymphs (Copper Johns, Hare's ears working) and streamers (Wooly buggers are generally a good choice). Bead heads and weighted tips are helpful.

Farmington River – The Church Pool has been a virtual ghost town the past couple of weeks (very unusual for this time of year) as wading has been very difficult (the few working the shoreline or drift boating have been successful at landing multiple fish). However, West Branch releases have just dropped, and flows have moderated to more fishable levels, currently, 392 CFS at Riverton plus an additional 223 CFS from the Still River (where flows may increase on Friday or late Sunday into Monday depending on rainfall amounts for the two rain events forecast). Anglers will still have to work for their fish, but conditions have improved. Creativity in fishing spots remains a plus.



May 11 is Connecticut's annual **FREE FISHING DAY** where anyone can fish **without needing a fishing license** (or trout and salmon stamp). All other fishing rules and regulations still apply.

Please make plans take your friends, family, or co-workers fishing! We know they will become hooked (and you may get a new fishing buddy or two).

Hatches/patterns. Even the typical mid-April hatches/patterns have not really shown up in any numbers yet (high flows and cool days). Insects that should be popular with the trout include Blue Wing Olive, Hendrickson (needs to get a bit warmer), Black Caddis should be popping out very soon, Winter/Summer Caddis, Stonefly nymphs, Midges 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, large and shiny, are also a good option (Hare's ear, Pheasant Tail, White Zonkers & Buggers (#4-12) as well as Muddlers, Grey or Black Ghost).

Housatonic River – Fishing has been good despite some challenging conditions and the river continues to clear and drop towards more comfortable levels. Reports to our Facebook page of anglers catching lots of the brown trout (the ones we stocked about a week or so ago). Flows are currently 1,660 CFS at Falls Village and 2,870 CFS. With some rain in the forecast, anglers are reminded that they can call the **FirstLight Power Resources flow line at 1-888-417-4837 for updated river information or check the USGS website** for up to date real time streamflow data from a number of USGS gauging stations including two on the upper Housatonic River.



Double Trouble on the Housatonic - courtesy D. Machowski

Hatches/patterns. Typical patterns for mid-late April, especially the Blue Winged Olives, are becoming more abundant, including March Brown (#10-12), Pheasant Tail (#12-18), Stoneflies (#6-10), Pheasant Tails

(#14-20), and Black Stoneflies (#18-22). Try Mop Flies and Egg Patterns to hit some of the recently stocked browns. Look for Hendriksons soon. Nymphing (try Bead Head, Midge Pupa or Copper johns) and streamers (such as White/Yellow Zonkers or Wooly Buggers) are good options. With large volume of water, go big and flashy! Note – May is Hellgramite migration time where these giant larva (up to 5 inches) move out of the river and up onto the banks to pupate under rocks and logs. Smallmouth can't turn these creatures down.

TROUT- LAKES & PONDS – FYI -The Fisheries Division lake and pond electrofishing crews were out on West Hill Pond last week and saw dozens of recently stocked trout and a couple of decent holdovers. In general, trout fishing has been fair to good, with reports from Amos Lake, Black Pond (Middlefield), Cedar Lake, Quonnipag Lake, Bigelow Pond, Crystal Lake, East Twin Lake, Squantz Pond and West Hill Pond.

Fishing at the Trout Parks continues to be generally fair to good (and many were stocked again this week) with the best reports from Mohegan Park Pond, Chatfield Hollow, Wharton Brook, and Valley Falls Park Pond.

TROUT- Stocking update for the week of 5/6 – 5/10. Note that stockings can also be found in our [current stocking report](#) or by using the [interactive trout stocking map](#).

RIVERS AND STREAMS:

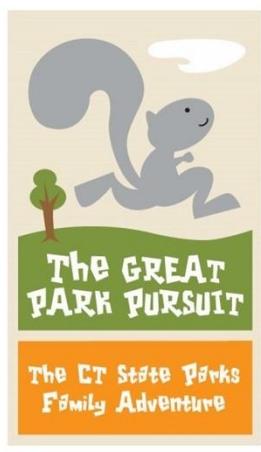
- In **eastern Connecticut**; the lower Fivemile River (Thompson, Putnam, Killingly), Mount Hope River, Fenton River, the Moosup River TMA, Latimer Brook, Bigelow Brook, Roaring Brook (Glastonbury), Shetucket River, Hammonasset River (including the TMA), Moosup River, Quinebaug River (Thompson, Putnam), Salmon River (including the TMA), Roaring Brook (Stafford), Scantic River (upper & lower sections), Whitford Brook, Branford River and Farm River were stocked.
- In **western Connecticut**; the Nepaug River, Hall Meadow Brook, Farmill River, Sandy Brook, Still River (Colebrook), Naugatuck River (upper section only), Mianus River (including the TMA), the Farmington River TMA (the West Branch Farmington River from the Goodwin Dam down to the upper boundary of the year-round catch-and-release area), Naugatuck River (middle section only), and the Farmington River TMA (West branch year-round catch-and-release area) were stocked.

LAKES AND PONDS:

- In **eastern Connecticut**; Amos Lake, Rogers Lake, Uncas Lake, Black Pond (Woodstock), Bigelow Pond, Crystal Lake, Walkers Reservoir, Angus Park Pond, Cedar Lake, Wyassup Lake, Quonnipaug Lake and Black Pond (Middlefield) were stocked.
- In **western Connecticut**; Fountain Lake, Tyler Pond and Mount Tom Pond were stocked.
- **TROUT PARKS:** The Wharton Brook, Day Pond, Pasture Pond, Valley Falls Park Pond, Mohegan Park Pond, Black Rock (pond & brook), Kent Falls, Stratton Brook, Wolfe Park (Great Hollow Pond) and Southford Falls Trout Parks were stocked.

COMMUNITY FISHING WATERS: Stanley Quarter Park Pond was stocked.

Come Fish With Us!



The GREAT
PARK PURSUIT

The CT State Parks
Family Adventure

No Child Left Inside® Great Park Pursuit
2019 Kick-off Family Fishing Day in
partnership with CARE

Saturday May 11, 2019
9 AM – 3 PM
Chatfield Hollow State Park
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FREE!! No registration required. No license is required to fish.
Learn to fish with the Connecticut Aquatic Resources Education (CARE) instructors; enjoy a fish fry, participate in trout stocking, fly casting, and fly tying; watch a seining demonstration; play fishing games; make arts & crafts, and take a nature hike.

For more information:
Contact Kristen Bellantuono, CT DEEP-NCLI® Coordinator
(860) 424-3917 or email
kristen.bellantuono@ct.gov
or visit
www.NoChildLeftInside.org





LARGEMOUTH BASS. Largemouth fishing has been generally fair to good, with lots of reports of pre-spawn fish, fish in shallow coves, and some fish on beds. Reports are from Candlewood Lake (some big fish caught), Wononskopolomuc Lake (fair at best here – may have been the weather), Lake Lillinonah, Highland Lake, Pachaug Pond and Bantam Lake.

Tournament angler reports are from Amos Lake (tough, 3.79 lb lunker), Aspinook Pond (slow to fair, 4.05 lb lunker), West Thompson Lake (tough, 3.42 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (fair to good, 7.38 lb, 7.00 lb, 6.06 lb, 5.06 lb, and 4.55 lb lunker), Highland Lake (fair to good, 5.85 lb lunker), Lake Lillinonah West Hill Pond (fair to good for most, 3.69 lb lunker) and Lake Zoar (slow for a kayak/small boat club).

SMALLMOUTH BASS. Smallmouth are being caught at Candlewood Lake, Lake Lillinonah and Highland Lake, but it's been slow elsewhere.

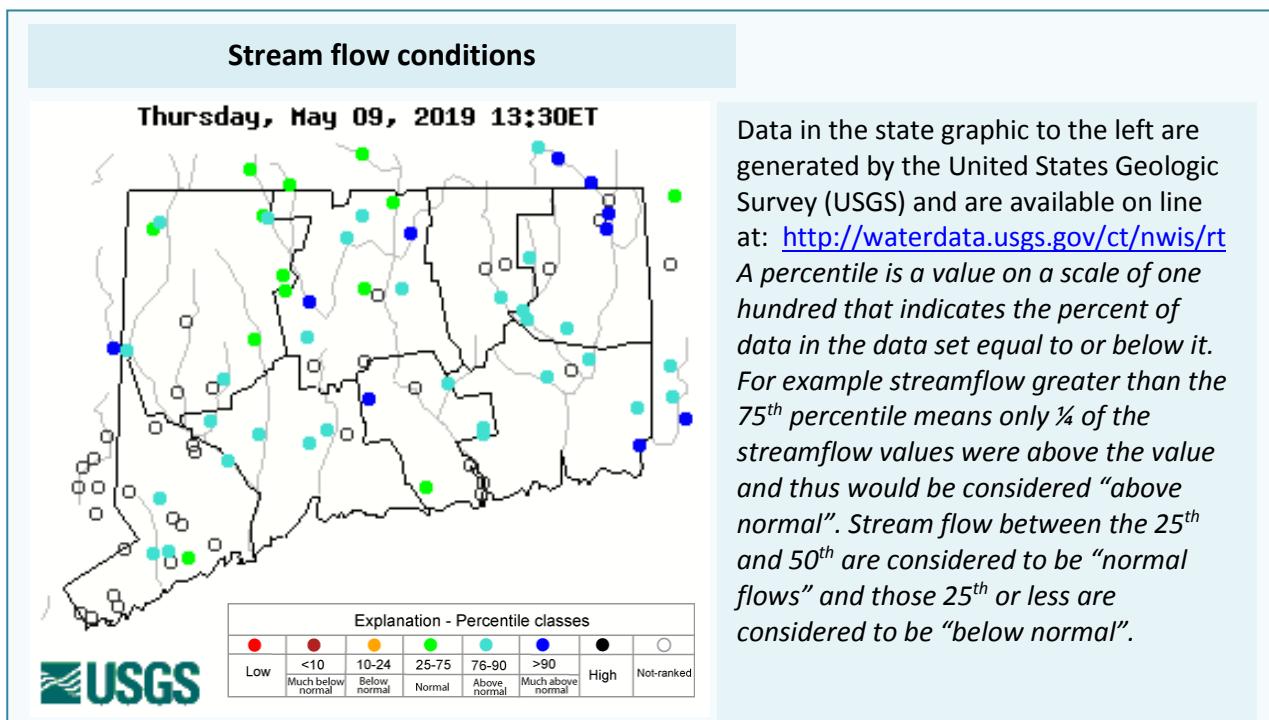
Tournament angler reports are from Aspinook Pond (only one in the bags), Candlewood Lake (fair to good, 4.94 lb lunker), Highland Lake (a few caught) and Lake Lillinonah (good, a 5.01 lb lunker and an average fish weight of 2.97 lbs per fish for one club, and a 3.42 lb lunker and an average weight per fish of 2.18 lbs for another club)

BLACK CRAPPIE are providing fair to good action in a number of areas throughout the state.

CHAIN PICKEREL have been biting aggressively in many areas throughout the state.

KOKANEE SALMON. Some action reported from East twin Lake (smaller fish).

CONNECTICUT RIVER. The Connecticut River is close to typical levels for this time of year at 30,900 CFS at Thompsonville. An avid angler in the Windsor areas let us know the mainstem is still “chocolate milk” however, the smaller tributaries are fishing very well. About two foot visibility in the Windsor area. The Farmington River is full with Shad and even some Striped Bass over 36” being caught. Fishing the boundary between a clear tributary and the mainstem river can be productive for large predators like Pike and Striped Bass.



NOTES & NOTICES:

STORM DAMAGE REMINDER. Due to damage from storms in 2018 (May), Sleeping Giant State Park (including the Sleeping Giant TMA) remains closed and the TMA was not stocked with trout this spring.

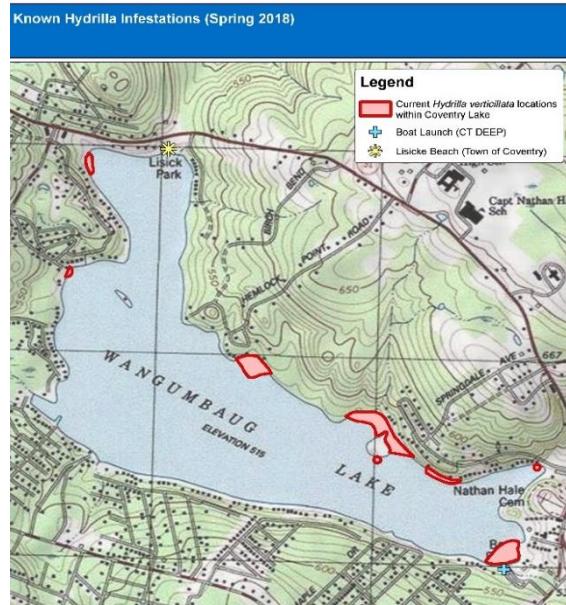
COLEBROOK RIVER LAKE (boat launch). The boat launch at Colebrook River Lake is open but may be subject to occasional closures during times of very high water levels in the lake. Boaters can call the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at 860-379-8234 for updated information.

CONNECTICUT RIVER (invasive species alert). In 2016 hydrilla was found in the main stem Connecticut River in Glastonbury (near Glastonbury's Riverfront Park & Boathouse). **Hydrilla has now spread throughout the river and can be found in numerous areas.** 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.

HOOSATONIC LAKE (rowing regatta). A school rowing event is scheduled for **Saturday, May 11 from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm.** Boaters should use additional caution on the lake Saturday.

ROGERS LAKE (rowing regatta). A high school rowing event is scheduled for **Saturday, May 11 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.** The course runs the length of the lake from south to north along the eastern shore. Boaters should however use additional caution on the northern portion of the lake.



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 2019 Connecticut Fishing 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 Fishing Guide and additional information can all be accessed on the DEEP website at: www.ct.gov/deep/fishing.

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MARINE FISHING REPORT

Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the low to mid 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://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1
<http://www.wunderground.com/MAR/AN/330.html>

IMPORTANT NOTE to ANGLERS: There are reports of **leaping sturgeon** in the lower CT River (Essex to the 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.

Also, anglers are incidentally snagging or catching these sturgeon while bottom fishing. Please, do not remove the fish from the water. Release all sturgeon with unavoidable harm as their populations are slowly recovering and are at VERY low levels. They are a federally protected species. Thank you.

STRIPED BASS fishing continue to be excellent in all of the tidal rivers along the Connecticut shoreline. There are also some keepers in the mix as well (43 inch striped bass from the lower CT). 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 color) with twister tails, soft baits, and Kastmasters and other metal lures will also work. Fishing should get better as we approach the magical 55°F mark! The top-water fishing has been fantastic...go out enjoy some of the best fishing in New England. **Please use circle hooks when fishing with bait to prevent gut hooking and practice catch & release.**

SCUP (Porgy) fishing is good in the western Sound. The spawning migration has started early this year. Porgy fishing is fair overall but improving along with the weather in the east and central Sound. Time to plan a trip on the many outstanding party/charter boats in CT. [CT Party Boat Association](#). Fishing is much better in Gardiners Bay and the Peconics. Porgies measuring 12-16 inches ("hubcap size") have been reported! Porgy fishing has also been reported at these shore fishing locations: Rocky Neck State Park, Meigs Point Hammonassett State Park and Fort Trumbull State Park. Locate your favorite [Enhanced Shore Fishing Opportunities](#) for these 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 tackle shop](#) for updated fishing information.

SUMMER FLOUNDER fishing season is open. The northshore of Long Island has been the spot for numbers and large doormat fluke. Try a Spro jig with a tsunami glass minnow dropper. Time to get the boat, and fishing gear ready for some phenomenal early season fluke fishing.

WEAKFISH have arrived at your area beaches and getting better with time. Look for these awesome eating fish in Guilford/New Haven Harbor over to the Milford/Stratford area along with the Peconics (NY).

BLUEFISH. The Race, Millstone Outflow, Plum Gut and the north side of Long Island including Gardiners Bay and the Peconics are the early season hotspots.

WINTER FLOUNDER fishing is good for those who chum. Fishing improving in the Poquonock River at Bluff Point State Park, Niantic River, The Brothers, Jordan Cove, lower Saugatuck River, **Calf Pasture Beach area, flats near the power plant, Norwalk Islands (Cockonoe) and the channel edges 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.

NOTABLE CATCHES

Species	Length (in.)	Weight (lbs)	Angler
Tautog	23.5"	8lbs 5 ozs	William Harrison

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>.

CT TIDE INFORMATION can be found on page 64 of the [2019 CT Fishing Guide](#).

REPORTING YOUR RECREATIONAL FISHING ACTIVITY – CT'S MARINE ANGLER SURVEY

CTDEEP Marine Fisheries Program is responsible for conducting the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS) in CT to collect saltwater recreational fishing catch data. This data is part of [NOAA's Marine Recreational Information Program \(MRIP\)](#) an extremely important survey used to manage our marine fisheries. You can find CTDEEP marine fisheries staff aboard party boats, visiting marinas, boat launch ramps, canvassing local beaches, piers, and at other fishing access points to gather accurate catch information.

When you're out fishing, please keep an eye out for marine angler survey field staff! The survey takes 5 minutes to complete. Any information you can provide them will remain confidential and is greatly appreciated.

For more opportunities to report your recreational catch, please visit Marine [Volunteer Angler Survey](#).

CAUGHT A TROPHY FISH - MARINE TROPHY FISH ARWARD PROGRAM AFFIDAVIT

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



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ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
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