

# CT DEEP FISHING REPORT NUMBER 27

2019

10/18/2019



Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*)



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Take someone fishing

## INLAND REPORT

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Providers of some of the information in this report included **Candlewood Bait & Tackle**, **Captain Morgan's Bait & Tackle**, **JT's Fly Shop**, **The Fish Connection**, **Yankee Outdoors**, **CTFisherman.com**, and a number of bass fishing clubs & organizations.

**ATLANTIC SALMON.** Stocking of our 2+ year old fish continued with 100 fish stocked on Thursday.

**MT. Tom Pond** and **Crystal Lake** (Ellington) each received 50 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 2019 CT Fishing Guide for trout regulations).

To date the Atlantic salmon management area on the **Shetucket River** has received **225 fish** with the **upper & lower Atlantic salmon management areas on the Naugatuck River** each receiving **112 fish** (total 224). These salmon are 2-5 lb fish. Reminder – catch-and-release only through December 15 for Atlantic Salmon in the Naugatuck River, Shetucket and lower Housatonic rivers (see page 6 for all the regulations for Atlantic Salmon).

Anglers on the Naugatuck River have been finding some nice salmon action in the Campville area, no reports from the Shetucket River yet.

## TROUT-STOCKING.

### RIVERS AND STREAMS:

In eastern CT, the **Yantic River TMA** (450 9-12 inch Rainbow Trout), the **Moosup River TMA** (300 9-12 inch Rainbow), **Hockanum River TMA** (300 9-12 inch Rainbow Trout), **Hammonasset River TMA** (300 9-12 inch Rainbow Trout) and the **Salmon River TMA** (800 9-12 inch Rainbow Trout).

### Calling All Trout & Salmon Anglers!

Only two more town hall style meetings to discuss your preferences and desires related to trout and salmon fishing remain.

- 10/21 (Monday)** DEEP's Kellogg Environmental Center, Derby, from 7-9 pm [RSVP](#)
- 10/22 (Tuesday)** DEEP's Franklin Swamp Wildlife Management Area, Franklin, from 7-9 pm [RSVP](#)



In western CT, the **Mianus River TMA** (650 9-12 inch Rainbow Trout), **Mill River TMA** (Fairfield) (550 9-12 inch Rainbow Trout) and the **Saugatuck River TMA** (350 9-12 inch Rainbow Trout).

#### LAKES AND PONDS:

In eastern CT, **Amos Lake** (500 12" and up Rainbow Trout), **Beach Pond** (600 9-12 inch Rainbow Trout) and **Wauregan Reservoir** (400 9-12 inch Rainbow Trout).

In western CT, **East Twin Lake** (500 12" and up Rainbow Trout), **Highland Lake** (500 12" and up Rainbow Trout) and **Wononskopomuc Lake** (1,000 9-12 inch Rainbow Trout).

**TROUT PARKS:** The **Mohegan Park Pond** (300 9-12 inch Rainbow Trout), **Chatfield Hollow** (Schreeder Pond, 300 9-12 inch Rainbow Trout), **Valley Falls Park Pond** (300 9-12 inch Rainbow Trout), **Black Rock Pond** (300 9-12 inch Rainbow Trout), **Stratton Brook Pond** (300 9-12 inch Rainbow Trout), **Wharton Brook Pond** (300 9-12 inch Rainbow Trout) and **Wolfe Park** (Great Hollow Pond; 300 9-12 inch Rainbow Trout) Trout Parks Trout Parks. *Reminder that the Pasture Pond Trout Park closed for the season on September 30.*

**COMMUNITY FISHING WATERS:** **Center Springs Park Pond** (200 9-12 inch Rainbow Trout).

**Note:** We are not allowed by state statute to release most stocking information ahead of time, however, as soon as we stock we get the word out via our [Facebook page](#) and have a list on our [web page](#). A very popular application is our [interactive trout stocking map](#), which shows the number of days since a waterbody was last stocked. A second popular use of this map is to find new places to fish.

**TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS.** Conditions for fishing are improving with newly added flow from the Wednesday night storm and recently stocked trout. Most are much higher than normal for this time of year due to the rain Wednesday night. Expect the river flows to drop steadily through the weekend (*see stream flow graphic on page 6 or check stream flows anytime for 68 USGS gauging stations at the [USGS web site](#)*). Some steady action beginning to be reported from the Salmon River, Yantic River, the Naugatuck River TMA and the East Aspetuck River. Anglers are also finding some action on the Hammonasset River (some "nice little rainbows" on nymphs, streamers, some flies and mealies all seem to catch a few fish) and Natchaug River (although eh trout here seem to be really "finicky").

**Farmington River** – Fishing continues to be good. Conditions for the weekend and next week should also be ok as the flows are expected to drop and turbidity from storm related runoff decrease. Currently 109 CFS at Riverton plus 446 CFS from the Still River and is comfortable for fishing.

**Hatches/patterns.** Hatches are sporadic and can include *Isonychia bicolor* (#12-14, fast water, afternoon/evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* & *Baetis* spp., #20-26, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; green #22-26, evening; summer pupa #18-20 morning). Also Midges (#22-32, morning) and Golden Stonefly (#6-14). White Wooly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, or Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10) are standard streamers. Bottom bouncing nymphs with Caddis pupa (#14-16), Serendipity (#14-16), Prince (#6-18) and Hare's ear (#8-20) works well.

**Housatonic River** – The River remains on a steep increase in flow making conditions more like they were this spring (high and fast). Currently the gauges are reading 1,170 CFS at Falls Village and 1,240 CFS at Gaylordsville and rising). Flows should begin to drop slowly as the weekend progresses. Anglers 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.

**Hatches/patterns.** Lots of different activity on the river. Key is to have a diverse box of sizes and colors. Patterns to try include Blue Wing Olive (#18-24, early morning; spinner fall in evening), *Isonychia* (#10-12 evening), Midges (#20-24) and Black caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening) and Light Cahill (#12-14). Also try terrestrial patterns such as Black Beetles (#14-18, midday), Stone Hopper (#8-10, midday) and Flying Ants

(#16-18, midday), when windy. Patterns to try include White Zonkers, Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10), brown crayfish when nymphing the pockets, deeper riffles and pool heads.

**TROUT- LAKES & PONDS** – Some reports of decent trout being caught at Bigelow Pond and Mashapaug Lake.

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing remains generally slow to fair, and variable at many areas throughout the state. In the southeast corner, anglers are finding some action at Amos Lake, Glasgo Pond and Long Pond, but no outstanding catches reported. Candlewood Lake (try along deeper edges) and Lake Lillinonah are picking up.

**Tournament angler** reports are from Amos Lake (slow, 2.73 lb lunger), Long Pond (very tough form most, OK for a few; 2.25 lb lunger), Pattagansett Lake (fair, 2.22 lb lunger), Rogers Lake (tough, 3.63 lb lunger), Bantam Lake (slow) and Lake Zoar (fair to good)

**SMALLMOUTH BASS.** Still tough for smallmouth for many, even at Candlewood Lake (although a recent two-day did produce a few nice bags) and Lake Lillinonah.

**Tournament angler** reports are from Bantam Lake (fair to good, interestingly) and Lake Zoar (slow, 3.55 lb lunger).

**CHANNEL CATFISH.** Catfish are becoming more active, especially from about sunset to 9 pm. Catches reported from Batterson Park Pond, Mohegan Park Pond, Wauregan Reservoir, Crescent Lake (Southington), Lake Wintergreen, Beardsley Park Pond, Stillwater Pond, Burr Pond, Silver Lake, Hopeville Pond, and Black Pond.

**COMMON CARP.** The Connecticut Carp Open wraps up Friday at 12:00 noon. Anglers let us know that there were lots of decent fish throughout the river.

**NORTHERN PIKE.** Some pike reported from the CT River (fairly good action in the Haddam area on mostly smaller fish). Other pike places include the Pachaug River system (Ashland Pond, Hopeville Pond, Pachaug Pond), Bantam Lake, Lake Lillinonah, Lake Zoar, Winchester Lake and Mansfield Hollow Reservoir. Some nice pike can also be found in the small impoundments on the Housatonic River from Bulls Bridge up to Salisbury.

**WALLEYE.** Late evenings and nighttime are generally the best for Walleye fishing. Reports this week from the Quinebaug River and Aspinook Pond (most likely escapes from West Thompson Reservoir). Some nice walleye catches reported from Squantz Pond. Other places to try include Beach Pond, Coventry Lake, Gardner Lake, Mashapaug Lake, Mount Tom Pond, Saugatuck Reservoir, Lake Saltonstall and Batterson Park Pond.

**CONNECTICUT RIVER.** Flows in the river are beginning to increase a bit (currently rising and at 11,100 at Thompsonville), and improving the ability to fish and boat many areas. Good action for **catfish** (Whites and



**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).**

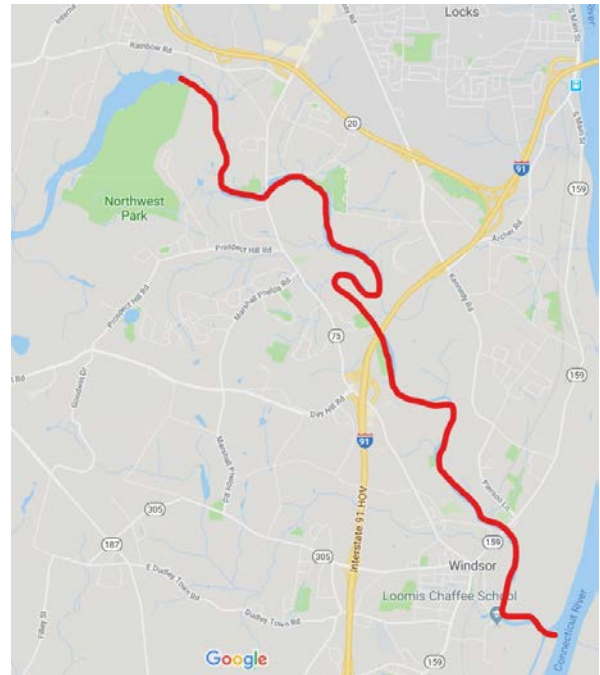
Prior to their discovery in Lakes Lillinonah and Zoar in 2010, zebra mussels had been found (1998) in CT only in East Twin Lake and West Twin Lake (Salisbury). Anglers fishing in any of these waters and western Connecticut in general **should use extra care to avoid transporting water, aquatic vegetation, 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)).

Channels) throughout the river, especially in the Glastonbury and Middletown areas. For catfish, fish the deep holes by day and the adjacent shallow flats by night. Fishing for **Largemouth Bass** was very slow in the Salmon River Cove/Haddam Meadows area. **Smallmouth Bass** were hard to find in the Enfield area and some decent **Common Carp** action is being found throughout the river as the participants in the CT CARP OPEN are wrapping up their 3.5 days of fishing on Friday. Good reports for **Northern Pike** (but mostly smaller fish) from the Haddam area.

**REVISED IMPORTANT NOTICE - Updated 10/18/2019** - Please note that an accidental release of fire-fighting foam from a hangar at Bradley International Airport on June 9 resulted in an advisory to **not eat fish caught from the Lower Farmington River (downstream of Poquonock Avenue in Windsor (Rte. 75)), which remains in effect until further testing from a second round of samples are completed and results analyzed.**

**This advisory is now revised** to address the potential discharge on October 2, 2019 of firefighting foam into the Farmington River in Windsor originating from the Bradley International Airport plane crash emergency response efforts via Rainbow Brook. **The public is advised to not come into contact with foam they may encounter on the lower Farmington River or along its banks downstream of the Rainbow Dam, as well to not take or consume fish from this section of the river.** This advisory will remain in place while officials evaluate the potential impacts to the watershed.



*Section of the lower Farmington River possibly affected by the firefighting foam release in early June as well as emergency use of the foam during the plane crash response on October 2, the area remains under a cautionary advisory.*

## NOTES & NOTICES:

**EEE UPDATE from DEEP's Mosquito Management Program: ATTENTION Hunters, Anglers, and Hikers** - Residents, especially those in the southeastern part of the state from the lower Connecticut River Valley to the Rhode Island border, are advised to protect themselves and their children by taking personal precautions to prevent mosquito bites until the first hard frost of the fall. Consideration should also be given to minimizing outdoor activity from dusk to dawn, when mosquitoes are most active. The Department of Public Health announced on Oct. 1, 2019, that a third person has died this year in CT from Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and a fourth person remains hospitalized due to EEE ([Press release with more details](#)). Weekly surveillance updates of mosquito and virus activity, precautionary and control methods, and the current list of certified applicators can be found at <https://portal.ct.gov/mosquito>.

**WEST BRANCH RESERVOIR, WEST BRANCH FARMINGTON RIVER & COLEBROOK RIVER LAKE.** The water level in West Branch Reservoir has been lowered 70 feet from its usual elevation by MDC to facilitate the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (COE) repairs to Colebrook Dam's outlet structures and equipment. The repairs will begin and are anticipated to last two to three months. During this period flows in the West Branch Farmington River are expected to stay within typical levels dependent on precipitation amounts and water level manipulations of impoundments (especially Otis Reservoir) upstream of Colebrook River Lake and impoundments (such as



Highland Lake) on tributaries. Recreational opportunities at Colebrook River Lake should be unaffected but will be severely limited at West Branch Reservoir during the repair project and drawdown.

Once the repairs to the Colebrook River Lake dam infrastructure are completed, refill of West Branch Reservoir is expected to take approximately 35 days. Downstream flows during this time are expected to stay within typical levels during refill.

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

**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.

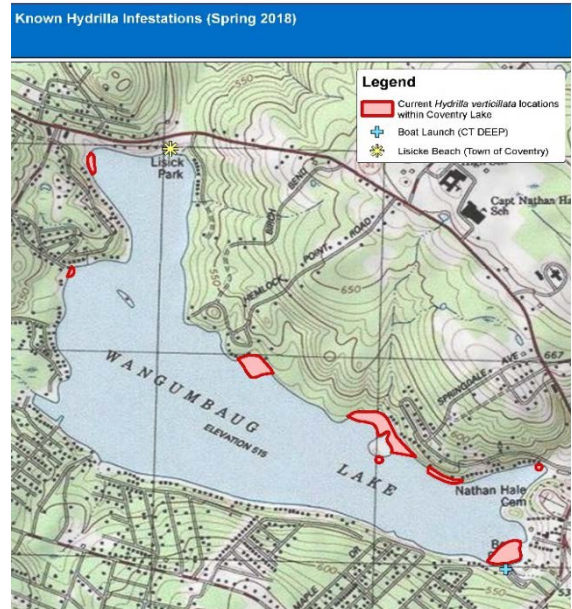
**COVENTRY LAKE (invasive species alert).** Hydrilla, a very highly invasive aquatic plant, has been found growing in Coventry Lake. All lake users should take extra care to check and clean their boats (including canoes, kayaks and rowing sculls), trailers, and fishing equipment before leaving the launch.

**QUADDICK LAKE (launch access).** The lake has been drawn down several feet and the park gates have been closed for the season to vehicular access.

**STANLEY QUARTER PARK POND (drawdown).** A 2-3 foot drawdown for dam repairs continues. Accessing the water may be limited.

**UPCOMING DRAWDOWNS.** In western CT, **Lake Zoar** is scheduled for a drawdown from next Wednesday night, October 23, to November 1 and the launching of trailered boats from the state launch will be very difficult. **Lake Lillinonah** is scheduled for a drawdown from November 2 to November 11, and 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. Additionally the winter drawdown of **Highland Lake** is scheduled to start in early November.

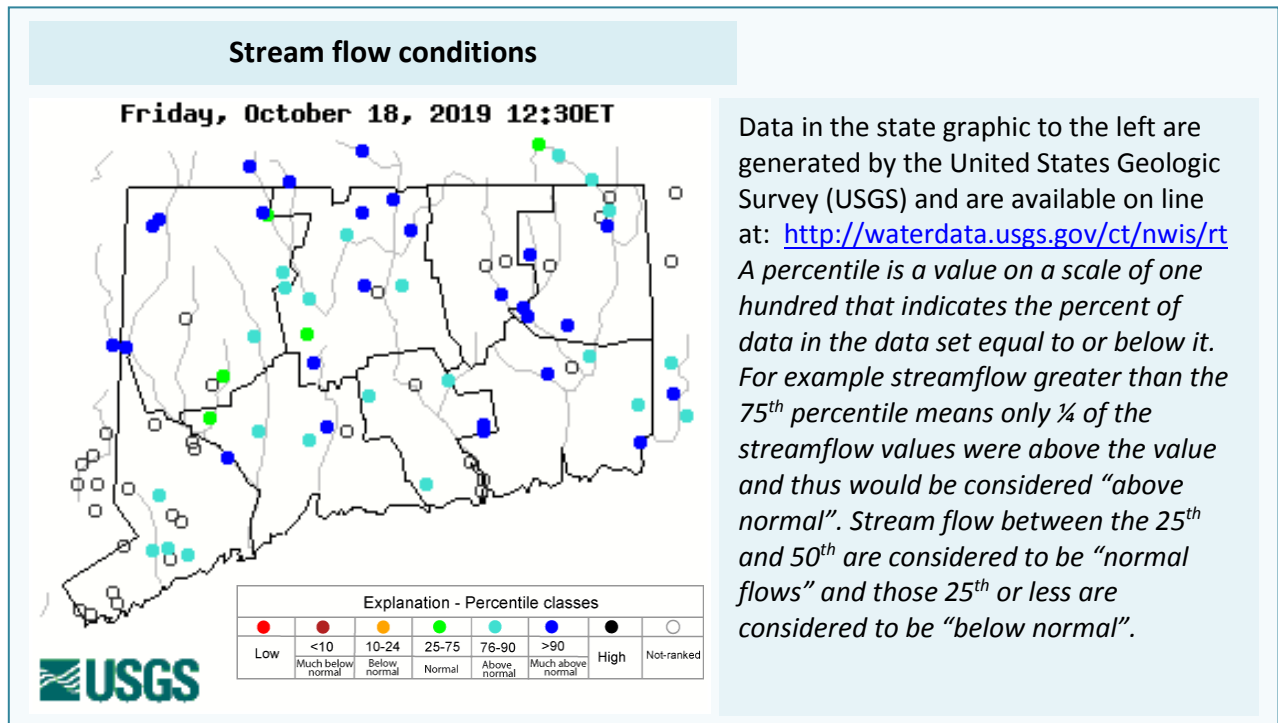
**FISHING SEASONS.** Anglers are reminded that the fishing season at the Pasture Pond Trout Park closed September 30.



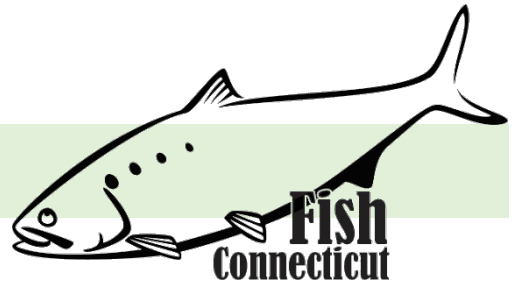
*Known locations of hydrilla at Coventry Lake (Wangumbaug Lake). Boaters should avoid these areas noted with red to avoid fragmenting and spreading hydrilla.*

### 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 December 15, angling for Atlantic salmon is restricted to **catch-and-release only**. From December 15, 2019, through March 31, 2020, 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 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>, 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 2019 CT Fishing Guide for trout regulations).



## MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the low 60's °F. Check out the following web sites for more detailed water temperatures and marine boating conditions:

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

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

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

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

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**NOTE ON TAUTOG SURVEY:** Some of you may have recently become aware of an online survey being conducted by researchers at UConn and CT Sea Grant concerning tautog recreational fishing regulations in Long Island Sound. While CT DEEP supports this research project and encourages CT anglers to participate, **we would like to assure anglers that there are no plans to change tautog regulations in the near future.** Current regulations will remain in place until the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission conducts its next tautog stock assessment (currently scheduled for 2021). If you have questions about the survey, or would like to take the survey, please contact Eric Schultz at [eric.schultz@uconn.edu](mailto:eric.schultz@uconn.edu)

### IMPORTANT REMINDERS for ANGLERS:

- **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.
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**TAUTOG** - fishing is good when it's not blowing a gale! Tautog (blackfish) season is in full swing, with good numbers of fish of all sizes. Please do not cull or high-grade taugs and release all sub-legal fish with unavoidable harm. Although, many Connecticut anglers are not quite ready for the transition as schools of false albacore (Little tunny) are still marching speedily up and down CT's shoreline. Water temperatures are still in the low 60's, not triggering the feeding frenzy that we usually expect by mid-October. But some fishers are reaching their daily creel limit (4) of togs, and here is where you can catch your daily limit; **Captains Island off of Greenwich, Buoy 32A in Greenwich, Cockenoe Island in 6'-20' of water, the backside of Sheffield Island, the eastern side of Fayerweather Island (accessible via Seaside Park), just south of Two-Tree Island, the three breakwaters at the entrance to New Haven Harbor, off Prices Rocks at the mouth of the Five Mile River in Rowayton, off the rock cropping's located 1/4 mile South of Fort Trumbull State Pier, and this week's top tautog location; Race Rock and the lower Thames River (reefs),** where anglers have been weighing in some very impressive specimens (12 lbs). Fortunately for shore fishers, blackfish are currently found in very shallow water (4'-10') near rocky reefs, shellfish beds, wrecks/wood pilings and rock outcroppings. Just dunk a jig with a 1/4 to 1 ounce weight tipped with a green, Asian shore or hermit crab. There are plenty of crabs under large flat rocks at Sherwood Island, South of Fort Nathan Hale (bluff) and Hammonasset State Parks. Or you can simply patronize your [local bait and tackle shop](#) where they are fully stocked. I would also highly recommend planning a trip on a [party/charter boat](#) trip to fish for tautog.

**ATLANTIC BONITO & LITTLE TUNNY** fishing is good. False albacore (Little tunny) are really loving these water temps and there is no sign of them migrating out of Long Island Sound. False albacore are the most common tuna in the Atlantic Ocean. They are found from Brazil to New England and South Africa to the United Kingdom. "Fat Alberts" as they are called are pound for pound the most powerful fish one can catch. The world record is 36 pounds (48") caught off New Jersey. They only have a life span of five years and reach sexual maturity in one year. OK, so where do I hook onto one of these beasts of the east? Well this week they have been repeatedly spotted at **Race Rock Lighthouse, Middle-ground, Norwalk Islands, off of Compo Beach, Captains Island in Greenwich, off of Rye, New York's Playland Amusement Park, Greens Ledge Lighthouse, in between Stratford Shoal Lighthouse and Green Can "C," the lower CT River, and Saybrook Point.** Shore fishers are catching them this week at **Ocean Beach, Pequot Avenue, off of Penfield Reef and also off of Harkness Memorial State Park.** They don't stay in one area for more than a moment so watch for diving birds. Sluggos, Albie Snacks, Epoxy Lures (chartreuse) and Deadly Dicks all working supremely. If you're fly fishing use a size 2 - 8 fly, and while some fly fishers stay true to match the hatch, others believe a contrasting fly stands out best as "Albies" herd thousands of identical looking bait to the surface. There's a good chance your local [party/charter boat](#) has run into a few schools treating customers with a great day of fishing. **Try casting metal (heavy) lures (Swedish pimple, albie snax and Epoxy jigs) to feeding fish on the surface. A quiet approach and finding birds (gulls/terns) actively feeding is the key to a successful trip. Jigging for them also works when they are close to the bottom.**

**STRIPED BASS and BLUEFISH** fishing is good. The Sound is locked and loaded with small bluefish and stripers. Bluefish can be caught this week almost anywhere and "schoolie" stripers and larger holdover bass are inhabiting lower reaches of rivers and estuaries. They are coming in very close to shore chasing peanut bunker (Atlantic menhaden) and spearing (Atl. silverside). Soft plastics are your best chance for a successful day of bass and bluefish fishing. Once the water temps start to dip a little more, bluefish will practically be walking onto the beach and jumping in your cooler. Time for shore anglers to hit the SURF...locate your favorite coastal state park(s). The fall season appears to be starting off strong, with many charter boat operators commenting on how many large bass there are. The best thing is...you catch them during the daytime, especially under overcast skies, especially before a storm front. Trolling weighted jigs (chartreuse) with a yellow pork rind and or live lining bunker (Atlantic menhaden) in 15 to 40 feet of water over a shoal or reef is the ticket to success. I also like dunking a live eel on the reefs/shoal areas during the late afternoon /evening hours. 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.

**BLACK SEA BASS and SCUP** fishing is still phenomenal. Anglers are still catching their daily limit of porgy (scup) and BSB (black sea bass) in 60-100 feet of water. This week the following locations have been good; **Valiant Rock, Race Rock, Spindle at Bartlets Reef, Red nun buoy #4 and the 170' trench, Middle-ground and Stratford Shoal Lighthouse, Shimon and Shea Island and Greens Ledge and Penfield Reef Lighthouse.** Scup are found at **Todds Point, Shippan Point, Calf Pasture Beach Pier, Compo Beach, Middle-ground, Saint Marys By The Sea, Seaside Oark, Sherwood Island State Park, South Benson Pier/Ash Creek, Fort Trumbull State Pier, Hammonasset State Beach, Fort Nathan Hale, Rocky Neck State Park, Eastern Point, Avery Point Pier, the Wall at Stratford and Silver Sands State Park.** A high-low rig tipped with squid and clams are all you need: heavy on the chumming will also help attract them. Once you get a bite make sure to set the hook and whether releasing or keeping, be careful of their spines. 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.** The “blitz” is on and bluefish schools mixed with striped bass are reigning supreme. Alligator-sized bluefish to 21 pounds have been caught at Block Island. **Jennings Beach, Walnut Beach, mouth of the Housatonic, Greens Ledge Lighthouse, Middle-ground (especially Stratford Shoal Lighthouse), The Cows, Sunken Island, the Norwalk Islands, Pennfield Reef, Todds Point, mouth of Rowaytons Five Mile River, Fish Island in Darien, Sasco Beach, Sandy Point, Black Rock Harbor and Gulf Beach Pier and Gulf Beach Break-wall** are all excellent bluefish locales. For bait...well you could probably could put a taco on your hook and catch one because they are voracious eaters. Atlantic mackerel and bunker (Atlantic menhaden) are good bait choices. [CT Bait & Tackleshop List](#)

**HICKORY SHAD** fishing is good in the Black Hall River/Lieutenant River (out-going tide), Housatonic River and the lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier). Fishing remains good at Fort Trumbull, Black Hall, Clinton Harbor River systems and the lower Housatonic River.

**WHITE PERCH** fishing during fall is very good. Productive spots include the Pawcatuck River (Stanton Weir Pit/Point), Mystic River, upper Thames River (**Norwich Harbor**) and Niantic River, lower **Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier)**, Black Hall River, Lieutenant River, North/South Cove and Hamburg Cove. **Grass shrimp and or a small piece of sandworm fished on the bottom are the keys to success.** You can collect grass shrimp with a minnow net along the shoreline where marsh/eel grass is growing or along dock pilings. They love to cling to the grass or dock pilings.

**SHARK SPECIES YOU MAY ENCOUNTER IN COASTAL WATERS OF CONNECTICUT -** Anglers may catch Sand Tiger and Sandbar (Brown) Shark which are protected and prohibited species and must be released unharmed. **IF YOU DON'T KNOW, PLEASE LET IT GO!** [Coastal shark information.](#)

#### NOTABLE CATCHES

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| Species          | Length (in.) | Weight (lbs) | Angler          |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Tautog           | 22.75"       | 8 lbs 13 ozs | Thomas B St Cyr |
| Grey Triggerfish | 17"          | C&R          | Marina M.       |

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#### CAUGHT A TROPHY FISH – CLICK HERE FOR THE MARINE TROPHY FISH AWARD PROGRAM AFFIDAVIT

- **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.
- **CT TIDE INFORMATION** can be found on page 64 of the [2019 CT Fishing Guide](#).
- [FISH RULES APP](#) Fish Rules is a totally new and innovative way to understand recreational saltwater fishing regulations for state and federal waters from Maine to Texas.

**PLEASE CALL 1-800-842-4357 TO REPORT FISHING VIOLATIONS.**

**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](http://www.ct.gov/deep/fishing).

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**DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report**



**Connecticut Department of  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

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