

FISHING REPORT NUMBER 8

6/9/2011



INLAND REPORT

CHANNEL CATFISH – DEP conducted its annual catfish stocking this week. A total of **5,300 adult catfish** (14-18 inch fish averaging 2 lbs apiece) and **9,400 yearling catfish** (9-12 inch fish) were stocked into 13 water bodies scattered throughout the state.

The adult catfish were released into five of the Community Fishing Areas, Lakewood Lake (Waterbury)- 1,350 fish, Bunnells Pond (Bridgeport) – 1,500 fish, Keney Park Pond (Hartford) -500 fish, Lake Wintergreen (Hamden/New Haven) -1,200 fish, and Mohegan Park Pond (Spaulding Pond, Norwich) -750 fish. The yearling catfish were stocked into Black Pond (Middlefield) -1,750 fish, Maltby Lakes 2 & 3 (Orange/West Haven) -730 fish, Lower Bolton Lake (Bolton) -3,000 fish, Pattaconk Lake (Chester) -840 fish, Quonnipaug Lake (Guilford) -470 fish, Silver Lake (Meriden) -1,800 fish and Lake Wintergreen – 750 fish.



DEP stocked nearly 15,000 channel catfish this week. These fish were released into 13 water bodies throughout the state.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is generally good with reports from Candlewood Lake, Lake Lillinonah, East Twin Lake (recent catches include a 7.2 lb largemouth, Pachaug Pond (lots of 2-lb bass showing up), Bashaan Lake, Bantam Lake, Silver Lake (Meriden), Wononskopomuc Lake, Highland Lake (not a lot of action yet, but catches include a 7.3 lb largemouth), Millers Pond (a 8.5 lb bass reported) and Lake Saltonstall. Other locations reporting some action include Lower Bolton Lake, Dooley Pond, Halls Pond, Bishop Swamp Pond, Griggs Pond, Red Cedar Lake, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Black Pond (Woodstock), Beseck Lake, Coventry Lake, Wood Creek Pond and Winchester Lake.

SMALLMOUTH BASS fishing continues to be variable, with reports from Candlewood Lake (very good, plenty of 3-4 lb smallies and several in the 4-5 lb range), Lake Lillinonah (fair), Highland Lake (fair), Squantz Pond (good), Gardner Lake (slow), Bantam Lake (tough), Rainbow Reservoir (fair) and Coventry Lake (have to work for them here).

NORTHERN PIKE fishing is reported to be good in Bantam Lake (fish up to 37 inches reported) and Mansfield Hollow Reservoir.

KOKANEE - Try East Twin Lake (fish up to 18 inches are being caught) or West Hill Pond (at 3-4 colors of lead line).

WALLEYE – Good reports for walleye from Squantz Pond.

TROUT

Rivers & streams - A number of major insect hatches are getting started. It's "Crazy Time" with just about every insect in the river hatching right now. Worms and corn/mealworm combinations are the standard tools for bait anglers. Flows are currently moderate and comfortable for fishing. Cool weather is in the air for the upcoming weekend. A cold front is currently moving in, bringing some passing showers, thunderstorms and possible localized downpours. With showers forecast

IMPORTANT REMINDER TO ANGLERS AND BOATERS-

Zebra mussels were recently (October, 2010) found in Lake Zoar and Lake Lillinonah.

Prior to this discovery, 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.**

This highly invasive mussel can disrupt aquatic ecosystems and is notorious for clogging water intakes and fouling boat hulls and engine cooling water systems.

For more information on zebra mussels and other invasive species, visit

www.ct.gov/dep/invasivespecies.



for the latter half of the weekend, flows may vary widely at times throughout the state. Good reports last week from the West Branch Farmington River (12 trout for one angler), Scantic River, Natchaug River, Willimantic River, Shetucket River, Quinebaug River, Housatonic River, Norwalk River, Mill River TMA, Naugatuck River, Blackberry River, Farm River, Hammonasset River, Eightmile River (Lyme) and Latimer Brook

Farmington River – Trout fishing continues to be very good. West Branch flows remain clear and moderate, currently 330 cfs at Riverton plus an additional 60 cfs from the Still River.

Hatches/patterns include *Vitreus* (a.k.a. pale evening dun) #14-16, from 4:00 pm to dark, Hendrickson (*Ephemerella subvaria*, #12-14, Tan Caddis (#16-18) good all day, (*Invaria* #16 hatches mid-day and *Dorothea* #18-20 evening hatch) & Golden stonefly nymphs (#8-14), March Brown nymphs (#10-12), Gray Fox (#10-14, afternoon), Hendrickson (#12-14), Blue Wing Olives (#18-22, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; green #22-26, evening), Midges (#22-32) and Pale Evening Duns (*Epeorus vitreus* #14-16, afternoon & early evenings)

Housatonic River – Trout fishing has been very good and with cooler weather forecast, conditions should be good for fishing this weekend. Flows are currently moderate and very fishable, 620 cfs at Falls Village and 850 cfs at Gaylordsville (although flows may increase some due to passing thunderstorms Thursday evening). Water temperatures (mornings) have been in the mid-upper 60's °F.

Lots of bugs, with many major insect hatches now here to provide excellent fly fishing. This is one of the few times of the year when you can dry fly fish all day long. Alder/Zebra Caddis (#10-12, just starting), Sulphurs (#14-18), Blue Wing Olive (#16-20, early morning; spinner fall in evening), *Isonychia* (#8-10 evening, just starting), Cahill (#12-14), Adams (#10-20, evening), March Brown (#10-12) & Gray Foxes (#10-12) are producing. Green caddis (#14-20, early morning & evening) are on the water. Midges and early stoneflies are being seen at tributary mouths.

Lakes & Ponds – Trout fishing has been generally fair to very good with lots of action, and some big fish among the many catches. The best reports from Highland Lake, East Twin Lake (lots of fish being caught), Crystal Lake (Ellington, very good action reported, lots of fat rainbows), Beach Pond, West Hill Pond, Mount Tom Pond, Mohawk Pond, Mashapaug Lake, Saugatuck Reservoir and Lake Wononskopomuc. Other areas reporting action include Lake McDonough (on the slow side) and Candlewood Lake.

TROPHY FISH AWARD applications submitted recently include a tiger trout (7.09 lbs.) from Lake Quassapaug, brook trout (2.69 lbs, 18 inches) from West Branch Farmington River, northern pike (37 inch, catch & release) from Bantam Lake, brown trout (5.75 lbs, 23 inches) from Saugatuck Reservoir and a kokanee salmon (1.93 lbs, 17.75 inches) from East Twin Lake.

NOTES & NOTICES:

- **BOAT LAUNCHES - Moodus Reservoir** (Lower & Upper) is currently drawn down 30 inches, making the launching of trailer boats very difficult (especially for larger boats). It is now anticipated that this **drawdown will continue through the end of July**. The boat launch at **Colebrook River Lake** is closed until further notice. Access by foot or vehicle remains open and shore fishing is allowed. Boaters should call the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at 860-379-8234 for updated information.

DIDYMO REMINDER

The highly invasive freshwater alga, *Didymosphenia geminata*, known as “didymo” or “rock snot”, was recently discovered in Connecticut in the West Branch Farmington River. This is the first report of didymo in Connecticut.

Under ideal conditions, blooms of didymo can form thick mats of material on the bottoms of rivers and streams. These mats feel like wet wool and are typically gray, white and/or brown, but never green in color, and if dense may have negative impacts on the ecological, recreational and aesthetic values of rivers with suitable habitat (cold, rocky, well-lit areas).

Anglers, kayakers and canoeists, boaters and jet skiers can all unknowingly spread didymo. The microscopic cells can cling to fishing gear, waders (felt soles can be especially problematic), boots and boats, and remain viable for months under even slightly moist conditions.

For more information including precautions that should be taken to prevent the spread of didymo to additional waters, visit www.ct.gov/dep/invasivespecies.

CONNECTICUT RIVER – Flows are now down to more typical (and comfortable) levels, and are finally clearing. **STRIPED BASS** are in from the mouth up to the confluence of the Farmington River. Fish can be found in the deep holes. The bite this spring has been difficult due to frequent bouts of high, turbid water. Trolling tube & worm and casting soft plastics work best in stained water for those lucky enough to find the fish. **SHAD** fishing is mostly over with very few reports coming in. The current hot weather should bring the migration to an end and get the fish spawning. **NORTHERN PIKE** are reported in the river coves downstream to Haddam (smaller fish). **CHANNEL CATFISH** (up to 14 lbs) are being taken throughout the river on big chunk bait. Some **WHITE CATFISH** are being caught in the lower river. **WHITE PERCH** have been very good in the Middletown area with many limits being reported. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing was fair to good this past weekend, with a number of fish in the 2-3 lb range being caught.

**CONNECTICUT RIVER
BONUS STRIPED BASS PROGRAM**

- DEP is issuing free vouchers to anglers fishing the Connecticut River to take 4,025 striped bass in a size range (at least 22 inches in length but shorter than 28 inches) below the current recreational minimum length for stripers in CT.
- Each voucher allows the angler to keep one “bonus” striper and can be used only on the Connecticut River from just above the I-95 bridge to the Massachusetts border. The vouchers are valid through June 30.
- Vouchers can be obtained at the same DEP Offices where licenses are sold, while fishing along the Connecticut River from DEP Environmental Conservation (EnCon) Police Officers and Riverfront Recapture Rangers and now will also be available from tackle retailers who have offered to distribute vouchers.
- Anglers can obtain two vouchers per day and use a maximum of two vouchers per day to keep “bonus” fish.
- Use of these vouchers does not affect an angler’s ability to keep their regular daily limit of striped bass. Each angler participating in the program can also keep up to two striped bass a day, 28 inches or larger in total length.

For more information, visit:
www.ct.gov/dep/fishing or call 860-424-3474.

More options for obtaining

CT RIVER BONUS STRIPED BASS vouchers

The following tackle retailers are now distributing bonus vouchers. **Anglers are advised to call the vendor in advance to determine availability of the vouchers:**

Canton- Dicks’s Sporting Goods (860-693-1619)
(Canton store only)

East Hartford - Cabela’s (860-290-6201)

Enfield -Yankee Bait & Tackle (860-741-5994)

Madison- Captain Morgan’s Bait & Tackle
(203-245-8665)

New London -AW Marina Bait & Tackle
(860-443-6076)

Wethersfield- CT Outfitters (860-571-8986)

SPECIAL NOTE TO ANGLERS FISHING THE HARTFORD AREA-

This spring, DEP has received several reports of “unusual” fish being caught in the CT River (Hartford area) and in the lower Hockanum River system. The catches reported were all bowfin (*Amia calva*). Bowfin are native to portions of the Midwest and Northeast. In CT there are populations in Scoville Reservoir (Wolcott) and in the upper CT River. Once relatively limited in size and distribution, since 2003 the CT River population has been increasing in size and expanding its distribution.

In several cases, anglers were concerned that they had caught a snakehead (a large invasive predatory fish from Asia, originally brought to this country for the live food and aquarium trades, made notorious by several high profile introductions and a really bad movie). Bowfin and snakeheads are similar in appearance. The easiest method to distinguish between the two fishes is to look at the length of the anal fin (*see below*). On a bowfin, the anal fin is short, well less than half the body length of the fish. On a snakehead, the anal fin is generally long, half the body length or longer. If you think that you have captured a snakehead, please report your catch by calling Inland Fisheries (860-424-3474).



BOWFIN

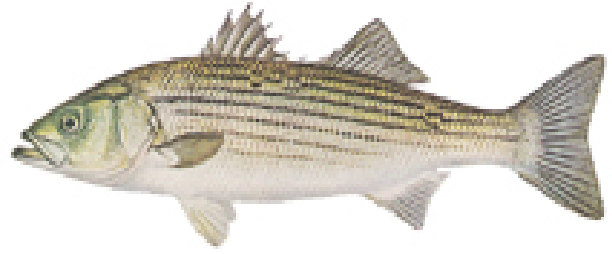
short anal fin



NORTHERN SNAKEHEAD

long anal fin

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the upper 50's to 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://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

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

STRIPED BASS fishing has improved on the local reefs and rip areas throughout LIS with some nice sized cows over 40 inches in length now being reported on a regular basis. Striper spots include the reefs off Watch Hill and the eastern tip of Fishers Island, lower Pawcatuck River, the Race, Plum Gut, Millstone outflow, Bartlett Reef, Black Point, lower Connecticut River (DEP fishing pier), Long Sand Shoal, Southwest Reef, Falkner Island area, Thimble Islands to the Branford Reefs, New Haven Harbor, Charles Island area, Housatonic River (up to the Derby Dam), Penfield Reef, and around the Norwalk Islands.

BLUEFISH fishing has slightly improved with some larger choppers moving in to LIS. Bluefish spots include the Race, Sandy Point area (Stonington), Millstone outflow, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, Long Sand Shoal, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor (Sandy Point), Bridgeport Harbor, and around the Norwalk Islands.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) has picked up with some big slabs being reported in western LIS (Norwalk area). Other fluke spots include Gardiners Bay, the Peconic Bays, and the north shore of Long Island, Niantic Bay, Black Point, Westbrook-Clinton area, Falkner Island and off the New Haven breakwaters.

SCUP (porgy) fishing is still on the early side.

For regulation updates and fishing/crabbing information, please check out our web site at:

www.ct.gov/dep/fishing or pick up the new 2011 Angler's Guide. The guide contains all current marine fishing regulations and more.

INFORMATION FOR CT ANGLERS FISHING IN NEW YORK WATERS:

New York DEC now has their online marine angler registry up and running. While your Connecticut Marine Waters Fishing License is valid in the New York waters of Long Island Sound, to fish in other New York marine waters you must be registered in the New York Marine Fishing Registry. Please see link to register:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/54950.html#How>

The registration is free.

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