

FISHING REPORT NUMBER 9

6/16/2011



INLAND REPORT

LARGEMOUTH BASS – Mixed results for bass recently (perhaps all those passing fronts). Best reports are from Bashan Lake (lots of 1-2 lb fish providing action), Candlewood Lake, Mamasasco Lake, Lake Lillinonah, East Twin Lake and Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (good action, not much over 2.5 lbs). Good to fair fishing reported from Aspinook Pond, Beseck Lake, Batterson Park Pond, Gardner Lake (lots of small bass), Lower Bolton Lake, Highland Lake, Winchester Lake, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir and Wononskopomuc Lake. It's been a bit slow at Amos Lake, Pachaug Pond, Beach Pond (but catches do include a 7.6 lb largemouth) and Woodcreek Pond. Other areas reporting some action include Lake Winnemaug, Bantam Lake, Quonnipaug Lake, Silver Lake (Meriden), Holbrook Pond, Rainbow Reservoir and Lake Hayward.

SMALLMOUTH BASS fishing remains variable, with reports from Candlewood Lake (good, still some 3-4 lb smallies in the bags), Lake Lillinonah (fair), Gardner Lake (tough to find), Bashan Lake (very slow) and Highland Lake (some action).

NORTHERN PIKE – Action reported from Bantam Lake 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.

PANFISH should start showing up in big numbers and are easy to catch. Try the fishing area closest to you. Use worms, grubs and any type of inexpensive fishing pole or drop line and give these easy to catch fish a try. The kids love this non-stop action and it will keep them occupied for hours.

CHANNEL CATFISH – Nearly 15,000 catfish were recently stocked by DEP. These fish were released into Lakewood Lake (Waterbury), Bunnells Pond (Bridgeport), Keney Park Pond (Hartford), Lake Wintergreen (Hamden/New Haven), and Mohegan Park Pond (Spaulding Pond, Norwich), Black Pond (Middlefield), Maltby Lakes 2 & 3 (Orange/West Haven), Lower Bolton Lake (Bolton), Pattaconk Lake (Chester), Quonnipaug Lake (Guilford) and Silver Lake (Meriden).

TROUT

Rivers & streams - Conditions and fishing have been variable for the last week. Flows have again dropped to more comfortable levels for fishing, but with some showers and rain (and the possibility of localized downpours) in the forecast for Friday, flows may again increase in some areas. Good reports last week from the West Branch Farmington River, Farmington River, Natchaug River, Housatonic River, Hammonasset River, Farm River, Hockanum River and Salmon River.

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.



Farmington River – Trout fishing has been good. West Branch flows have cleared and dropped (although a bit on the high side), currently 295 cfs at Riverton with the Still River providing an additional 150 cfs.

Hatches/patterns include *Vitreus* [a.k.a. pale evening dun] #14-16, from 5:00 pm to dark, *Isonychia* (#10-12), Tan Caddis (#16-20) good all day, Sulfurs, (*Invaria* #16-18 hatches mid-day, *Dorothea* #18-20) March Brown nymphs (#10), Gray Fox (#14, afternoon), Blue Wing Olives (#16-24, 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 – Fishing was very good last week but slowed some following Thursday's storms and the several subsequent bouts of rain. Flows are again clearing and gradually dropping, currently about 1,200 cfs at Falls Village and 1,740 cfs at Gaylordsville (with some rain forecast for Friday, flows may again increase). Morning water temperatures are in the mid 60's °F.

Hatches/patterns include Alder/Zebra Caddis (#10-12), Sulphurs (#14-18), Blue Wing Olive (#18-20, early morning; spinner fall in evening), *Isonychia* (#10-12 evening, just starting), Cahill (#12-14), Adams (#12-14, evening), March Brown (#10-12) & Gray Foxes (#14-16) and Green caddis (#14-20, early morning & evening).

Anglers are reminded that the thermal refuge areas on the Housatonic, Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers are closed to fishing as of June 15. These areas will reopen on September 1. There is no fishing within 100 feet of the mouths of posted tributaries to these rivers.

Lakes & Ponds – Fair to good trout fishing reported from Candlewood Lake (good action on this year's stockies), East Twin Lake (very good action on 11-15 inch fish), Lake McDonough, Lake Wononskopomuc, Crystal Lake (Ellington), Black Pond (Woodstock), Mount Tom Pond, Mohawk Pond, Mashapaug Lake, Beach Pond and West Hill Pond.

CONNECTICUT RIVER – Flows have increased some but the river continues to clear. Most **STRIPED BASS** have moved back downriver, and although anglers are finding fish in the lower river and mouth, the bite has been slow. **WHITE PERCH** are being caught from Cromwell to Essex. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing remains fair to good. **NORTHERN PIKE** are reported in Wethersfield Cove, White Oaks Cove and downstream from Hartford to Haddam (smaller fish). Anglers from Portland to Haddam Meadow area were having good luck with **CATFISH**.

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.

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.
- ❖ **NEW STATE RECORD COMMON CARP:** A new state record common carp was caught by Nigel Griffin (Milford, CT) on 5/29/2011 in the Haddam area of the Connecticut River. Within a 10 minutes span Nigel caught a 40.25 lb fish and the new state record common carp that weighed in at 41.5 lbs. “The fish were caught in the same spot and even on the very same bait,” the gregarious angler said in a phone interview earlier this week. “I’ve been carp fishing for a long time and it is a lot of fun catching these big fish”. Nigel will give a talk on carp fishing during the upcoming Hunting & Fishing Appreciation Day on Sept. 24, 2011 that is being hosted by DEP at Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area in Burlington, CT. Come and learn about carp fishing from the current state record holder.

Nigel Griffin with over 80 lbs of carp, including a new state record, caught in the CT River in late May.



TIPS & TRICKS - FINDING/ATTRACTING CARP

- ❖ To maximize your chances of catching a carp, you need to find the fish and then attract them. Look for any jumping or rolling fish. Also look for bubbles that appear to be moving slowly along. Often carp will stir up the bottom and give their presence away with rising bubbles or even clouds of silt. To attract them, try chumming. The best starter chum is plain old sweet corn. Tossing by hand, using a sling shot or lashing a throwing scoop to the end of a broom stick will get the chum to the fishing area. Chumming both attracts the fish and creates a competitive feeding frenzy. Carp competing with each other are less cautious and more easily caught.

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 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 is good throughout LIS. Striper spots include the usual locations: The reefs off Watch Hill, 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, the reefs off Guilford and Branford, New Haven Harbor (Sandy Point), Charles Island area to Milford Point, Housatonic River (up to the Derby Dam), Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Penfield Reef, and the rocky reefs around the Norwalk Islands. Fishing techniques include jigging bucktails, live lining eels on three way rigs, fresh cut chunk baits (menhaden or mackerel) on fish finder rigs, and slow trolling the tube and worm.

BLUEFISH fishing is still on the slow side compared to last year. Bluefish spots include the Race, Sandy Point area (Stonington), Thames River, Millstone outflow, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, lower Connecticut River (DEP fishing pier), Long Sand Shoal, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor (Sandy Point), Bridgeport Harbor, and around the Norwalk Islands.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is fair to good at Gardiners Bay, the Peconic Bays, and the north shore of Long Island in NY waters, south side of Fishers Island, lower Thames River, Niantic Bay, Black Point, Westbrook-Clinton area, Falkner Island, off the New Haven breakwaters, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Port Jefferson area (NY) and Norwalk Harbor.

SCUP (porgy) fishing is still slow on the reefs.

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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DEP WEEKLY FISHING REPORT
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