

FISHING REPORT NUMBER 10

6/23/2011



INLAND REPORT

LARGEMOUTH BASS – Bass fishing is generally good with the best reports from Ball Pond, Hatch Pond, Candlewood Lake (catches include a 5.8 lb largemouth), Wononskopomuc Lake, Lake Lillinonah, Lake McDonough (39 fish for one trip), Bashan Lake (35 fish on one trip), Gardner Lake (lots of action, mostly on 1-lb fish, but several 3-4 lb bass were also caught), Eagleville Lake, Upper Moodus reservoir (21 bass for one angler), the Pachaug River, Coventry Lake (good action on smaller bass). Other areas reporting some action include Aspinook Pond, Pachaug Pond, Anderson Pond, Lake Hayward, Highland Lake (anglers do have to work for their fish here), East Twin Lake, Lake Saltonstall, Mudge Pond and Crystal Lake (Ellington). Slow fishing reported from Dooley Pond, Bantam Lake and Pattagansett Lake.

SMALLMOUTH BASS fishing remains variable. Candlewood Lake (good, several 4-5 lb smallies among the catches), Lake Lillinonah (fair), Gardner Lake (some action but generally slow), Lake McDonough (good), Squantz Pond (fair), Rainbow Reservoir (had to work for them) and Coventry Lake (slow).

NORTHERN PIKE action reported from Bantam Lake, Winchester Lake and Pachaug Pond.

KOKANEE SALMON are being caught at East Twin Lake and West Hill Pond (12 for one angler).

WALLEYE are being reported at Lake Saltonstall, Coventry Lake, Squantz Pond (13 fish up to 23 inches in length for one group), Mashapaug Lake and Saugatuck Reservoir.

CHANNEL CATFISH – Nearly 15,000 catfish were stocked in early June by DEP and should provide good action. 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 continue to be variable. Flows are currently moderate and comfortable for fishing and improving weather is predicted for the weekend. However, with some showers, rain and thunderstorms possible for the next several days, flows in some localized areas may be high as the weekend starts. Good reports last week from the West Branch Farmington River, Farmington River, Mount Hope River, Natchaug River, Naugatuck River, Shetucket River, Hammonasset River, Eight Mile River (East Haddam, Lyme) and Quinebaug River.

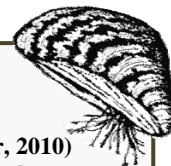
IMPORTANT REMINDER TO ANGLERS AND BOATERS-

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 continues to be good. West Branch flows are clear and quite fishable but on the high side, currently 370 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River adding an additional 175 cfs.

Hatches/patterns: *Isonychia* (#10-12, evening), Blue Wing Olives (#18-20, mid-late afternoon), Sulphur-duns, (#14-48, afternoon to early evening for spinners), Caddis (tan #12-14, all day; green #22-26, evening), Midges (#22-28, morning) and Pale Evening Duns (*Epeorus vitreus* #14-16, afternoon & early evenings) are the patterns for this time of the year.

Housatonic River – Fishing was fair last week as flows were high (again) for the weekend. Both conditions and fishing have improved since the weekend and fishing should be good this weekend. Flows are clear and very comfortable for fishing, currently about 810 cfs at Falls Village and 1,250 cfs at Gaylordsville. Note that as variable showers, rain and thunderstorms remain in the forecast for several more days, there is a chance that flows may again increase (anglers can call First Light at 1-888-417-4837 for updated flow information). Morning water temperatures remain in the mid 60's °F.

Hatches/patterns: Typical insect hatches for this time of year include Alder/Zebra Caddis (#10-12, afternoon-evening near overhangs), Green/Brown Drakes (#8-12), Sulphur (#14-18, evening), Blue Wing Olive (#18-20, early morning; spinner fall in evening), *Isonychia* (#10-12 evening), Light Cahill (#12-14, evening), and Tan & green caddis (#14-20, early morning & evening). Try Midges and stoneflies at tributaries. Streamers (morning & evening) should catch some larger fish. Helgramites and Golden stonefly (#6-14) nymphs generally hatch at first light and adults egg-lay after dark.

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.

Additionally, a thermal refuge has been established on the Salmon River in East Haddam. This new refuge is located around a spring entering the Salmon River approximately 220 feet south of the unused paved boat launch at the state-owned property formerly known as the Sunrise Resort off of Route 151. The refuge includes all water within 100 feet from the end of the pipe as posted. The Salmon River refuge will be closed to fishing and access through September 30.

Lakes & Ponds – Anglers are finding fair to good trout fishing in a number of areas, with reports from Crystal Lake (9 fish, Ellington), Colebrook River Lake (some action on average size browns), West Hill Pond, Lake McDonough (a little tough here), Highland Lake, East Twin Lake, Candlewood Lake (25 fish for one angler), Wononskopomuc Lake (17 fish on one trip), Mashapaug Lake, Coventry Lake and Beach Pond.

CONNECTICUT RIVER – Flows are back at more typical June levels. **STRIPED BASS** are still in the lower river. Although it's a bit tough, fish are being caught (try sand worms & using chunk bait). At the mouth anglers are using plastics & poppers for bigger fish. **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing is good with catches reported from a number of the coves and along the Middletown to Haddam Meadows

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.

Reminder:

CONNECTICUT RIVER BONUS STRIPED BASS PROGRAM ENDS JUNE 30TH.

The last day to use bonus striped bass vouchers is June 30th.

For more information, visit:

www.ct.gov/dep/fishing or call 860-424-3474.

area. **WHITE PERCH** have been reported from Haddam to the mouth. Action has slowed some since last week. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are being caught in the Enfield/Windsor area, with some action also being found below Hartford. **CATFISH** action is good throughout the river, try frozen herring, live lining panfish & cut/chunk bait.

TROPHY FISH AWARDS

Affidavits received this week included a number of notable catches from three western CT lakes:

- **East Twin Lake** – Scott Isabelle (Barkhamsted) caught three trophy-worthy **KOKANEE SALMON** on June 1st. These fish weighed in at **2.05 lbs** (18.13 inches), **2.03 lbs** (18.0 inches) and **2.46 lb** (19.25 inches).
- **Saugatuck Reservoir** – Chris Brown (Stafford) caught a **13.3 lb, 30.5 inch BROWN TROUT** on June 15th, decided to come back again on the 16th and found a **6.07 lb, 23.5 inch WALLEYE**.
- **Wononskopomuc Lake** – Jamie Brignolo (Winsted) caught a **6.82 lb, 24 inch BROWN TROUT** on June 18th.

NOTES & NOTICES:

- ❖ **MOODUS RESERVOIR** (Lower & Upper) is currently drawn down 20 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 now open and in full operation.

TIPS & TRICKS – JIGGING FOR LARGEMOUTH BASS

- Cloudy days – make short casts. Wait only 2 to 3 seconds, give it a couple of shakes & reel back to the boat.
- Cloudy days - black and blue jigs with a blue sapphire trailer.
- Sunny days - make longer pitches. Allow the bait to sink to the bottom then retrieve in an “up & down” pattern.
- Sunny days - green with green pumpkin trailer.
- Sparse cover – use a ½ oz jig, (quiet presentation/slower fall).
- Heavier cover - use 1 to 1 ¼ oz jig, (hard to reach areas).
- Spring and late fall - brown jig with a light orange tint and a crawdad trailer in green pumpkin.

For aggressive bass, target the back side of weed edges and isolated pieces of vegetation swimming the jig just underneath the surface back to the boat using a white/black jig with a white/black blue swimming trailer.

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MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the mid 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 continues to improve with cows measuring 50+ inches in length and weighing over 50 lbs being reported! Keeper bass are even being caught in the middle of the day by anglers fishing diamond jigs in deep water targeting bluefish! Striper spots include the Watch Hill area, the Race, Wilderness point off Fishers Island, Plum Gut, Millstone outflow, Bartlett Reef, Black Point, Pigeon Rip (area north of Plum Island), 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, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Penfield Reef, and the rocky reefs around the Norwalk Islands.

BLUEFISH fishing has slightly improved from over last week. Bluefish can be found mixed in with stripers in the same fishing locations mentioned in the striper report. Bluefish are ranging in size from about 5 to 10 lbs.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is just fair with a lot of "shorts" being reported. Fishing spots worth trying include Gardiners Bay, the Peconic Bays, the beaches on the south side of Fishers Island, north shore of Long Island in NY waters, lower Thames River, Niantic Bay/ Black Point area, Long Sand Shoal, Westbrook and Clinton Harbors, Falkner Island area, off the New Haven breakwaters, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Port Jefferson area (NY) and Norwalk Harbor.

SCUP (porgy) fishing is rated just fair 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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