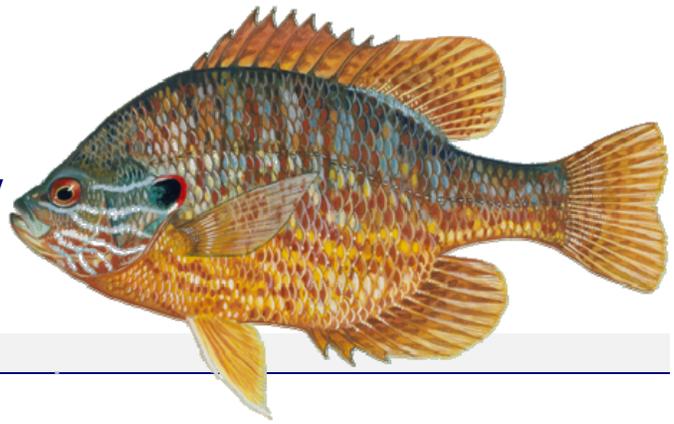


FISHING REPORT NUMBER 17

8/11/2011



INLAND REPORT

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is generally fair to good with the best reports from Candlewood Lake (although summer bass are often found deep here, look for some up at the weed lines), Bashan Lake, Lake Quonnapaug, Lake Saltonstall, Ashland Pond, Morey Pond, Pachaug Pond and Highland Lake and fair reports from Gardner Lake (good action, but all 10-11 inch “cookie-cutters”), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (catches include a 4 lb largemouth), Wauregan Reservoir, Coventry Lake, Wononskopomuc Lake, Lake McDonough, Beach Pond and Lake Lillinonah. It’s been slow at Beseck Lake and Powers Lake.

SMALLMOUTH BASS – Anglers are finding some very good fishing for river smallies in the upper Housatonic River (warm temperatures and very wade-able flows are good smallmouth fishing conditions). Some nice action also reported from the Quinebaug River. Lake and pond fishing is variable, with very good reports for Candlewood Lake smallmouth (lots of 2-4 lb smallies still being found), good reports from Colebrook River Lake, fair reports from Highland Lake, Lake McDonough and Lake Lillinonah, and tough fishing reported from Gardner Lake and Coventry Lake.

WALLEYE – Good reports for walleye from Squantz Pond (nights) and Lake Saltonstall.

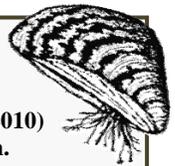
NORTHERN PIKE fishing is generally slow, with the best reports from Quaddick Reservoir and Bantam Lake. Target cooler water.

KOKANEE fishing at both East Twin Lake and West Hill Pond (nights) has slowed for most anglers.

SUNFISH – conditions this summer have been good for sunnie fishing. Local ponds are always a great option for a quick trip or a relaxed afternoon with the family. Larger areas to try include Lake Hayward, Halls Pond, Crystal Lake (Ellington), Silver Lake (Kensington), Black Pond (Meriden), Bashan Lake, Gardner Lake, Bishop Swamp Pond, Mamasasco Lake, Wood Creek Pond, Park Pond and Winchester Lake.

CONNECTICUT RIVER – The summer doldrums are here with fewer anglers out and about and flows that are a bit lower than is typical for early August. The best action is for **CATFISH** with plenty of fish being caught on chunk bait from the deeper holes. Steady action for **HICKORY SHAD** reported from

IMPORTANT NOTICE 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.

REMINDER TO ANGLERS- FISHING IN OR CASTING INTO PERMITTED SWIM AREAS IS PROHIBITED.

State regulations prohibit fishing in or into a swim area that’s been permitted by DEEP. Additionally, vessels cannot be operated within a permitted swim area, and there’s a 100 foot “no-wake” zone around the perimeter. Swim areas that have been permitted by DEEP will be marked by white buoys with orange markings, and there should be a permit number posted on the buoys. They may or may not have small orange barrier floats to further demarcate the area. Should questions arise concerning the validity of the swim area (*no permit numbers or the area appears to have been changed/enlarged or keeps moving*), please contact DEEP’s Boating Division at 860-434-8638.



Wethersfield Cove (Cut into chunks these make effective catfish bait, remember that the daily creel limit for hickory shad is 6 fish). **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing is generally slow, but anglers may find a few by targeting cooler water in deeper holes and at the confluences with tributaries. Some **BLACK CRAPPIE** are being found deep under structures. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** have been spotty, but some are being taken in the coves around both the Hartford/Wethersfield area and the Haddam area. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** fishing is fair with the best reports from the South Windsor/Enfield area (try jigs, worms and black caddis flies). Some fish are also being found in the Middletown area along deeper ledges.

TROUT

Rivers & streams - Recent rains have refreshed streams in many parts of the state, and with cooler nights forecast for the next week, anglers should find improved summer trout fishing conditions this weekend. Mornings and evenings will be the best times, and don't forget to include include terrestrial fly patterns in your arsenal. Good reports last week from the upper West Branch Farmington River and anglers targeting deep pools are finding some action in the West River and the Hammonasset River (flies & shiners).

Farmington River – Trout fishing and conditions continues to be good on the West Branch. Water temperatures are in the upper 50's to low 60's °F (mornings) and flows are clear, moderate and quite fishable, currently 260 cfs at Riverton with the Still River adding another 50 cfs.

Hatches/patterns include Tricos (*Tricorythodes* #22-28, mornings). *Ephemerella needhami* (#22-26, early morning), Leadwing Coachman (*Isonychia bicolor*, #10-12, fast water, afternoon/evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* spp. & *Baetis* spp.; #18-20, evenings), Leadwing Coachman (*Isonychia bicolor*, #10-12, evening), Caddis (tan #14-1, all day; green #22-26, evening; summer pupa #18-20 morning), Midges (#22-28, morning), Black Ants (#14-18, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#16-18, mid day), and Flying Ants (#18-22, mid day). Nymphs include Pheasant Tails, *Isonychia*, and Golden Stonefly.

Housatonic River – Trout fishing has been slow on the Housatonic River as many trout are in the thermal refuges. This week, morning water temperatures have been in the low 70's °F (and rising to near 80 °F during the day). Flows are very comfortable for fishing, currently 360 cfs at Falls Village and 470 cfs at Gaylordsville. Warm temperatures and low flows are stressful to trout, **so it's an excellent time to switch to smallmouth bass (current conditions are good for smallie fishing). Those targeting trout need to take extreme care when handling trout they plan to release!**

Hatches/patterns: The White Fly (*Ephoron leukon*, #12-14, dawn & dusk) has been on but is now passing, other hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive (#18-24, early morning; spinner fall in evening, mainly during overcast days), Light Cahill (#12-14, evening), and Black caddis (#14-20, early morning & evening). Don't forget streamers (morning & evening), patterns to try include White Zonkers, Wooly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). Also try brown crayfish like streamers, they can be effective.

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

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.

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 – Summer trout action is fair at best, with reports from West Hill Pond (nights best), Candlewood Lake (some action, nothing big), Quonnipaug Lake (try at 40 feet), East Twin Lake (tough), Colebrook River Lake and Lake McDonough (tough).

NOTES & NOTICES:

- ❖ **BOAT LAUNCHES - Moodus Reservoir** (Lower & Upper) is currently drawn down 20 inches, making the launching of trailer boats difficult (especially for larger boats).
- ❖ **LAKE ZOAR** - Water ski clinics for the disabled are scheduled for August 27 and September 10 in the upper end of Lake Zoar. These events run from 9 am to 4 pm, and boaters are asked to take care when passing through this area (marked by buoys) of the lake, and avoid interfering with the event.
- ❖ **CONNECTICUT RIVER (Hartford)** – Riverfront Recapture will be holding its annual “*Dragon Boat Races*” on Saturday, August 20 (9 am – 5 pm) and Sunday, August 21 (9 am – 3 pm) on the CT River in Hartford between the Founders Bridge and the Charter Oak Bridge. Boat travel through the course area will be difficult during the race events, use extra caution or avoid the area.
- ❖ **BANTAM LAKE**- The annual Waterski Exhibition will be held this upcoming weekend in North Bay on Friday, August 12 (5 pm to sunset), Saturday, August 13 (1:30 pm – 5 pm) and Sunday, August 14 (1:30 pm – 5 pm). Boaters should use caution in this area.
- ❖ **CANDLEWOOD LAKE** – CLA will be holding its annual “*Dragon Boat Races*” on Saturday, August 20 from 7 am to 5 pm in the upper end of the New Milford arm (Lynn Deming Town Park). This area will be congested with participants and spectators.

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) continue to range from the upper 60's to mid 70'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>

OF NOTE TO MARINE ANGLERS

Big news coming from this past week was the report of a striper taken out of the Westbrook area weighing just shy of 82 lbs! This would be a new world and state record if all submitted catch information is authentic, properly recorded, and officially validated. Stay tuned!

Other fishing news of the week was the report of a sand tiger shark caught out of the Milford area. Sharks such as the sand tiger and the sandbar shark (also known as brown shark) are occasional summer visitors. These sharks have sharp teeth but are not aggressive. More commonly caught by anglers are dogfish sharks such as the spiny and smooth dogfish. Dogfish have tiny teeth, are docile in nature, and harmless to people.

The sand tiger shark, sandbar shark, and smooth dogfish are protected and harvesting these species are prohibited in Connecticut waters. For more information concerning sharks, please go online to the following National Marine Fisheries Service website:
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/Linkpages/regulations.htm>.

STRIPED BASS fishing is pretty good considering all the bluefish that are around are gobbling up fresh cut baits and live menhaden and eels intended for linesiders.

Keeper bass are still being caught during daylight hours but after dark fishing is more successful. Fishing spots include the reefs off Watch Hill, Ram Island Reef in Fishers Island Sound, humps south of Wilderness Point off Fishers Island, the Race, Millstone outflow, Bartlett Reef, Black Point, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip (area north of Plum Island), Hatchett Reef, Long Sand Shoal, Southwest Reef, Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island area, the reefs off Guilford and Branford, New Haven Harbor (Sandy Point), Charles Island area to Milford Point, Buoy 20 off Stratford, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands, and the reefs off Stamford.

**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 (includes Fishers 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.

BLUEFISH fishing is consistent in the Race with bluefish slashing butterfish and herring on the water surface (just look for diving terns). Other fishing spots include the same areas as for stripers. Snapper blue fishing remains good to excellent with fish measuring about 4 to 8 inches in length.

SCUP (porgy) fishing is good to excellent with jumbos 15+ inches being reported.

Overall, **SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke)** fishing remains fair to good although reports of fish weighing in the double digit have been reported over this past week. Live lining snapper blues just off the bottom on fish finder rigs are the ticket for that elusive doormat. Fluke fishing locations include the south shore of Fishers Island (Isabella Beach and off Wilderness Point), Stonington area south of the breakwaters, north shore beaches of Long Island, lower Thames River to the Dumping Grounds, Twotree Island Channel off Waterford, Niantic Bay/ Black Point area, Hatchett Reef area, Long Sand Shoal, Falkner Island area, south off the New Haven breakwaters, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground area and Cable and Anchor Reef.

HICKORY SHAD fishing is hit or miss in the Connecticut River depending if marauding bluefish are around or not.

BLUE CRABBING is slow along the coastline (but good reports for some of the tidal creeks).

For regulation updates and fishing/crabbing information, please check out our web site at: www.ct.gov/deep/fishing or pick up the new 2011 Angler's Guide. The guide contains all current marine fishing regulations and more.

- *For finding shore fishing and crabbing locations*, please refer to the Connecticut Coastal Access Guide which can be found online at www.lisrc.uconn.edu/coastalaccess/index.asp.
- *To find locations where to launch your boat, kayak or canoe*, see the 2011 Connecticut Boater's Guide or go online to www.ct.gov/dep/boating.

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DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report

Pumpkinseed and striped bass images courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS



**Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

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