



## ***MARINE FISHERIES DIVISION***

### ***Marine Fisheries Activities September 2011***

#### ***Fisheries Advisory Council***

#### **Fisheries Monitoring & Research:**

◆ Four sea-sampling trips were taken in Long Island Sound from June through August 2011 (three in the Western basin and one in the Eastern basin). The summer run was reported to be nominal, with virtually no effort in the central basin and minimal fishing in the west.

◆ Plankton sampling for the 2011 larval lobster index began in June in the western Long Island Sound and was completed by the end of August. Catches of lobster larvae dropped off precipitously during the first week of July after only four weeks of catches. The 2011 index is expected to continue the trend of low production seen in the past nine years.



Photo: C Giannini

◆ Staff completed the derelict gear removal component of the FY 2010/2011 Lobster Restoration Program. A total of 18 derelict gear removal trips were taken with 453 derelict traps returned to DEEP Marine Headquarters in Old Lyme. Contact with gear owners continues in an effort to get lobstermen to retrieve their traps.

◆ Staff attended meetings of the New England Fisheries Management Council's Whiting Plan Development Team. The team was tasked with analyzing fishery data to propose Annual Biological Catch limits and management measures to address discards in both the northern and southern stocks of Silver and Red Hake.

◆ Staff has been actively testing recreational saltwater license sale software that will be used by the general public and licensing agents across the state. The software has been reprogrammed to incorporate the elements necessary for the state to maintain its exemption status from the Federal Saltwater Registry.

◆ Staff developed an informational brochure outlining the new requirements for recreational salt water fishing licenses (the need to provide phone number and to answer a question about fishing in saltwater for combination saltwater licenses). These brochures are being delivered to licensing agents throughout CT in an effort to emphasize the importance of accurate and complete license data.



New Requirements for  
Connecticut  
Saltwater Fishing  
Licenses



Make Your Fishing  
Experience Count!



## ***MARINE FISHERIES DIVISION***

### ***Marine Fisheries Activities September 2011***

#### ***Fisheries Advisory Council***

◆ Staff worked with New York DEC biologists and local researchers to put the finishing touches on a new publication: Long Island Sound – A Synthesis of Research. This book will present a rich review of all the information gathered as part of the EPA sponsored Long Island Sound Study, which was initiated in 1985. The text, due out next winter, will also include the area's history of fishing and commerce.

◆ Staff analyzed data from the long-term horseshoe crab tagging program carried out by Marine Fisheries staff along with 12-14 nonprofit groups and led by Sacred Heart University faculty. These primitive animals are a 'keystone species' and their abundance is a indication of near-shore productivity, while their eggs are an important food source for migrating shorebirds. Tag return data collected over the last decade indicates that the smallest sites support 1-2 thousand spawning adults, while intermediate-size beaches fluctuate between 4-12 thousand and the most productive sites tally 10-40 thousand crabs. These data will be further examined for abundance trends and factors affecting the crabs' spawning success.



***Spawning crabs at Penfield Reef***







## ***MARINE FISHERIES DIVISION***

### ***Marine Fisheries Activities September 2011***

#### ***Fisheries Advisory Council***

#### ➤ Marine Recreational Fisheries - Marine Angler Survey:

◆ Marine Fisheries Division staff have **completed 115 assignments for NOAA Fisheries, Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP)**. The table below shows the breakdown of how many interviews were conducted with marine recreational anglers from March through August.

#### **Number of Marine Anglers interviewed, March – August 2011**

Shore	185
Private Boat Owners	436
Charter Boat	107
Headboat/Partyboat	<u>265</u>
<b><i>TOTAL</i></b>	<b><i>993</i></b>



**Greg Myerson's 81.88 pound 54 inch Striped Bass...pending IGFA World Record**



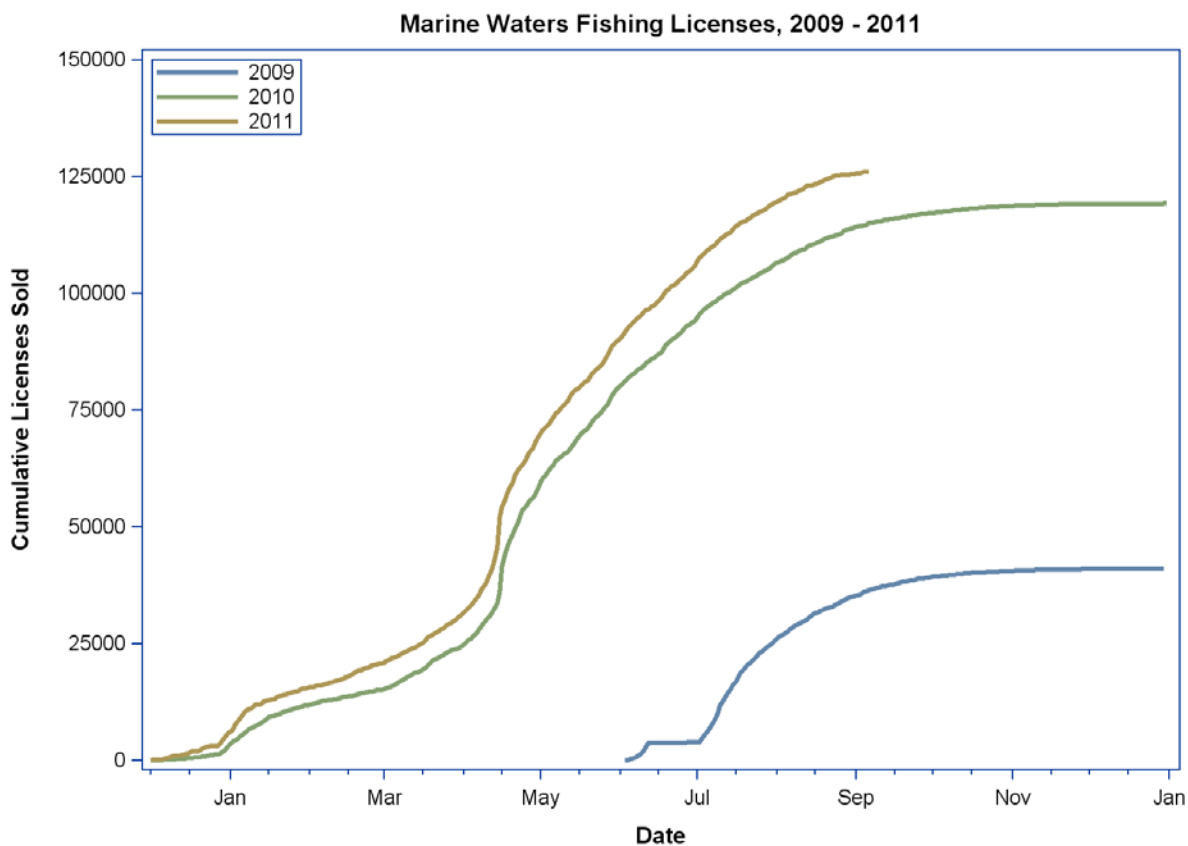
# ***MARINE FISHERIES DIVISION***

## ***Marine Fisheries Activities September 2011***

### ***Fisheries Advisory Council***

#### ➤ **Marine Recreational Fisheries – Marine Fishing Licenses:**

- ◆ **The sale of 2011 marine recreational and combination licenses has continued to outpace the sales of 2010 licenses.**





# **MARINE FISHERIES DIVISION**

## **Marine Fisheries Activities September 2011**

### **Fisheries Advisory Council**

#### **Marine Waters Fishing Licenses, 2009 - 2011**

#### **Licenses by Type, Issued Through September 5 of Each Year**

	Year		
	2009	2010	2011
1296 - Marine Waters Fishing Lic	26,374	27,057	19,346
1297 - Marine Waters Fishing Lic (Non-Res)	2,717	3,819	3,413
1337 - Marine Waters Fishing Lic, Free Annual - Age 65 Plus	6,969	17,168	19,508
1345 - Marine Waters Fishing Lic (1-day)	.	235	305
1346 - All Waters Fishing Lic	.	44,046	54,909
1347 - Marine Waters Fishing Lic / Firearms Hunting Lic	.	122	277
1348 - All Waters Fishing Lic / Firearms Hunting Lic	.	17,190	21,882
1349 - All Waters Fishing Lic / Archery Deer / Small Game Lic	.	1,002	907
1350 - AW Fish Lic / Firearms SS Lic (FA Hunt; S/R PL Deer; PL Sp Trky)	.	3	.
1351 - AW Fish Lic / Archery SS Lic (Arch Deer / Sm Gm; PL Sp Trky)	.	741	631
1352 - Marine Waters Fishing Lic (3-day) (Non-Res)	.	982	869
1353 - All Waters Fishing Lic (Non-Res)	.	959	1,137
1354 - All Waters Fishing Lic / Firearms Hunting Lic (Non-Res)	.	82	118
1355 - Marine Waters Fishing Lic / Firearms Hunting Lic (Non-Res)	.	14	14
1475 - AW Fish Lic / Firearms SS Lic (FA Hunt; S/R/Mz PL Deer; PL Sp Trky)	.	470	1,823
10195 - Marine Waters Fishing Lic, Free Annual - Code 9 (Intellect Disabled)	52	265	302
10196 - Marine Waters Fishing Lic, Free Annual - Code 5 (Blind)	67	88	91
10197 - Marine Waters Fishing Lic, Free Annual - Type 17 (Handicapped)	124	506	500
Total	36,303	114,749	126,032







# ***MARINE FISHERIES DIVISION***

## ***Marine Fisheries Activities September 2011***

### ***Fisheries Advisory Council***



#### ***Marine Commercial Fisheries Information and News:***

#### ***2010 Connecticut Top 10 Species\* by Value***

<b><i>Species</i></b>	<b><i>Pounds Landed</i></b>	<b><i>Dockside Value</i></b>
SEA SCALLOP	1,259,808	\$9,458,061
LOBSTER	387,334	\$1,734,730
SILVER HAKE (Whiting)	1,968,470	\$1,330,916
SUMMER FLOUNDER	307,038	\$846,925
GOOSEFISH (Monkfish)	236,565	\$478,347
SQUID, LONG FINNED	365,464	\$472,644
SCUP	322,783	\$270,437
SKATES	617,463	\$105,706
BLACK SEA BASS	20,827	\$80,624
RED HAKE	174,878	\$75,348



## ***MARINE FISHERIES DIVISION***

### ***Marine Fisheries Activities September 2011***

#### ***Fisheries Advisory Council***

#### **▶ Notices to Fishermen:**

9/1/2011 **[Notice to Lobster Pot Fishermen](#)**

*Posted are maps showing the locations of CT DEEP monthly trawl survey sites to be sampled during September and October 2011 from the R/V John Dempsey.*

8/24/2011 **[Notice to Commercial Fishermen](#)**

*Effective 0001 hours, Thursday, September 1, 2011, the commercial spiny dogfish fishery for the northern states is closed. (N11-12)*

8/3/2011 **[Notice to Commercial Summer Flounder Fishermen](#)**

*Effective 0001 hours, Thursday, August 4, 2011, the possession limit for the commercial harvest of summer flounder is increased to 300 pounds. (N11-11)*

#### **▶ Public Outreach:**

◆ Staff prepared posters and Power Point presentations for the “Commissioner in your Corner” event at the Marine Headquarters and Fort Trumbull on September 12th.

◆ Staff began work on the 2012 CT Angler's and Hunting Guide. The 2012 Hunting Guide will be available the first week of December 2011. The 2012 Angler's Guide will be available in early April.

◆ Staff began preparing for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual [Fishing and Hunting Appreciation Day](#) on September 24th at Session Woods, Wildlife Office in Burlington CT (Rte. 69).

