

# FISHING REPORT NUMBER 27

## 10/20/2011



### INLAND REPORT

---

#### 2011 FALL BROODSTOCK ATLANTIC SALMON STOCKING BEGINS

- **DEP began its annual stockings of surplus broodstock Atlantic salmon this week** by releasing 150 salmon into the Shetucket River, 50 salmon into Crystal Lake (Ellington), 100 salmon into Mount Tom Pond (Morris-Litchfield-Washington) and 100 salmon into the Naugatuck River. These 400 fish range in size from 3 to 18 pounds each. In November, DEP expects to have approximately 500 more salmon available from its Kensington Hatchery following spawning.
- **Regulations for broodstock in Crystal Lake and Mount Tom Pond** - In each lake, the regulations for methods, seasons and minimum lengths for salmon will be the same as for trout in that specific water body but the daily creel limit will be one salmon per day. (*Please refer to the 2011 CT Angler's Guide for trout regulations*).
- **Regulations for broodstock on the Shetucket and Naugatuck Rivers** - In the rivers, angling for Atlantic salmon is restricted to **CATCH-AND-RELEASE ONLY** through November 30. From December 1, 2011, through March 31, 2012, the daily creel limit for Atlantic salmon will be one. During the open season in the rivers, the legal method for taking Atlantic salmon is limited to angling using a single fly, or an artificial lure with a single free swinging hook and no additional weight can be added to the line above the fly or lure.
- On the **Shetucket River**, anglers can fish for salmon downstream from the Scotland Dam (Windham) to the Water Street Bridge in Norwich (the first bridge upstream of Norwich Harbor). The salmon are stocked into one designated Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Area, from the Scotland Dam to the Occum Dam.
- Anglers are allowed to fish for salmon in the **Naugatuck River** from the confluence of the East and West Branches (Torrington) downstream to the Housatonic River (Derby). Anglers may also fish for Atlantic salmon in the Housatonic River downstream of Derby Dam. The salmon are typically stocked into two designated Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas on the Naugatuck River, the "Campville Section" of the upper Naugatuck River from Route 118 downstream to the Thomaston Flood Control Dam (Litchfield-Thomaston) and the "Beacon Falls Section" of the lower Naugatuck, from Prospect Street (Naugatuck) downstream to Pines Bridge Road (Route 42 bridge, Beacon Falls). **Note that the "Campville Section" of the upper Naugatuck River was not stocked this week as most of this river stretch is within the Thomaston Dam Recreation Area that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has closed due to storm damage.**
- From October 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>, fishing for other species in the designated Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas is restricted to the gear legal for Atlantic salmon.

#### TROUT

**Fall Trout Stocking Update** –DEEP completed its 2011 fall trout stockings last week. A total of 32,800 adult trout (17,800 brown trout and 15,000 rainbow trout) were stocked from early September through last week. The brown trout were all 12 inch and larger fish and the rainbow trout were all standard size (9-10 inch fish). A total of 30,000 "yearling" (6-9 inch fish) were also stocked out this fall.

**Rivers & streams** – Conditions for fishing will again be variable this weekend. Good fall fishing weather is forecast and flows are again dropping following Wednesday's rain. However, flows in some areas may still be running uncomfortably high to begin the weekend. Anglers can find real time stream flow data for a number of rivers and streams in CT on the USGS website at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/current/?type=flow>.

Streamer fishing has been productive. Try white, yellow & brown colors, patterns include White Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). Nymphs to bottom-bounce include Caddis pupa (#14-16), Serendipity (#14-16), Pheasant Tail (#12-20), Prince (#6-18), Golden Stoneflies (#8) and Hare's ear (#8-20).

**Farmington River** – West Branch flows are currently too high (950 cfs at Riverton) for many anglers to fish comfortably and effectively as Colebrook River Lake levels continue to be lowered. The Still River is currently adding another 345 cfs. Anglers should check the USGS website listed above for flows this weekend. Water temperatures are in the upper 50's to low 60's°F.

Hatches/patterns include *Isonychia* (#12-14, parachute style), Blue Wing Olives (#18-28, mid-late afternoon), Ants (#16-24 on rainy days), Caddis (tan #14-20, all day; brown #16-18), Midges (#20-32, morning) and Rusty Spinner (#20-26, morning).

**Housatonic River** – Trout fishing should be good this weekend. Flows remain on the high side, but still very fishable (1,350 at Falls Village and 2,230 cfs at Gaylordsville) and morning water temperatures are in the mid to upper 50's°F.

Hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive (#18-24, early morning; spinner fall in evening), *Isonychia* (#10-12 evening), Midges (#20-26) and Black caddis (#14-20, early morning & evening), Flying Ants (#14-18) and Light Cahill CDC (#12-14).

**Lakes & Ponds** – Anglers are finding variable fishing success (trolling's been tough, look inshore/shallow) as trout settle into their fall patterns, with reports from East Twin Lake, Crystal Lake (Ellington; fish the edges in 2-3 feet of water), Highland Lake (fish the edges) and Beach Pond (near the beach & north point).

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing remains fair to slow, with the better reports from Candlewood Lake (catches include a 6.9 lb largemouth), Moodus Reservoir, Congamond Lakes, Mamasasco Lake, Lake Waramaug, Pequonnock River, Rogers Lake, Billings Lake (catches include a 5.4 lb largemouth), Aspinook Pond and Gardner Lake, and the slow reports from Bantam Lake, Highland Lake, Silver Lake, Pattagansett Lake. Other areas reporting some action include Scoville Reservoir, Red Cedar Lake and West Hill Pond.

**SMALLMOUTH BASS** fishing picked up at Candlewood Lake, with some action also reported from Rainbow Reservoir, Highland Lake, Aspinook Pond/Quinebaug River and West Hill Pond.

**NORTHERN PIKE** – with the cooler temperatures, pike fishing should be turning on. Places to try include Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Quaddick Lake, Bantam Lake (near the river), Pachaug Pond, Hopeville Pond and Winchester Lake.

**CONNECTICUT RIVER** – The river has dropped since the weekend, but remains on the high side. **BLACK CRAPPIE** action was good last week in Wethersfield Cove. Anglers will find action in the river's coves while using small shiners. **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing was reported as good last week. The best fishing can be found in the coves. The upper river recently yielded a 29 pound plus **CARP**. **CHANNEL CATFISH** are still providing anglers with some good action. Try the Hartford/Wethersfield area and the Middletown/Portland area. Good reports also from the Chester area. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** are providing some nice action in the coves just Below Hartford.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER  
TO ANGLERS AND BOATERS-**

Zebra mussels were recently (October, 2010) found in Lake Zoar and Lake Lillinonah. **Adult mussels have now also been found in the Housatonic River in Massachusetts and free-floating juveniles (veligers) have been found at a number of sites in the river downstream to Lake Lillinonah.**

Prior to these 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](http://www.ct.gov/dep/invasivespecies).



## NOTES & NOTICES:

- ❖ In eastern CT, “Winter” drawdowns of **Bashan Lake, Beseck Lake, Gardner Lake, Lower Bolton Lake, Middle Bolton Lake, Pickerel Lake, Hopeville Pond, Ashland Pond, Billings Lake** and **Mashapaug Lake** have begun or will begin soon.
- ❖ **MASHAPAUG LAKE**- The main access road to Mashapaug Lake is closed for replacement of a major culvert. The park access road will remain open up to the Bigelow Pond Boat Launch, allowing continued access to Bigelow Pond.
- ❖ **BATTERSON PARK POND** is currently drawn down several feet to facilitate dam maintenance. Launching of trailered boats will be very difficult.
- ❖ **LAKE ZOAR** is currently drawn down with refilling scheduled to begin October 23<sup>th</sup>. The **drawdown schedule for LAKE LILLINONAH has been changed** and it is now scheduled to be drawn down beginning November 5<sup>th</sup> and ending November 13<sup>th</sup>. During these drawdowns, launching of trailer boats will be difficult to impossible at the state boat launches.
- ❖ The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has closed the **THOMASTON DAM RECREATION AREA** until further notice due to ongoing clean up operations resulting from storm Irene. This area is currently expected to be closed for the remainder of the 2011 season. **This area includes most of the Naugatuck River Trout Management Area.**

---

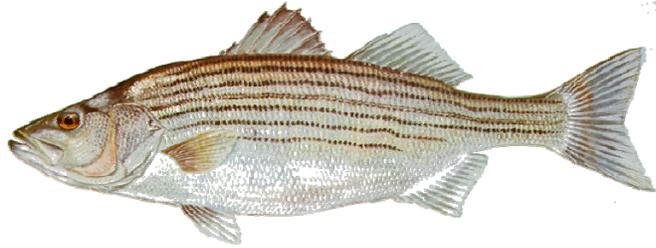
## Tips & Tricks: AUTUMN ATLANTIC SALMON

- ❖ **Trolling for Salmon** - Trolling is one of the most effective ways to fish for salmon and remains one of the top techniques because of water coverage. Try using your favorite trout lures in a larger size and increase your trolling speed. You will see fish in the air if you hook up.
- ❖ **Drift fishing** has been one of the most successful techniques for salmon fishing. Drifting a water craft while fishing for salmon can be a very relaxing method of getting out on a cool fall day.
- ❖ **Jigging For Salmon** - Jigging for salmon in freshwater systems is becoming very popular among anglers seeking the ever illusive salmon in freshwater rivers. Remember to use a free-swinging setup such as a swivel with a micro-jig on it. Pink is your go-to color. Cast upstream with a noodle rod or other light rod held high and follow the current with your rod. Maribou jigs work great.
- ❖ **Flyfishing** - Catching a trout on a fly rod is one thing, but when you multiply what's on the other end by 10 or more it is easy to see the appeal of it. Try flashy flies, streamers or weighted nymphs.
- ❖ **Centerpin** – Centerpin fishing involves a special reel which is designed to ‘free wheel’ easily. This will cause the least amount of drag on the water and lure when fishing for high strung salmon & helps reduce scaring the fish.
- ❖ **Bottom bouncing for salmon** has really come a long way in the world of salmon anglers and is a very productive way to fish. Try casting a weighted nymph up and across stream. Let it bounce on the bottom and repeatedly raise and lower it as the current takes it downstream.

---

*The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and service provider. In conformance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, DEEP makes every effort to provide equally effective services for persons with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities who need this information in an alternative format, to allow them to benefit and/or participate in the agency's programs and services, should call 860-424-3035 or e-mail the ADA Coordinator at [DEP.aoffice@CT.Gov](mailto:DEP.aoffice@CT.Gov). Persons who are hearing impaired should call the State of Connecticut relay number 711.*

## MARINE FISHING REPORT



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

[http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat\\_data/?nothumbs=1](http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1)  
<http://www.wunderground.com/MAR/AN/330.html>

**BLUEFISH** fishing is good to excellent as long as the weather cooperates. This is about near peak for slammer blues! Chopper spots include the Race, Sluiceway, Plum Gut, the reefs off Watch Hill, Ram Island Reef in Fishers Island Sound, Millstone outflow, Bartlett Reef, Black Point, 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.

**STRIPED BASS** fishing continues to improve on the local reefs and tidal rips as water temperatures cool off and bluefish migrate off to more southern and offshore waters. Live lining eels, hickory shad, bunker (Atlantic menhaden) or scup is still the most effective fishing method for landing that "Slob" bass. Don't forget about using circle hooks when using live baits and cut chunk baits. Circle hooks reduce "gut hooking" and most of the time the hook lodges just in the corner of the fish's mouth for an easy release.

**SCUP** fishing is also near peak so with weather permitting the time to go is now! Squid, sand worms, conch and small crabs are the baits of choice! Any bottom structure or rock pile will attract these gamesters.

**TAUTOG** fishing season is in full swing on the local reefs. Green crabs, hermit crabs, and Asian shore crabs are preferred baits. Position is the key for being successful for catching these bullies.

### **Regulations reminders:**

**SCUP** - The scup fishing season has been extended through to the end of the year. The daily creel and length limit remains the same (10 fish per angler and 10 ½ inches). Note that the party/charter boat creel limit is now 10 fish per day (the length limit remains unchanged at 11 inches).

**BLACK SEA BASS** – The black sea bass season is now closed (will re-open November 1<sup>st</sup>).

### **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.*

