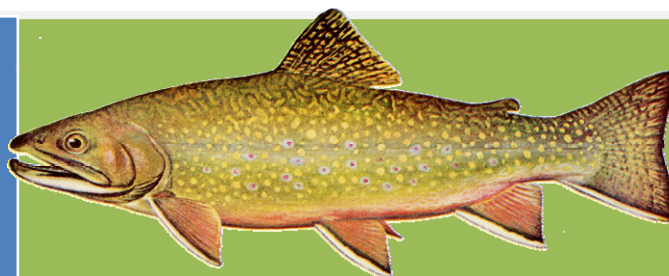


CT DEEP **2013**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 1
4/24/2013



YOU CAN FIND US DIRECTLY ON FACEBOOK. This page features a variety of information on fishing, hunting, and wildlife watching in Connecticut. The address is www.facebook.com/CTFishandWildlife.

INLAND REPORT

TROUT

Opening Day -Early rains and cool weather contributed to a slow start for Opening Day. Catches of some large trout over 6 pounds jumped started the season for a number of anglers. Eight of the eleven Trout Parks were stocked on Opening Day and the many kids present enjoyed helping us stock. Over 380,000 trout were stocked throughout the state before Opening Day and DEEP's in-season stocking is now underway with over 245,000 additional trout scheduled to be stocked between Opening Day and the end of May.

Rivers & streams - Conditions should be good for trout fishing this weekend. Flows are very fishable, although generally lower than typical spring levels, comfortable weather is forecast, and there are plenty of recently stocked trout waiting for anglers.

Opening Day fishing was generally fair to slow. A number of nice fish including many over 20 inches came to net on the weekend. The big fish of the week was a 26" Rainbow Trout which weighed in at 10.6 lbs. Reports from the West Branch Farmington & Farmington rivers (fair to good, 6.2 lb rainbow), Saugatuck River, Housatonic River (slow), Roaring Brook, Blackberry River, Pomperaug River, Salmon River (6 lb rainbow), East Aspetuck River, Mill River (Fairfield), East Branch Salmon Brook (a few 5 fish limits with many other anglers working for one or two fish), Natchaug River (catches included a 5 lb rainbow), Wepawaug River, Pequonnock River, Quinnipiac River, Naugatuck River, Sandy Brook, Hockanum River, Crystal Lake Brook, Pootatuck River, Scantic River, Mianus River, Yantic River, Shetucket River, Hammonasset River, Eightmile (Haddam/Lyme) River, Moosup River, Willimantic River TMA, Furnace Brook and Latimer Brook.

Housatonic River – Trout action has been fair. Conditions for fishing should be good. Morning water temperatures are in the upper 40's°F. Flows are clear and fishable (moderate to a bit high, but lower than typical late April levels), currently 1,210 cfs at Falls Village and 1,720 cfs at Gaylordsville. Morning water temperatures are in the upper 40's°F and should warm a bit this weekend.

Hatches/patterns: Green/Olive Caddis, Hendrickson (starting) Brown Stone flies, Blue Wing Olive (#16-18), Hendrickson (#12-14), Parachute Adams (#14-26), Midges (#20-28) and black/brown stoneflies (#12-16) are the current hatches. With increasing temperatures more bugs will start to show up.

SHARE THE EXPERIENCE
Take someone fishing

FIND TROUT STOCKING MAPS ON OUR WEBSITE

Maps of all of the state's trout streams and rivers showing the many stocking and access points are available online at www.ct.gov/deep/troutstockingmaps



Farmington River – Trout fishing has been good and conditions should be very good for the upcoming weekend and next week. West Branch flows are clear and quite fishable, currently 191 cfs at Riverton plus an additional 120 cfs from the Still River. Water temperatures are around 50 °F. The West Branch (the year-round C&R area) was stocked this week and the Farmington in the Unionville-Tariffville stretch was stocked late last week.

Hatches/patterns include Hendricksons, Blue Winged Olive, Mides, Early Stone flies & Quill Gordons. Successful fly anglers are using Hendrickson (#12-14), Gray Stoneflies (#16-18), Blue Wing Olive (#16-18), Blue Quill Duns (#16-18), Winter Caddis (#18-22), Midges (#22-32) and a variety of nymphs. Hare's Ear (#14-16), Woolly Buggers and Streamers (#2-12) are also producing. Try working nymphs on the bottom Euro style. Surface activity will increase with rising temperatures.

Rivers and streams stocking update (Note that all stocking schedules are subject to change): This week in **eastern CT**, the Eight Mile River, East Branch Eight Mile River, Mount Hope River, Farm River (lower & upper), Branford River, West River, Jeremy River, Raymond Brook, Susquetonscut Brook, Beaver Brook, Little River (Canterbury), Hammonasset River (including the TMA), Willimantic River (below the TMA), Salmon River (including the TMA), Natchaug River, Shetucket River, and Fenton River are all scheduled for stocking.

In western CT, the West Branch Farmington River (West Branch TMA – C&R year round area), Shepaug River, East Aspetuck River, Mianus River (including the TMA), Mill River (Fairfield, including the TMA), Wepawaug River, Saugatuck River (upper river and in the TMA), West Branch Saugatuck River, Bantam River (inlet, outlet and fly fishing only areas), Butternut Brook and Mill River (Hamden, including the TMA) are scheduled to be stocked this week.

Lakes & Ponds – good fishing and some really nice fish were found in a number of lakes/ponds throughout Connecticut. Areas to try include Highland Lake, Lake Wononskopomuc, Lake McDonough, Colebrook Reservoir, Mount Tom Pond, Christensen's Pond (fair action, improving as the day warmed), Cedar Lake, Tyler Lake (8.2 lb fish among the catches), Keeney Park Pond, West Hill Pond, Black Pond, East Twin Lake, Lake Quonnipaug, Crystal Lake (Ellington), Long Pond, Beach Pond, Bigelow Pond, Coventry Lake and Mohawk Pond.

Lakes and ponds stocking update (Note that all stocking schedules are subject to change): This week in **eastern CT**, Gardner Lake, Horse Pond, Lake Saltonstall, Branford Supply Pond, Black Pond (Woodstock), Hanover Reservoir and the Mansfield Training Ponds are scheduled to be stocked.

In western CT, Highland Lake, Mohawk Pond, Tyler Pond, Mohegan Lake, West Hill Pond, Mt. Tom Pond, Black Rock Lake, West Side Pond and Lake Wintergreen are scheduled to be stocked.

Trout Parks – Fishing ranged from fair to excellent at the Trout Parks. All except Kent Falls (park closed for renovations) were stocked before Opening Day and eight of them, Chatfield Hollow (good action), Mohegan

FARMINGTON RIVER DIDYMO REMINDER

The highly invasive freshwater alga, *Didymosphenia geminata*, known as "didymo" or "rock snot", has been found in the West Branch Farmington River (Riverton area). First observed here in 2011, this remains is the only report of didymo in Connecticut.

Didymo is typically found in cold, shallow streams with rocky substrate. The microscopic didymo cell produces a stalk to attach to the substrate. Under ideal conditions, blooms of didymo can form thick mats of stalk material that feel like wet wool and are typically gray, white and/or brown, but never green in color. These mats form on the bottoms of rivers and streams, 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/deep/invasivespecies.

Park Pond, Valley Falls Park Pond (excellent fishing throughout the weekend), Black Rock Pond (fair, but include one of the broodstock Seeforellen strain brown trout, a nice 6 lb plus fish), Wolfe Park-Great Hollow Pond (fair action), Southford Falls (fair), Stratton Brook (very good action here) and Wharton Brook (fair) were stocked again on Opening Day. The Day Pond, Chatfield Hollow and Natchaug River Trout Parks are scheduled to be stocked this week.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing has picked up over the last week with good April action in a number of areas. Targeting dark bottom warmer back water coves can be very productive. Areas to try include Lake Saltonstall, Ball Pond, Batterson Park Pond, Hopeville Pond, Twin Brooks Park, Batterson Park Pond, Lower Bolton Lake, Lake Zoar, Hanover Pond, Stump Pond, Bantam Lake, Highland Lake, Silver Lake, Beseck Lake, Lake Wononskopomuc (large jigs), Congamond Lakes, Lake Lillinonah, Squantz Pond and Lake McDonough. **Tournament angler** reports are from Pachaug Pond (fair-good, with a 4.9 lb lunker), Gardner Lake (good, lots of fish), Amos Lake (fair, with a 4.3 lb lunker), Quaddick Lake (fair, lots of undersized bass in the way), Lake Lillinonah (hard to find bites) and Lake Zoar (slow).

SMALLMOUTH BASS are beginning to fish well with some 4 lb fish found. Areas to try include Candlewood Lake, Squantz Pond, Colebrook Reservoir and Highland Lake. **Tournament angler** reports are from Lake Lillinonah (variable- tough to good, catches include 4.9 lb and 4.7 lb lunkers), Lake Zoar (slow, but catches include a 3 lb bass) and Gardner Lake (hard to find).

NORTHERN PIKE fishing is slow. Areas to try include Pachaug Pond, Quaddick Lake, Winchester Lake and Bantam Lake.

WALLEYE are being caught at Batterson Park Pond. Target near shore rocky cobble areas with stick baits and live bait.

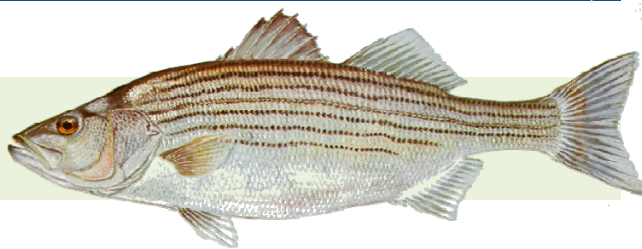
CONNECTICUT RIVER – The river is just beginning to warm, flows are fishable and currently lower than is typical for late April. **STRIPED BASS** are moving up the river to Middletown. Schoolie size (14-24 inch) fish are showing up with few keepers showing up in lower river. Anglers are catching schoolies on a variety of plastic baits on jigs. **SHAD** are just starting to move into the lower river with some bucks being caught in the Farmington River area. The Holyoke (MA) fishway has passed only 10 fish as of 4/24/2013 but the warmer weather forecast for next week should get things going. **NORTHERN PIKE** are being caught in the Coves, and in the Middletown and Haddam Meadows areas. Two pike in the mid 30" size were reported in Wethersfield Cove. **CARP** are being caught on homemade bait with several fish in the low to mid 20 lb range. The big fish for the season so far weighed in at 29 lbs. Try the coves south of Hartford for some action.

NOTES & NOTICES:

Kent Falls State Park is currently closed due to ongoing renovations. The Trout Park at Kent Falls has not yet been stocked this year due to this closure. DEEP plans to stock once the state park reopens. Currently, the state park is expected to reopen on May 10th.

Bantam Lake - The state boat launch on Bantam Lake will be closed from Monday, 4/29, through Friday, 5/3, to allow safe deployment of the marina docks. Note that demolition of the Beverly's building is now also scheduled to begin next week and there is a possibility that the closure will be extended another week.

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the mid to high 40's °F. October can be a really windy month so 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://www.wunderground.com/MAR/AN/330.html>

STRIPED BASS fishing for schoolies is good in most of the tidal rivers. Fishing spots include the lower Pawcatuck River, Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier) and by Great Island (Wood Lot) and the Housatonic River.

TAUTOG fishing season has really just started especially with water temperatures in the 40's °F. The New Haven breakwaters have been the best area to fish. Shore anglers should try DEEP's coastal state parks for white chins.

WINTER FLOUNDER fishing is fair at best. Bluff Point has been yielding a few fish for both boat and shore anglers.

For Current Connecticut Recreational Fishing Regulations: Anglers should consult the 2012 Connecticut Anglers Guide which is now available at most Town Clerks Offices, DEEP offices and at tackle stores selling fishing licenses. Current regulations, electronic versions of the Angler's Guide and additional information can all be accessed on the DEEP website at: www.ct.gov/deep/fishing.

2013 BONUS STRIPED BASS PROGRAM

- In 2013 DEEP is issuing free vouchers to anglers fishing Connecticut waters (both Inland and Marine) to take 4,025 striped bass in a size range (at least 22 inches in length but shorter than 28 inches) below the current recreational minimum length for stripers in CT.
- Each voucher allows the angler to keep one "bonus" striper and can be used anywhere on Connecticut waters. The vouchers are valid through June 30, 2012.
- Vouchers can be obtained in person at the a number of DEEP Offices (all that sell licenses, plus several coastal state parks and Dinosaur SP - *for a complete list, see link below*), from DEEP Environmental Conservation (EnCon) Police Officers, and from Riverfront Recapture Rangers.
- Anglers can obtain one voucher per day and use a maximum of two vouchers per day to keep "bonus" fish.
- Use of these vouchers does not affect an angler's ability to keep their regular daily limit of striped bass. Each angler participating in the program can also keep up to two striped bass a day, 28 inches or larger in total length.

For more information, visit: [Bonus Striper Vouchers](#) or call: 860-424-3474 or 860-434-6043..

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DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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Striped bass image courtesy
Duane Raver/USFWS.