

CT DEEP **2013**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 5
5/23/2013



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INLAND REPORT

TROUT

Rivers & streams - Recent rains have put flows at or above typical late May levels (see box on page 4). As more rain is in the forecast, anglers should expect flows to increase further (remember, smaller tributaries and streams generally are the first to recede). Flies,

shiners worms and corn/mealworm combinations are all providing success. Trout fishing has been good, with reports from West Branch Farmington River, Farmington river, Housatonic River, Saugatuck River, Bantam River, Pootatuck River, East Aspetuck River, Blackberry River, Crystal Lake Brook, Deep Brook, Pequonnock River, Willimantic River, Natchaug River, Hammonasset River, Shetucket River, Norwalk River, Naugatuck River, Eightmile River (Haddam), Furnace Brook, Latimer Brook, Merrick Brook, Pequabuck River, Roaring Brook (Stafford), Tankerhoosen River, Salmon River, Mt. Hope River, Quinnebaug River and Branford River.

Trout fishing has generally been good and anglers are catching many of the brood stock trout stocked earlier this spring. Anglers have been finding success using shiners (one angler caught and released 12 trout with this technique). Good reports last week from the Saugatuck River, Norwalk River (2 dozen caught & released for one happy angler), Pomperaug River, Natchaug River, Naugatuck River, Bantam River, Salmon River, Housatonic River, West Branch Farmington River, Farmington River, Willimantic River, Norwalk River, Blackberry River, East Aspetuck River, Hammonasset River, Tankerhoosen River, Yantic River, Quinebaug River and Eightmile River (Lyme).

Housatonic River – This river has also quickly jumped from relatively low, very fishable levels to uncomfortably high levels, currently 1,850 cfs at Falls Village and 2,470 cfs at Gaylordsville. As more rain is in the forecast but may be spotty in distribution, anglers should call FirstLight Power at 1-888-417-4837 or check the USGS website

SHARE THE EXPERIENCE
Take someone fishing

***Come take a tour of the Rainbow Fishway-
See migrating fish in the underground
viewing window.***

Plan now –DEEP's annual OPEN HOUSE AT THE RAINBOW FISHWAY is Saturday, June 1, from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm. The public is invited to visit the fishway and learn about both it and the fish it passes. During this day, the public can tour the facility and are encouraged to go downstairs and check out the underground viewing window. Shad and lamprey may be seen passing upstream, and Atlantic salmon are sometimes captured for breeding. Staff will be on hand to answer questions. This is a **GREAT ACTIVITY FOR FAMILIES**, and there is no fee. *Directions can be found at the end of the Inland Report section.*

(<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/current/?type=flow>) for updated Housatonic River flow information. Morning temperatures are currently in the mid/upper 50's°F.

Current hatches include Green Caddis (started this week, mornings & evenings), Brown/Tan Caddis (#14-18), Sulphurs and Cahills (the latter two just starting to show up). Successful flies include March Browns (#10-12, 4pm to dark), Gray Foxes (#12-14), Green caddis (#14-18, early morning and evening), Sulphurs (#16), Blue Wing Olives (#18-20). Midges (#22-26) are being seen at the mouths of tributaries. Golden Stoneflies (#6) were being hit hard early this week.

Farmington River – Trout fishing has been very good. Flows have however risen quickly and are now on the high side, currently 378 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River adding another 450 cfs. Water temperatures have been in the mid 50's°F.

Current hatches include Blue Winged Olive (#16-22), Blue Quills (#16-18) [a.k.a. paralep], Tan Caddis (#16-18; starting) and March Browns (#12-14, ramping up and are on the water around 5pm). Anglers can expect fishing to be challenging as hatches are shifting. Blue Wing Olives (#18-20, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #14-18, all day) and Midges (#22-28) are the current patterns working. Hendricksons (#12-14, 4-6pm., above Riverton) are winding down.

Rivers and streams stocking update (Note that all stocking schedules are subject to change): This week in **eastern CT**, the Shetucket River, Yantic River (including the TMA), Willimantic River, Furnace Brook, Middle River, Roaring Brook (Stafford), Blackledge River (lower), Roaring Brook (Glastonbury), Farm River (upper & lower sections), Branford River, West River, Blackwells Brook, Mashamoquet Brook, Moosup River, Latimer Brook, Eight Mile River, Mount Hope River, Fenton River, Shunock Brook, Indiantown Brook, Hunts Brook, Coginchaug River, Natchaug River, Bigelow Brook, Still River (Eastford), Five Mile River (downstream of Quaddick Lake, in Thompson, Putnam, Killingly), French River and Jeremy River are all scheduled for stocking.

In western CT, the West Branch Farmington River (Goodwin Dam to upper boundary of the year-round catch-and-release area), Farmington River (lower boundary of the year-round catch-and-release area/Route 219 to Lower Collinsville) and Farmington River (lower Collinsville to Route 4 in Farmington) are scheduled to be stocked this week.

Lakes & Ponds – Connecticut's lakes and ponds are generally fishing well, with reports from Beach Pond, Lake McDonough, Highland Lake, West Hill Pond, East Twin Lake, Mashapaug Lake, Crystal Lake, Ball Pond, Lake Wononskopomuc, Coventry Lake, Mt. Tom Pond, Amos Lake, Black Pond (Woodstock), Rogers Lake, Lake Saltonstall, Mohawk Pond, Long Pond, Beach Pond, Lake Waramaug, Bigelow Pond and Lake Hayward.

FARMINGTON RIVER DIDYMO REMINDER

The highly invasive freshwater alga, *Didymosphenia geminata*, known as "didymo" or "rock snot", is currently "blooming" (undergoing rapid growth) in the West Branch Farmington River between Route 20 and the confluence with the Still River (Riverton area). Monthly surveys have been ongoing since the first documentation of didymo in March of 2011. Since that time, many other algae been observed blooming at different times of the year throughout the river, but expansion of didymo has not been noted.

Anyone recreating in the river and who comes in contact with didymo can potentially transport didymo to other waters. The microscopic cells can easily 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.

We would like to hear from you if you suspect you have found didymo outside of the Riverton area. Please remember that 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. Please contact the Inland Fisheries Division at 860-424-Fish or email a photo and location of the observation to deep.inland.fisheries@ct.gov. If you would like to participate in a citizen monitoring program for didymo observations please see detail on www.threerivers.edu/didymo.

Lakes and ponds stocking update (Note that all stocking schedules are subject to change): This week in **eastern CT**, Black Pond (Woodstock), Gay City Park Pond, Angus Park Pond, Lake Saltonstall, Quonnipaug Lake, Dodge Pond, Uncas Lake, Bashan Lake, Green Falls Reservoir, Black Pond (Middlefield), Millers Pond, Bigelow Pond and Mashapaug Lake are scheduled to be stocked. In **western CT**, Highland Lake was stocked this week.

Trout Parks – Fishing remains good at most Trout Parks. The Day Pond, Mohegan Park Pond, Natchaug River and Valley Falls Park Pond Trout Parks were all stocked this week.

Recent Trophy Fish Awards include a 7.435 lb, 24.5 inch brown trout (7.435 lbs, 24.5”) caught from West Hill Pond by Daniel Cassidy, a 5.5 lb, 20 inch brown trout caught in the Farmington River by Felicity Zanger and a 7.69 lb rainbow trout caught in Farmington River by George Riccucci.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is generally good to very good. Places to try include Highland Lake, Lake McDonough, Quonnipaug Lake, Bolton Lakes, Bantam Lake, East Twin Lake, Lake Wononskopomuc, Pattaconk Lake, Morey Pond, Lake Lillinonah, Messerschmidt Pond, Mashapaug Lake, Lake Housatonic, Lake Kenosia, Ball Pond, Candlewood Lake, Pickerel Lake, Beseck Lake, Black Pond (Meriden), Lake Saltonstall, Tyler Lake, Great Hollow Pond, Burr Pond, Batterson Park Pond, Lake Waramaug, Bashan Lake, Park Pond, Winchester Lake, Coventry Lake, Lake Williams, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Rogers Lake, West Hill Pond, Quaddick Reservoir, Red Cedar Lake, Gardner Lake, Crystal Lake, Bishop Swamp, Dog Pond, Amos Lake and Quinebaug Lake.

Tournament angler reports are from Candlewood Lake (very good, catches include a number of fish in the 4-6 lb range), Lake Lillinonah (fair to good, nothing over 3 lbs), Pachaug Pond (very good, bass spawn over and bass are dining on bluegills during their spawn, 5.5 lb lunker), Bantam Lake (fair, water was low and cool), Mashapaug Lake (fair), Gardner Lake (good action, nothing over 2 lbs), Amos Lake (a bit slow for some anglers, but catches included 3.2 lb, 4.8 lb, 5.3 lb bass plus a 6.7 lb lunker), highland Lake (good, with a 4.5 lb lunker), Wononskopomuc Lake (good action, with a 4.7 lb lunker), Rogers Lake (very good, 3.8 lb lunker) and Coventry Lake (tough to find legal size fish, nothing close to 2 lbs).

SMALLMOUTH BASS- Action reported from Candlewood Lake, Colebrook Reservoir, Coventry Lake, Lake McDonough Bantam Lake. **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake (good, a number of 4 lb plus smallies in the bags), Lake Lillinonah (fair), Mashapaug Lake (fair), Gardner Lake (fair for those targeting smallmouth), Highland Lake (hard to find) and Coventry Lake (tough to find many legal fish).

KOKANEE SALMON are being caught at West Hill Pond (use 3 colors of leadline).

ATLANTIC SALMON have been reported from Beach Pond.

WALLEYE are being reported from Lake Saltonstall, Gardner Lake, Candlewood Lake, Batterson Park Pond and Mashapaug Lake.

CONNECTICUT RIVER – Recent rains have brought flows up to more typical levels for this time of year (and with additional precipitation possible in the watershed north of CT, flows may continue to increase). The river

ZEBRA MUSSELS REMINDER

Zebra mussels are now found in a number of locations scattered throughout the Housatonic River and its impoundments including Lake Lillinonah (since 2010), Lake Zoar (since 2010) and Lake Housatonic (since 2011).

Prior to their discovery in Lakes Lillinonah and Zoar in 2010, 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.** Information

For more information including precautions that should be taken to prevent the spread of zebra mussels to additional waters, visit www.ct.gov/deep/invasivespecies or the Aquatic Invasive species section of the 2013 CT angler's Guide(www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide).

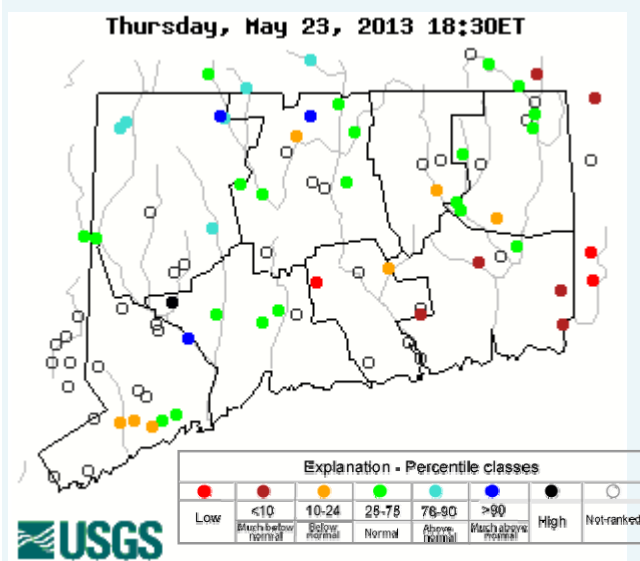


remains slow to warm. **STRIPED BASS** are throughout the river with many legal fish being caught. Artificial lures and bait are producing well. Spawning bait fish are attracting fish with many 'blow-ups' being observed by anglers. **AMERICAN SHAD** are being reported in the river up to the Holyoke area. Nearly 271,000 shad have been counted at the fishway in Holyoke (MA) this year so far (as of 5/20). Fishing for them this year has been very good. Overall, runs have slowed down a bit, probably due to dropping water temperatures late last week and weekend. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are being caught in the upper river and fishing should improve as water temperatures increase. **CATFISH** are consistently being caught. **NORTHERN PIKE** are reported in the Middletown to Haddam Meadows area, and in Wethersfield Cove.

NOTES & NOTICES:

LAKE LILLINONAH- Lake Lillinonah is currently being drawn down approximately 5 feet from its current level as a flood control measure due to current precipitation amounts and the additional rains in the forecast. **The use of both state launches (Route 133/steel bridge launch and Pond Brook launch) by trailered boats may be difficult (Route 133 launch) to impossible (Pond Brook Launch).** Anglers can call FirstLight Power at 1-888-417-4837 for updated lake levels (and Housatonic River flow) information

Streamflow conditions as of 5/23/2013



Data in the state graphic to the left are generated by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) and are available on line at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/rt>

A percentile is a value on a scale of one hundred that indicates the percent of data in the data set equal to or below it. For example streamflow greater than the 75th percentile means only ¼ of the streamflow values were above the value and thus would be considered "above normal". Stream flow between the 25th and 50th are considered to be "normal flows" and those 25th or less are considered to be "below normal".

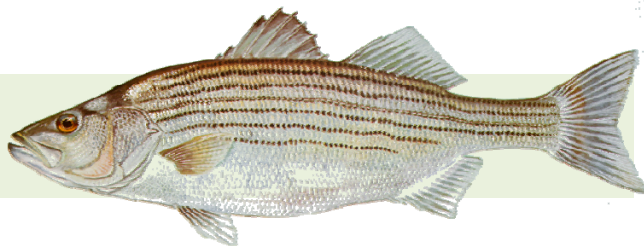
Directions to Rainbow Fishway:

From Rt. I-91, take exit 40 to Rt.20 (Bradley Airport Exit). Travel west to the Hamilton South exit. At the end of the exit ramp turn left. Turn right at the first intersection on to Rainbow Road. The fishway is on the left about a quarter of a mile down the road. Look for a cyclone fence and a brown sign with yellow lettering.

From Rt.20 East (traveling toward I-91), go past the exit for Bradley Airport and take the Hamilton exit. At the end of the exit ramp turn right. Turn right at the first intersection on to Rainbow Road. The fishway is on the left about a quarter of a mile down the road. Look for a cyclone fence and a brown sign with yellow lettering.

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact us at (860) 418-5910 or deep.accommodations@ct.gov if you have a disability and need a communication aid or service; have limited proficiency in English and may need information in another language; or if you wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint.

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) range are in the low to mid 50'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 remains good in the tidal rivers with keeper sized fish being reported. Striper spots include the Pawcatuck River, Thames River, Millstone warm water discharge, Niantic River, Connecticut River by Great Island (Wood Lot) to Essex, New Haven Harbor (Sandy Point), Housatonic River, and around the Norwalk Islands.

BLUEFISH fishing is fair to good. Fishing spots include the Race, Sluiceway, Plum Gut, Gardiners Bay and along the north shore of Long Island (NY waters), mouth of the Thames River, Millstone warm water discharge, Long Sand Shoal, Connecticut River, New Haven Harbor, and around the Norwalk Islands.

WINTER FLOUNDER fishing hot spot is Norwalk Harbor. Other spots include the lower Mystic River, Poquonock River at Bluff Point State Park, mouth of the Thames River and the Pine Island area including Baker Cove, Niantic River including the bay, and New Haven Harbor.

SUMMER FLOUNDER fishing has started this season on the hot side! Doormats measuring over 20 to almost 30 inches have already been reported. New Haven Harbor is the hot spot. Other areas include south side of Fishers Island, Niantic Bay, Falkner Island area, north shore of Long Island, Charles Island area, and the Norwalk Islands.

SCUP are on the major rocky reefs in LIS.

HICKORY SHAD can be found mixed in with school stripers in the major tidal rivers.

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, 2013.
- Vouchers can be obtained in person at 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

