

CT DEEP 2013
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 6
5/30/2013



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INLAND REPORT

CHANNEL CATFISH – DEEP conducted its annual catfish stocking this week. A total of **5,700 adult catfish** (14-18 inch fish averaging 2 lbs apiece) and **15,800 yearling catfish** (9-12 inch fish) were stocked into 20 water bodies scattered throughout the state, including four additional lakes & ponds being stocked for the first time with catfish.

The adult catfish were released into five of the current Community Fishing Areas, Bunnells Pond (Bridgeport) – 1,080 fish, Keney Park Pond (Hartford) -600 fish, Lakewood Lake (Waterbury)- 1,180 fish, Lake Wintergreen (Hamden/New Haven) -1,080 fish, and Mohegan Park Pond (Spaulding Pond, Norwich) -600 fish, and two other areas also located in urban areas, Freshwater Pond (Enfield) – 540 fish, and Pickett’s Pond (in Osborndale State Park, Derby) – 600 fish.

The yearling catfish were stocked into six areas stocked since 2007, Black Pond (Middlefield) -875 fish, Maltby Lake 2 (Orange/West Haven) 2 -210 fish, Maltby Lake 3 -210 fish, , Pattaconk Lake (Chester) -700 fish, Silver Lake (Meriden) – 1,750 fish and Lake Wintergreen (Hamden) – 700 fish, Lakewood Lake (Waterbury) – 2835 fish, first stocked in 2008, four areas stocked for the first time in 2012, Hopeville Pond (Griswold) – 1,050 fish, Quinebaug Lake (Wauregan Reservoir, Killingly) – 1,050 fish, Stillwater Pond (Torrington) – 875 fish, and Lake Kenosia (Danbury) – 875 fish, and four new areas, Batterson Park Pond (Farmington/New Britain) – 875 fish, Burr Pond (Torrington)- 1,225 fish, Scoville Reservoir (Wolcott) – 1,575 fish and and Uncas Lake (Lyme) – 1,050 fish.



Inland Fisheries Resource Assistant Kate Abbott holding one of the adult catfish stocked into the Community Fishing Areas. This fish was headed into Lake Wintergreen (Hamden).

COME TAKE A TOUR OF THE RAINBOW FISHWAY-

See migrating fish in the underground viewing window.

DEEP’s annual OPEN HOUSE AT THE RAINBOW FISHWAY is this 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 on page 4 at the end of the Inland Report section.*

TROUT



This week marks the end of DEEP's spring stockings. All stockings this week are in eastern CT (stockings in western CT wrapped up last week). From early March through this week, DEEP stocked over 620,000 brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout and tiger trout. Approximately 378,000 fish were stocked prior to Opening Day and 253,000 fish from Opening Day to the end of May.

Rivers & streams - Flows in most areas remain above (and well-above in some areas) typical late May levels (see box on page 4) and can be turbid. Anglers should keep smaller tributaries in mind. Water temperatures had dropped some after last weekend, but now should rise again with the forecast heat wave for this weekend.

Good reports last week from the West Branch Farmington River, Farmington River, Housatonic River, Salmon River, Wepawaug River, Mill River, Hammonasset River, Mianus River, Willimantic River, Natchaug River, Saugatuck River, Shetucket River, Eightmile River (East Haddam), Tankerhoosen River, Latimer Brook, Crystal Lake Brook, East Aspetuck River, Jeremy River, Furnace Brook, Roaring Brook (Glastonbury) and Scantic River.

Housatonic River – T Fishing was good last week, but then the rains came. The river is now unfishable due to very high, turbid flows (currently 4,280 cfs at Falls Village and 5,680 cfs at Gaylordsville). As it will take a number of days for the river to drop back to fishable levels, anglers in this area should try tributaries such as Macedonia Brook and Furnace Brook this weekend. Anglers can call FirstLight Power at 1-888-417-4837 or check the USGS website (<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/current/?type=flow>) for updated Housatonic River flow information.

Hatches had included Green Caddis (mornings & evenings), Light Cahills and Brown/Tan Caddis (#14-18). Flies included March Browns (#10-12, 4pm to dark) & Gray Foxes (#12-14), Green caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening), Light Cahills (#14), Sulphurs (#14-18), *Isonychia* (#10-12), Blue Wing Olives (#18-20). Midges (#22-26) had been seen at the mouths of streams on the Housatonic River. Golden Stoneflies (#6) were being hit hard early this week.

Farmington River – West Branch flows are moderate at Riverton (currently 288 cfs) but high and turbid below the confluence with the Still River (which is currently at 847 cfs, and beginning to drop again). Water temperatures were in the mid 50's°F.

Current hatches include Blue Winged Olive (#16-18), Blue Quills (#18-20) [a.k.a. paralep], Tan Caddis (#16-18; starting), Hendrickson (#12-14, winding down but are still available in the Riverton area), Sulphur (#14-16) [a.k.a. Vitreus] and March Browns (#12-14). Blue Wing Olives (#20-24, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan/green #16-18, all day), Midges (#20-32) and Grey Stoneflies (#16-18) are also working well.

Rivers and streams stocking update: This week in **eastern CT**, the The Hockanum River (above and below the TMA), Moosup River, Quinebaug River, Salmon River (including the TMA), Hammonasset River (including the TMA), Ten Mile River (Lebanon), Skungamaug River, Hop River, Blackledge River (lower), Latimer Brook, Pachaug River and Quinebaug River (Griswold) are all scheduled for stocking.

Lakes & Ponds – Anglers are finding some nice action in many of the state's trout lakes, with reports from Crystal Lake, East Twin Lake (target 20 feet), Highland Lake (target 15-20 feet), Mohawk Pond, Lake Wononskopomuc, Mt. Tom Pond, Beach Pond, Lake McDonough, Colebrook Reservoir, Mashapaug Lake, West Hill Pond (riggers at 25 feet), Amos Lake, Quonnipaug Lake, Gardner Lake, Rogers Lake and Squantz Pond.

Lakes and ponds stocking update: This week in **eastern CT**, Crystal Lake, Walkers Reservoir, Cedar Lake, Uncas Pond and Beach Pond are scheduled to be stocked.

Trout Parks – Fishing remains good at most Trout Parks. The Day Pond and Chatfield Hollow Trout Parks were stocked this week.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing has been fair to good with reports from Congamond Lakes, Lake Wononskopomuc, East Twin Lake, West Hill Pond, Seymour Reservoir, Black Pond (Woodstock), Lake Saltonstall, Wyassup Lake, Highland Lake, Lake Lillinonah, Hatch Pond, Moodus Reservoir, Candlewood Lake, Pickerel Lake, Bantam Lake, Tyler Lake Ball Pond, Beseck Lake, Lake McDonough, Winchester Lake, Quonnipaug Lake, Gardner Lake, Coventry Lake, Halls Pond, Babcock Pond, Bishop Swamp Dog Pond, Mashapaug Lake and Lake of Isles.

Tournament angler reports are from Bantam Lake (fair, with a 4.6 lb lunker), Gardner Lake (good, with a 4.7 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (good, with bass up o 4 lbs)), Lake Saltonstall (fair to good, with some 4 lb fish caught), Beseck Lake (good, nothing over 3 lbs), Lake of Isles (good, 3.4 lb lunker), Quaddick Reservoir (fair), Beach Pond (fair at best) and Hopeville Pond (good in the shallows, 3.7 lb lunker).

SMALLMOUTH BASS action reported from Candlewood Lake, Coventry Lake, Lake McDonough and Colebrook Reservoir. **Tournament angler** reports are from Gardner Lake (hard to find), Candlewood Lake (slowing some, but still good to very good) and Beach Pond (tough).

KOKANEE SALMON are being caught from West Hill Pond (try at 25 feet over 45 feet of water).

CARP were reported from Batterson Park Pond (catches include a 27 lb carp), Thames River, and Lake Lillinonah (including several 20 lb fish).

WALLEYE - Many lakes are now producing good catches. Try Gardner Lake, Lake Saltonstall, Squantz Pond or Batterson Park Pond for some action. DEEP Inland Fisheries staff recently sampled a 29 inch, 12 lb walleye at Gardner Lake.

CONNECTICUT RIVER – The recent rains (and snows up north) dropped water temperatures and increased flows. High water levels and poor visibility along with lots of floating debris are now making fishing a challenge. **STRIPED BASS** can be throughout the river and have been producing some consistent action with legal size fish being caught all the way to the Massachusetts border. Bait remains the top producer. **AMERICAN SHAD** catches are declining. As of Tuesday (May 28), approximately 310,000 shad have been counted at the Holyoke Dam fishway (MA) this spring. **CATFISH** are consistently being caught after dark with many fish over 10 lbs being reported. **NORTHERN PIKE** have been reported from the Haddam Meadows area, Chapmans Pond and Wethersfield Cove.



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).

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.



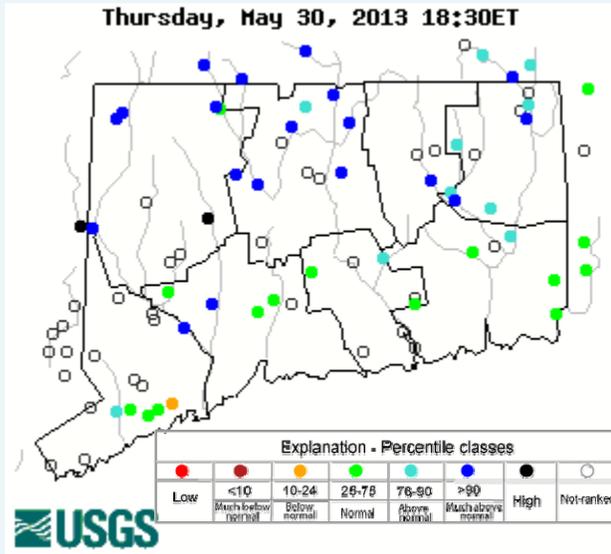
NOTES & NOTICES:

LAKE LILLINONAH – The annual lake clean-up organized by the ‘Friends of Lake Lillinonah’ will be held this Saturday, June 1st staging from the Route 133 state boat launch (**this launch will remain open for use by the general public at all times during the clean-up**). However, on Saturday morning, the lake level may be lowered (depending on Housatonic River flow conditions) to facilitate shoreline clean-up and use of the Pond Brook state boat launch by larger boats & trailers may be difficult at times this weekend.

CONNECTICUT RIVER –The Riverfront Recapture boat launches at **Riverside Park and Charter Oak boat launches are currently closed** due to high flows. Reopening will depend on the river dropping further flood level.

BANTAM LAKE – Limited portions of Bantam Lake are scheduled to be treated with herbicides on Tuesday, June 4th. The Morris Town launch will be closed that day. The state launch and marina will remain open, boaters are advised to avoid treatment areas (maps will be posted at access points).

Streamflow conditions as of 5/30/2013



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 mid to high 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 continues to be good in the tidal rivers. Action on the major reefs and rip areas in LIS has also picked up over the week. Striper spots include the Pawcatuck River, Watch Hill area, Ram Island Reef, Thames River, Bartlett Reef, Millstone warm water discharge, Black Point, humps south of Hatchett Reef, Connecticut River by Great Island (Wood Lot) to Essex, Long Sand Shoal, New Haven Harbor (Sandy Point), Charles Island/Milford area, Housatonic River, Bridgeport Harbor, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands, and the reefs off Stamford.

BLUEFISH fishing has improved with fish weighing 6-12 lbs. The Race is the hotspot! Other fishing spots include the Watch Hill reefs, Sluiceway, Plum Gut, Gardiners Bay, lower Thames River, Millstone warm water discharge, lower Connecticut River, Long Sand Shoal, Sixmile Reef, New Haven Harbor, Penfield Reef, and around the Norwalk Islands.

SUMMER FLOUNDER fishing is rated good with doormats weighing in the 6-8 lbs range being reported. Try to use circle hooks in order to reduce "gut hooking". Fluke spots include south side of Fishers Island, Stonington area in Fishers Island Sound, Niantic Bay including Black Point, Long Sand Shoal, Falkner Island area, Charles Island/Milford area, Norwalk Islands and the north shore of Long Island.

SCUP fishing is fair to good at any of the major rocky reefs in LIS.

HICKORY SHAD are in the lower reaches of the Connecticut River.

WINTER FLOUNDER fishing season's last day is May 30th!

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

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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Channel catfish and Striped bass images
courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.