

CT DEEP 2013  
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 8  
6/13/2013



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## INLAND REPORT

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing has been mostly good to very good with reports from East Twin Lake, Lake Wononskopomuc, Mudge Pond, Highland Lake, Lake Saltonstall, Candlewood Lake, Lake McDonough, Hatch Pond, Babcock Pond, Dog Pond, Tyler Lake, Lake Hayward, Gardner Lake, Rogers Lake, Mount Tom Pond, Miller Pond, Burr Pond, Batterson Park Pond, Lake Winnemac, Woodcreek Pond, Winchester Lake, Park Pond, Quonnipaug Lake, Crystal Lake (Ellington), Ball Pond, Beseck Lake, Red Cedar Lake, Pachaug Pond, Billings Lake, Pickerel Lake, Coventry Lake, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir and Bigelow Pond. **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake (a 5.5 lb and a number of 4 lb plus bass in bags, note that largemouth are making up about 50% of bass catches now), Gardner Lake (very good), East Twin Lake (very good, lots of keepers, better fish were found deep with a 4.5 lbunker), Highland Lake (very good, with 4.84 & 4.83 lb lunkers), Wononskopomuc Lake (good, 4.26 lb lunker), Pickerel Lake (good, 4.35 lb lunker) and Coventry Lake (fair, mostly 1 lb fish, nothing over 1.8 lbs).

**SMALLMOUTH BASS** are reported at Highland Lake, Candlewood Lake, Lake McDonough, Rainbow Reservoir, Bantam Lake and Squantz Pond. **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake (good), Gardner Lake (a few, including a 3 lb smallmouth), Highland Lake (very slow) and Coventry Lake (a few, nothing notable).

**NORTHERN PIKE** fishing is reported to be good in Bantam Lake and Winchester Lake.

**KOKANEE SALMON** are being caught at West Hill Pond. Try fishing at 20-25 feet for these great fighters.

**WALLEYE** are being reported from Saugatuck Reservoir and Batterson Park Pond.

### TROUT

**Lakes & Ponds** – Anglers had been enjoying some good fishing, with reports from West Hill Pond, Highland Lake, Beach Pond, Crystal Lake (Ellington), Coventry Lake, Mad River Flood Control Impoundment, Mashapaug Lake, Pataconk Lake, Black Pond (Meriden) and Bashan Lake.

**Rivers & streams** - Conditions for fishing will be difficult in many areas throughout the state as flows have again increased due to frequent and sometimes heavy rain

**SHARE THE EXPERIENCE**  
Take someone fishing

### 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](http://www.ct.gov/deep/invasivespecies) or the Aquatic Invasive species section of the 2013 CT angler's Guide( [www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide](http://www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide)).



events. Currently flows in all areas are above (and well above in some areas) typical mid-June levels (see box on page 3). Nice weather is forecast for the weekend, so anglers should keep smaller streams and tributaries in mind as they'll drop quickest (streamflows for a number of areas can be found at

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/rt>).

Some good reports from last week include the West Branch Farmington & Farmington (mid-week), Housatonic River (for several days flows had dropped to fishable levels), Hammonasset River, Quinebaug River, Salmon River, Willimantic River, Saugatuck River TMA, Natchaug River, Quinnipiac River and Naugatuck River.

**Farmington River** – West Branch flows are currently high (269 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River adding 991 cfs), and flows farther downstream on the Farmington River are very high and unfishable (3,590 cfs at Unionville and 4,910 at Tariffville). **West Branch anglers should expect flows to be variable and may fluctuate widely** as West Branch Reservoir/Colebrook River Lake levels and releases are actively managed for flood control purposes. Water temperatures have been in the upper 50's to near 60 °F.

**Housatonic River** – The Housatonic River is unfishable and will remain so through the weekend and well beyond (depending on further precipitation). Flows are very high and turbid, currently 5,360 cfs at Falls Village and 7,580 cfs at Gaylordsville. Anglers can call FirstLight Power Resources 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.

**CONNECTICUT RIVER** – Conditions and fishing had improved earlier last week with some good action, but have since deteriorated. Flows are currently very high (with some debris) and turbid, making boating and fishing difficult to dangerous. **STRIPED BASS** fishing has been tough due to flow conditions. Trolling tube & worm and casting soft plastics works best in stained water for those willing to venture out. Some anglers are using cut bait and are reporting success. Fish are starting to move out onto the reefs. **NORTHERN PIKE** were reported in the coves and the main stem downstream from Hartford to Haddam (smaller fish). **CATFISH** action is off the charts in the lower river and fish are being taken on chunk bait. The coves can be good places to try.

#### 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 have 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.threerivers.edu/didymo).

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](mailto: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.

**NOTES & NOTICES:**

**COLEBROOK RIVER LAKE.** The **boat launch at Colebrook River Lake is closed until further notice** due to high water. Boaters should call the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at 860-379-8234 for updated information.

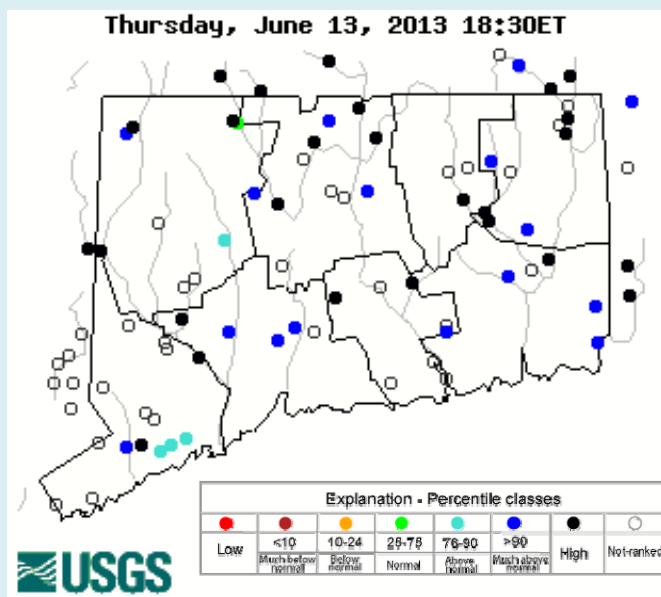
**CONNECTICUT RIVER.** The Riverfront Recapture **boat launches at Riverside Park, Charter Oak Landing and Great River Park are currently closed** due to high river flows (note that at this time the three parks are closed to all activities). Reopening will depend on the river dropping well below flood level.

**COVENTRY LAKE.** Triathlon training will be conducted from 7:00 am to 9:00 am on Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. The course will run from Patriots Park to the island at the northwestern end of the lake. Boaters should use additional caution on the lake.

**LAKE LILLINONAH.** Lake Lillinonah is currently being drawn down approximately 9.5 feet from its typical minimum summer level as a flood control measure due to current Housatonic River flows and the additional rains (possibly significant) in the forecast. **The use of both state launches (Route 133/steel bridge launch and Pond Brook launch) by trailered boats will not be possible.** Anglers can call FirstLight Power at 1-888-417-4837 for updated lake levels (and Housatonic River flow) information.

**LAKE MCDONOUGH & GOODWIN DAM-WEST BRANCH RESERVOIR.** The MDC recreational facilities, including boat launches, at both Lake McDonough and the West Branch Reservoir have been closed due to conditions (standard flood control measures including releases creating high flow conditions). For more information, visit the MDC website at [www.themdc.com](http://www.themdc.com).

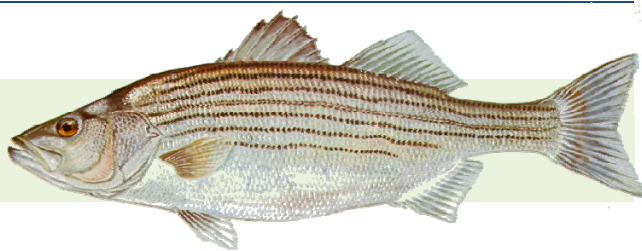
**LAKE ZOAR.** A water ski clinic for the disabled is scheduled for Saturday, June 15, in the upper end of Lake Zoar (approximately the upper first mile of the lake below the Shepaug Dam). This event run from 9 am to 4 pm, and boaters are asked to take care when passing through this area (marked by buoys) of the lake, and avoid interfering with the event.

**Streamflow conditions as of 6/13/2013**

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 75<sup>th</sup> percentile means only ¼ of the streamflow values were above the value and thus would be considered "above normal". Stream flow between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> are considered to be "normal flows" and those 25<sup>th</sup> or less are considered to be "below normal".*

## MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) remain in the high 50 's to low 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://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat\\_data/?nothumbs=1](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 especially around an hour before and after sunrise. With all the rain lately, the tidal rivers will be tough going with all the logs and debris floating around. Striper spots include the Watch Hill area, Ram Island Reef, Thames River, the Race, Bartlett Reef, Millstone warm water discharge, Black Point, humps south of Hatchett Reef, Connecticut River (on the flood tide), Long Sand Shoal, Sixmile Reef, outer Southwest Reef, the reefs off Madison to Branford, 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 is good especially at the Race. Most fish are around the 5 to 8 lbs mark. Other spots include the Watch Hill reefs, Ram Island Reef in Fishers Island Sound, Sluiceway, Plum Gut, lower Thames River, Millstone warm water discharge, lower Connecticut River on the flood tide, Long Sand Shoal, Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island north rip, New Haven Harbor, Charles Island area, Penfield Reef, and around the Norwalk Islands.

**SUMMER FLOUNDER** fishing is rated good. Fluke spots include south side of Fishers Island, Stonington area in Fishers Island Sound, Ram Island to Latimer Pt., mouth of the Thames River, Niantic Bay including Black Point, Sound View Beach, Long Sand Shoal, Falkner Island area, off the New Haven Harbor breakwaters, Charles Island/Milford area to Bridgeport Harbor and off the Norwalk Islands.

**SCUP** fishing remains fair to good on the major reefs throughout LIS.

**WEAKFISH** fishing has never been consistent overall but reports continue to trickle in from the Branford area, New Haven Harbor, Milford/Charles Island and off the mouth of the Housatonic River.

**BLACK SEA BASS** fishing season opens on June 15<sup>th</sup>!

### 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

79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106  
[www.ct.gov/deep](http://www.ct.gov/deep)

Striped bass image courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.