

CT DEEP **2013**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 11
7/3/2013



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INLAND REPORT

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is reported as fair to good. Areas to try include Breakneck Pond, Moodus Reservoir, Congamond Lakes, Crystal Lake, Mashapaug Lake, Hatch Pond, Mudge Pond, Candlewood Lake, Highland Lake, Pachaug Pond, Black Pond (Woodstock), Gardner Lake, Seymour Reservoir, Bunnells Pond, Lake McDonough, East Twin Lake, Bashan Lake, Lake Saltonstall, Winchester Lake, Silver Lake (Berlin/Meriden)), Black Pond (Meriden), Lake Lillinonah, Hopeville Pond, Ball Pond, Lake Wononskopomuc, Eagleville Lake, Batterson Park Pond, Scoville Reservoir, Billings Lake, Bishop Swamp and Halls Pond. **Tournament angler** reports are from Pachaug Pond (tough day, but with a 4.6 lbunker), Ashland Pond (slow), Long Pond (fair at best, 4.1 lbunker), Pataugansett Lake (good, with a 4.27 lbunker), Lake lillinonah (very good, with a 4.1 lbunker), Highland Lake (fair-good, nothing big – 3.07 and 2.14 lbunkers) and Candlewood Lake (good, 4.5 lbunker).

SMALLMOUTH BASS are reported to be fair. Areas to try include Candlewood Lake, Mashapaug Lake, Highland Lake, Lake Zoar, Lake McDonough, Housatonic River (upper portions, high flows, fishing was slow), Naugatuck River, Quinebaug River, Colebrook Reservoir, Rainbow Reservoir, Highland Lake and Coventry Lake. **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake (fair to good), Lake lillinonah (good) and Highland Lake (a few in the bags).

NORTHERN PIKE fishing is good, with reports from Winchester Lake, Pachaug Pond, Bantam Lake and Quaddick Reservoir.

WALLEYE are being reported from Lake Saltonstall and Batterson Park Pond.

KOKANEE SALMON are producing good fishing at West Hill Pond (early; rigger set at 25-30 feet).

CATFISH – The season has gotten off to a fairly slow start, with the rain & clouds keeping the water on the cool side. As summer progresses some recently stocked areas are starting to produce well. Areas to try include Lakewood Lake (Waterbury), Bunnells Pond (Bridgeport), Keney Park Pond (Hartford), Lake Wintergreen (Hamden), Black Pond (Middlefield), Pataconk Lake (Chester) and Silver Lake (Meriden).

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Take someone fishing

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.



CONNECTICUT RIVER

Although they've dropped since the weekend, flows remain high and turbid, with some debris, making fishing and boating somewhat difficult. Earlier last week, flows were lower and easier to fish with some action reported for a number of species. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** fishing was very good in the Windsor Locks/Enfield area. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** were being found from Wethersfield Cove down to Salmon River Cove. Tournament fishing was fair to good last weekend, including a 4.9 lb lunker largemouth. A few **NORTHERN PIKE** were reported from the upper river. **CATFISH** action was good from Hartford to Salmon River.

TROUT

Rivers & streams - Conditions remain variable. Currently, flows statewide are higher than typical early July levels, but most areas remain fishable (see box on page 4). Flows in most areas should drop to more comfortable levels over the weekend as generally dryer weather is currently forecast. Flows for a number of rivers and streams can be checked at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/rt>.

Good reports from early last week for the West Branch Farmington River, Farmington River, Housatonic River (upper), Salmon River, Eightmile River (East Haddam), Jeremy River, Cherry Brook, Blackberry River, Natchaug River and Macedonia Brook. Rainbow trout can be found in the fast water and the browns will be in the larger, deeper pools. Bait fisherman are using a corn/mealworm combination with some success in the slower waters.

Farmington River – Conditions continue to be variable for fishing. Currently West Branch flows are moderately high (currently 595 cfs at Riverton, with the Still river adding another 231 cfs) as Colebrook River Lake water levels continue to be lowered to the appropriate level for flood control during hurricane season. **There should be plenty of trout in the upper reaches for the Fourth of July. The West Branch (from Goodwin Dam to the upper boundary of the year-round catch-and-release area) was stocked with 2,250 brown trout (12 inch and longer fish) on Monday.**

Hatches/patterns include *Ephemerella needhami* (#22-26, early morning; 9:00am), *Isonychia bicolor* (#12-14, evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella lata*, *Drunella cornuta* & *Drunella cornutella*), cloudy days, mid-late afternoon), Sulphurs (*Epeorus vitreus*) duns (#14-16, morning; afternoon to early evening for spinners) and Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; green #16-18, evening). Midges (#22-28, morning) and terrestrials have been very good during the middle of the day and Golden Drake (*Potomanthus* spp., #6-16) in the late evening. For those angling near the dam, wets, streamers and bottom bouncing nymphs are producing fish. Euro-nymphing and Center-pin techniques should be productive here.

Housatonic River – Fishing was fairly good late last week. However, flows are turbid and again at levels uncomfortably high for many anglers, 1,850 cfs at Falls Village and 3,580 cfs at Gaylordsville. As dryer weather is in the forecast, flows should clear and drop for the upcoming weekend. Updated Housatonic River flow information can be obtained by calling FirstLight Power Resources at 1-888-417-4837 or checking the USGS website (<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/current/?type=flow>). Water temperatures are in the upper 60's°F mornings and rising through the day to the mid-70's°F.

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).



Hatches for this time of the year include Alder/Zebra Caddis (*Macrostemum zebratum*, #10-12, early & afternoon-evening near overhangs), Sulphurs (#14-18, evening), Blue Wing Olive (#18-20, early morning; spinner fall in evening), *Isonychia* sps. (#8-12 evening), Light Cahill (#14, evening), and tan & green caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening). Give streamers (morning & evening) a try. Typical patterns include White Zonkers, The Prince, Wooly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10).

Anglers are reminded that the thermal refuge areas on the Housatonic, Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers are closed to fishing as of June 15. These areas will reopen on September 1. There is no fishing within 100 feet of the mouths of posted tributaries to these rivers.

Lakes & Ponds – Trout anglers are still finding some nice action, with reports from East Twin Lake, Highland Lake, Crystal Lake (target 20-30 feet), Mashapaug Lake, West Hill Pond (target 25-30 feet), Coventry Lake, Black Pond (Woodstock) and Beach Pond (4 colors).

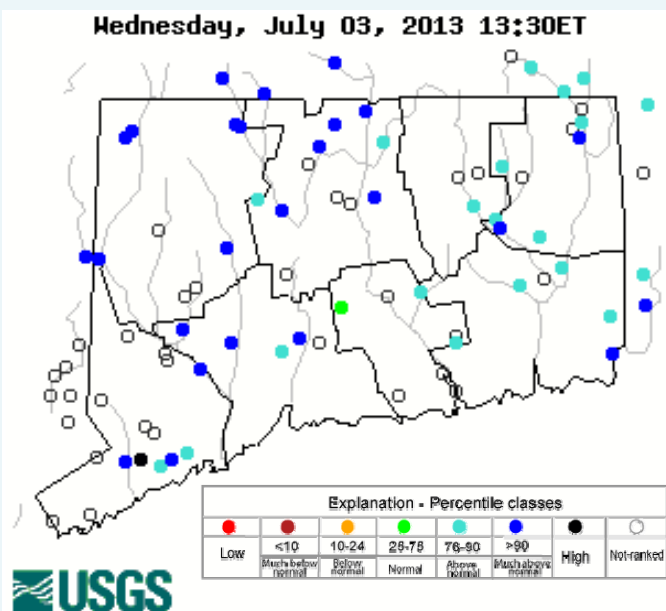
NOTES & NOTICES:

BASHAN LAKE. A boat Parade will be held on **Thursday, July 4** from **11 am to 12:30 pm**. Boats will be completing a counter-clockwise circuit along the shoreline.

CONNECTICUT RIVER – Hartford area. The Riverfront Recapture boat launches at **Riverside Park (Hartford), Great River (East Hartford) and Charter Oak (Hartford) boat launches are currently closed** due to high flows.

At this time, the **2013 “Riverfest”** is still scheduled for this Saturday, July 6 (with a raindate of Sunday, July 7) with the fireworks display scheduled for 9 pm. The river in the Hartford area can be expected to be congested, with restrictions on navigational access in the area of the fireworks barges. Any changes to the “Riverfest” schedule will be announced to local media by Riverfront Recapture.

Stream flow conditions as of 7/3/2013



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”.

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MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) range from the mid 60's to 70 °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>

BLUEFISH fishing is consistent at the Race and Plum Gut. Other bluefish spots include the reefs off Watch Hill, Ram Island Reef in Fishers Island Sound, Sluiceway, Pigeon Rip, Black Point, Long Sand Shoal, Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island north rip, New Haven Harbor, Charles Island area, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Bridgeport Harbor, Penfield Reef, and around the Norwalk Islands. Snapper bluefish are in the sound but they are on the small side - about 3 inches in length.

Reminder:

**CONNECTICUT RIVER BONUS STRIPED BASS
PROGRAM ENDED JUNE 30TH.**

Bonus striped bass vouchers can no longer be used.

STRIPED BASS fishing is good overall. The Race and Plum Gut have been the hot spots of the week! Other fishing spots include the Watch Hill area, Ram Island Reef in Fishers Island Sound, Thames River, Sluiceway, Bartlett Reef, Black Point, Hatchett Reef, Long Sand Shoal, Sixmile Reef, Cornfield Point, outer Southwest Reef, the reefs off Madison to Branford, New Haven Harbor, Charles Island/Milford area, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Bridgeport Harbor, Penfield Reef, and around the Norwalk Islands.

SUMMER FLOUNDER fishing is rated fair to good although a lot of "throwbacks" are being reported. Fluke spots include the south side of Fishers Island (Isabella Beach), off the mouth of the Thames River, Niantic Bay, Black Point, Long Sand Shoal, off Hammonasset Beach, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor, and around the Norwalk Islands.

SCUP fishing is good on the local reefs with fish measuring up to 17 inches in length being reported! The Fort Trumbull State Park fishing pier continues to be the "hot spot" for shore anglers seeking porgies!

BLACK SEA BASS fishing is fair to good on the local reefs and wrecks. The reefs off Madison to Branford have been yielding good catches with fish measuring in length up in the lower 20 inches.

WEAKFISH catches continue to come in from the Guilford-Branford area, New Haven Harbor, Milford/Charles Island area, off Stratford Point/Point No Point and the Norwalk Islands.

BLACKFISH fishing season reopened on July 1st. The minimum length is 16 inches and the daily limit is 2 blackfish per angler.

For Current Connecticut Recreational Fishing Regulations: Anglers should consult the 2013 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.

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



**Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106
www.ct.gov/deep

Common carp and striped bass image
courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.