

CT DEEP **2013**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 15
8/1/2013



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INLAND REPORT

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is generally reported as fair to good. Night fishing is in full swing and producing many fish. Try black jitterbugs and surface poppers. Areas to try include Bantam Lake, East Twin Lake, Mashapaug Lake, Quaddick Reservoir, Hatch Pond, Winchester Lake, Highland Lake, Beseck Lake, Bantam River, Squantz Pond, Cedar Lake, Mount Tom Pond, Candlewood Lake, Colebrook Reservoir, Lake Wononskopomuc, Burr Pond, Moodus Reservoir, Lake Housatonic, Congamond Lakes, Halls Pond, Lake McDonough, Bishop Swamp, Lake Saltonstall, Pickerel Lake, Lake McDonough, Rogers Lake and Quonnipaug Lake.

Tournament angler reports are from Candlewood Lake (fair to good, 5.1 lb and 4.1 lb lunkers), East Twin Lake (good, 5.31 lb and 4.84 lb lunkers), Winchester Lake (fair, generally smaller fish with a 3.15 lb lunker), Aspinook Pond (fair to good, 2.83 lb lunker), Pachaug Pond (fair at best, 3.81 lb lunker), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (on the slow side, lunker was only 2.77 lbs), Gardner Lake (good action, lots of bass under 1.5 lbs, with a 3.3 lb lunker).

SMALLMOUTH BASS – Excellent reports for **river smallmouth** from the upper Housatonic River (40 fish up to 17.5 inches in length for one angler). Some good reports also in from the Farmington River (Tariffville section), Quinebaug River and Naugatuck River. **Lake & pond smallmouth** fishing is variable, with reports from Rainbow Reservoir (some action), Squantz Pond (fair), Candlewood Lake (fair to good), Highland Lake (some action reported) and Coventry Lake (a few fish). **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake (good at night) and Gardner Lake (some action at night, nothing over 1.5 lbs).

NORTHERN PIKE - Good reports from Bantam Lake, Winchester Lake and Pachaug Pond.

Some **WALLEYE** are being caught, with reports from Lake Saltonstall, Batterson Park Pond, Beach Pond and Coventry Lake.

Excellent **CALICO BASS** action on small minnows is reported in Park Pond, Mamasasco Lake, Dog Pond and Silver Lake.

KOKANEE SALMON are being caught at West Hill Pond and East Twin Lake. Slow rolling (0.9-1.4 mph) beads fished at 30

SHARE THE EXPERIENCE
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.



feet early/late in the day are producing fish. Try tipping your hooks with White Shoe Peg Corn soaked for 24 hrs in scent to entice these energetic fighters. Hook the corn into the bend of the hook so the opened end is facing the fish. This will allow the scent to slowly ooze out and attract the fish. Anise oil is a good choice for this.

CATFISH – Summer catfish are producing in some of the recently stocked areas. Good fishing may be found at: Bunnells Pond (Bridgeport), Lake Wintergreen (Hamden), Lakewood Lake (Waterbury), Freshwater Pond (Enfield), Black Pond (Middlefield) and Silver Lake (Meriden).

PANFISH continue to provide good action and are great for kids, being easy to catch. The fast action can entertain them for hours. Small local ponds are often good places, for larger waters, try Black Pond (Meriden), Amos Lake, Highland Lake, Backwater Pond (Thompson), Bald Mountain pond (Stafford), Barber Pond (Bloomfield), Baummer Pond (Naugatuck), Beachland Pond (West Hartford), Edgewood Park Pond (New Haven) and Horse Pond (Salem). Don't forget to register their catch for the [Fishing Challenge](#) or [Geo-“Catching”](#) with the new Youth Fishing Passport Program. Visit the website at www.ct.gov/deep/yfp.

CONNECTICUT RIVER

The river is at very comfortable levels for fishing and boating, and continues to clear. **NORTHERN PIKE** (up to 42 inch fish) has been caught in the coves. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are being caught near the confluence of the Farmington River and in the Enfield area. Anglers are having success on Chug Bugs, Blue Dun wet fly & jigs with grubs. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing has been fair to good in the coves (including several 3-4 lb fish from the Haddam area). **CATFISH** are being taken in the Middletown area on fresh cut bait. Target shallow areas near deep drop-offs for some action. **CALICO BASS** action on small minnows is reported in coves by anglers fishing deeper water. Some **STRIPED BASS** are being taken at night in the lower river on live eels and tube & worm but the **BLUEFISH** have taken over much of the flats.

TROUT

Rivers & streams - Conditions should be good for summer trout fishing this weekend. The recent bout of generally cooler, dryer weather is forecast to continue for the weekend and early next week and flows in most areas are comfortable for fishing and fish, being close to their typical summer levels (see box on page 4). Early and late in the day are peak fishing times during this time of the year. Areas providing some action include the West Branch Farmington River (good to very good), Housatonic River (some action early morning), Hammonasset River and Eightmile River (East Haddam).

TIPS & TRICKS – KOKANEE SALMON

- They are primarily plankton feeders, & also feed on tiny mysis shrimp.
- 7-7.5' rod, light action with sensitive tip tapering to powerful butt.
- Level-wind reel with a good drag.
- 8-10 lbs green line.
- Avoid “no stretch” lines in favor of mono to prevent damage to the soft mouth.
- Quality fish finder with dual beam transducer.
- Downrigger with 4-8 lbs trolling ball, cable should hang straight up & down.
- Finned or rudder type downrigger ball.
- Use light line release.
- Vinyl or powder coated downrigger ball to reduce electrical current.
- .6 - .65 volts at the ball will attract fish.
- Black-Box is designed to control electrical currents.
- Early morning use greens & chartreuse.
- Excessive boating pressure puts the fish down.
- Fish will move up & down in the water column depending on light level.
- Don't troll too fast.
- A light wobble in the lure is ideal.
- Adjust speed for going up or down wind.

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.

Farmington River – Fishing has been good and conditions should be good for summer fishing. Morning water temperatures are in the low 60's°F, relatively cool weather is forecast, and flows are comfortably moderate (currently 288 cfs at Riverton, plus another 37 cfs from the Still River).

Current hatches/patterns include Light Cahill (*Stenonema* spp., #12-16; evening), *Ephemerella needhami* (#22-26, early morning), Leadwing Coachman (*Isonychia bicolor*, #12-14, fast water, evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* spp., #18-24, mid-late afternoon to evening), Sulphurs duns (*Epeorus vitreus*, #16-20, morning; afternoon to early evening for spinners; hatch is coming to an end), Rusty Spinner (#14-24), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; green #18/22, evening), Midges (#20-32, morning), Black Ants (#14-18, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#8-10, mid day), Flying Ants (#18-22, mid day, when windy/humid) and Golden Drake (*Anthopotamus distinctus*, #10-14, late evening).

Housatonic River – Conditions for summer trout on the Housatonic continue to improve as the cooler weather moved in (and is forecast to last into next week). Housatonic River flows are clear and have continued to drop, and are now at typical early August levels (currently 309 cfs at Falls Village and 484 cfs at Gaylordsville). Water temperatures have also dropped, now in the upper 60's°F in the morning. Early morning and evenings remain the best time for trout in the summer.

Hatches/patterns. The White Fly (*Ephoron leukon*) hatch has not started yet (but is expected soon). Other hatches include Blue Wing Olive (#18-22, early morning & cloudy days; spinner fall in evening), Leadwing Coachman (#10-12 few evening), Light Cahill (#12-14, evening), and assorted caddis (#14-20, early morning & evening). Midges and stoneflies are located at the mouths of streams. Golden stonefly nymphs hatch at first light and adults egg-lay after dark. Terrestrial season is here. Try Black/Cinnamon Ants (#14-20, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#14-18, mid day) and Flying Ants (#18-22, mid day, when windy/humid). Don't forget streamers (morning & evening). Patterns to try include White Zonkers, Wooly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). The Dobson Fly is active and anglers can use a black woolly bugger to mimic it.

Lakes & Ponds – Early morning anglers are still boating some good fish. Places to try include Mashapaug Lake (26-28 feet), Coventry Lake (green lights at night), Crystal Lake (Ellington, 7-8 colors), Lake McDonough (try 20-25 feet), Lake East Twin Lake (try at 30 feet over 40 feet of water), Highland Lake (middle basin), Beach Pond (streamers at 20-25 feet near the causeway) and West Hill Pond (try 30 feet).

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).



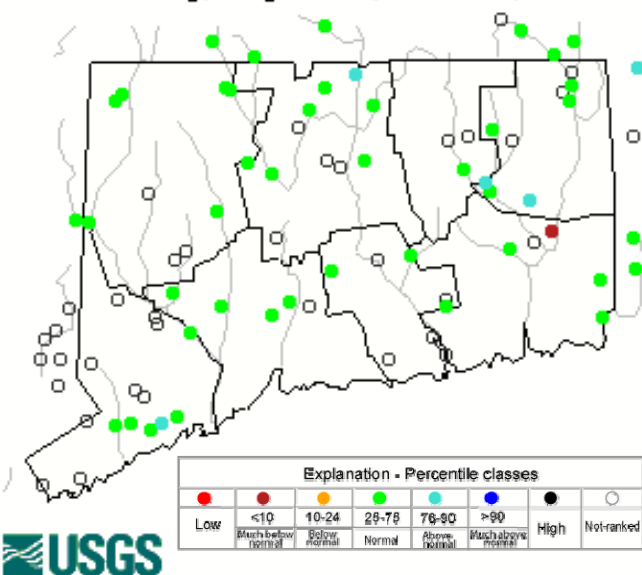
NOTES & NOTICES:

BANTAM LAKE. The swim portion of a triathlon will be conducted on Friday, August 2 (raindate is Saturday, August 3), from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm at Sandy Beach in North Bay.

LAKE LILLINONAH. **advance notice** – The Route 133 state boat launch is currently scheduled to close for the year for renovations on Tuesday, September 3. Anglers and boaters are reminded that they can continue to access the lake via the Pond Brook state boat launch.

Stream flow conditions as of 8/1/2013

Thursday, August 01, 2013 17:30ET



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>

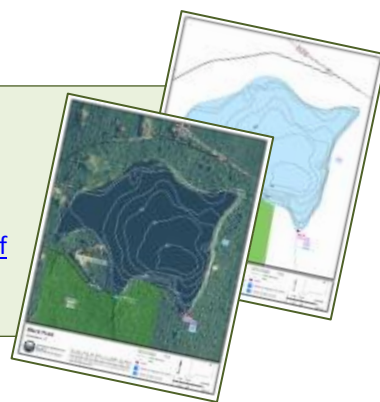
A percentile is a value on a scale of one hundred that indicates the percent of data in the data set equal to or below it. For example streamflow greater than the 75th percentile means only ¼ of the streamflow values were above the value and thus would be considered “above normal”. Stream flow between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

LAKE & POND BATHYMETRIC MAPS

Bathymetric maps of many of Connecticut’s public access lakes and ponds can be found online at:

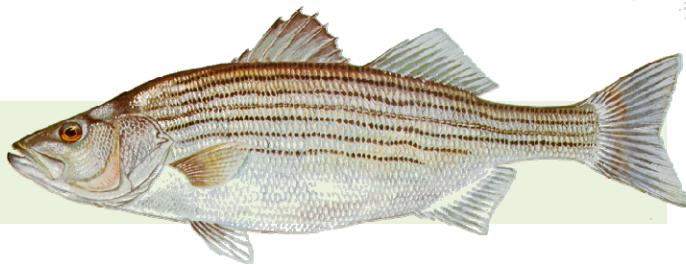
www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/fishing/general_information/lakebathymetrymaps.pdf

Both plain line maps and maps overlaying an aerial photo available.



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MARINE FISHING REPORT



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

BLUEFISH fishing remains consistent at the Race, Pigeon Rip and Plum Gut. Other bluefish fishing spots include the reefs off Watch Hill, Ram Island Reef in Fishers Island Sound, Bartlett Reef, Black Point, Long Sand Shoal, Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor, Charles Island area, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Bridgeport Harbor, Penfield Reef, and around the Norwalk Islands. Snapper bluefish are in thick. Snappers are about 3-6 inches in length.

STRIPED BASS fishing also remains very good especially at night. Anglers live-lining bunker and eels having been scoring well on "cow" bass. Striper spots include the Watch Hill reefs, Ram Island Reef in Fishers Island Sound, the Race, Sluiceway, Plum Gut, Bartlett Reef, Black Point, Hatchett Reef, Long Sand Shoal, Sixmile Reef, Cornfield Point, outer Southwest Reef, the reefs off Madison over 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 fair to good. Doormats approaching the double digit mark in pounds can still be had in deep water (90+ feet) but you have to put in the time! The usual fluking spots include the south side of Fishers Island (Isabella Beach), off the Stonington breakwater, mouth of the Thames River, Niantic Bay including Black Point, Long Sand Shoal, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor, and off the Norwalk Islands.

SCUP (porgy) fishing is good on the major rocky reefs. Scup measuring 12-14 inches in length are not unusual.

BLACK SEA BASS fishing is fair to good on the deeper reefs (60+ ft) over rocky hard bottom.

BLACKFISH fishing is fair to good on the major rocky reefs. However, porgies are making it tough by stealing hook baits meant for tog!

BLUE CRABBING is in high gear along the coast. Crabbing is rated good to excellent!

Also, don't forget about our coastal state parks for some great shore fishing and crabbing opportunities!

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**

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Striped bass image courtesy
Duane Raver/USFWS.