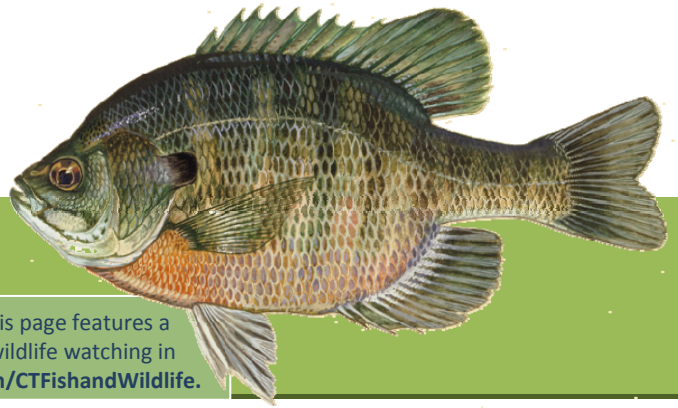


CT DEEP 2013 FISHING REPORT NUMBER 17 8/15/2013



YOU CAN FIND US DIRECTLY ON FACEBOOK. This page features a variety of information on fishing, hunting, and wildlife watching in Connecticut. The address is www.facebook.com/CTFishandWildlife.



INLAND REPORT

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing has been variable, with some really good days, but others that are just plain tough, anglers are citing passing fronts and “bluebird skies” for the up-and-down week. Night fishing has been more consistent, providing some fair fishing (try black jitterbugs and surface poppers for some exciting action). Places to try include Rainbow Reservoir, Candlewood Lake, Park Pond, Gardner Lake, Hatch Pond, Halls Pond, Lake Wononskopomuc, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Great Hollow Pond, Lake Saltonstall, Bishop Swamp, Silver Lake (Berlin/Meriden), Highland Lake, Lake McDonough, Winchester Lake, Congamond Lakes, Lower Bolton Lake, Quinebaug Pond, Burr Pond, Cedar Lake, West Hill Pond, Tyler Lake, Mashapaug Lake, Griggs Pond, Ball Pond, Crystal Lake, Amos Lake, Anderson Pond, Beseck Lake, Billings Lake, Pickerel Lake, Moodus Reservoir, Aspinook Pond, Babcock Pond, Pachaug Pond, Lake Hayward, Peck Pond, Quonnipaug Lake, Rogers Lake, Black Pond (Woodstock) and Stillwater Pond. **Tournament angler** reports are from Beach Pond (tough, lots of shorts, with a 5.3 lb lunker), Lake Zoar (tough fishing – due to “bluebird skies”, lunkers include a 4.55 lb largemouth), Bantam Lake (fair to good, with a 5.36 lb lunker), Gardner Lake (OK early bite, but slow later in the day, nothing big, with a 2.91 lb lunker), Long Pond (fair at best, 3.31 lb lunker) and Glasgow Pond (fair fishing with a 4.5 lb lunker)

SMALLMOUTH BASS - Some fish reported from Candlewood Lake, Rainbow Reservoir, Highland Lake, Lake McDonough, Squantz Pond, Gardner Lake, Saugatuck Reservoir, Coventry Lake, Lake Zoar, Lake Housatonic and Lake Lillinonah.

Tournament angler reports are from Beach Pond (very tough), Lake Zoar (tough fishing, some action including a 3.1 lb lunker smallie) and Gardner Lake (a few fish). Good reports for river smallies from the Housatonic River (very good on the upper Housatonic), Farmington River (Tariffville section), Naugatuck River, Willimantic River and Quinebaug River.

NORTHERN PIKE action reported from Bantam Lake and Pachaug Pond.

Some **WALLEYE** are being reported from Lake Saltonstall and Coventry Lake (green lights at night).

Excellent **CALICO BASS** action on small minnows is reported at Bantam Lake, Dog Pond, Kenosia Lake, West Thompson Reservoir, Park Pond and Silver Lake.

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.



CATFISH – Good fishing may be found at Bunnells Pond (Bridgeport), Lake Wintergreen (Hamden/New Haven), Lakewood Lake (Waterbury, fishing well), Keney Park Pond (Hartford), Mohegan Park Pond (Norwich), Black Pond (Middlefield) and Silver Lake (Meriden).

PANFISH have been excellent this season. Once you get an area dialed in the action can be non-stop. This will keep the kids entertained for a while. Fishing in shallow areas with a bobber and some worms is the best way to get into them. Small grubs or shiners works well also. Small local ponds are often great places, larger waters to try include Lake Hayward, Dog Pond, Lake Wononskopomuc, Glasgo Pond, Silver Lake, Quinebaug Lake, West Thompson Reservoir, Shenipsit Lake, Mudge Pond, Amos Lake, Rogers Lake, North Farms Reservoir and Lake of Isles.

CONNECTICUT RIVER

Flows are clearing and comfortable for fishing and boating (a bit higher than typical mid-August levels).

LARGEMOUTH BASS are being taken in the coves around the Haddam area. Reports for tournament fishing indicates fair to good largemouth fishing, and lunkers include a 4.13 lb largemouth. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are being caught in the river north of Hartford (Enfield, King's Island area & near the mouth of the Farmington River). Try small bait, black caddis flies or 3-4" rubber worms on 3/8oz. football jigs. Also some action in the mainstem from below Hartford to Haddam. Tournament smallmouth catches include a 3.61 lb lunker. Anglers are finding **CATFISH** at night angling. The bite is on cut bait near brush piles & in the deeper holes. Try from just north of Hartford downstream to the Haddam area.

TROUT

Rivers & streams - The cooler weather experienced for much of the past two weeks and recent rains have refreshed streams and jump-started summer trout fishing in a number of areas. Flows have dropped since last Friday's rain (very heavy in some areas) in most areas are back at or above typical mid-August levels (see box on page 4). Fishing during the morning and early evening should produce some good action. Good reports last week from the West Branch Farmington River, Housatonic River TMA (early/late), Hammonasset River, Salmon River (try closer to the mouth) and Tankerhoosen River.

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 was good earlier last week (prior to Friday) and conditions should be good for fishing this weekend and into next week. Flows have settled back to comfortable levels following last Friday's downpour, currently 349 cfs at Riverton with the Still River adding another 98 cfs and continuing to drop).

TIPS & TRICKS – SUMMER NORTHERN PIKE

- Small pike (under 30 inches) prefer water in the 67 to 72 degree range & will be in the shallows.
- Bigger northernns favor cooler temperatures (50 to 55 degrees) & will be in deeper water.
- Troll tandem spinners along the weedline for larger pike.
- Deep diving crankbaits retrieved at high speed can result in explosive strikes.
- Wopper Plopper lures produce large splashes & have been responsible for rod breaking strikes.
- Large lures with sharp hooks are key.
- Pike movement is a function of cover and habitat used by prey species.
- They can also display a fierce disposition to anything that invades their territory.
- When using spoons, cast them into the shallows, retrieving them slowly with an occasional pause-pop-flutter action.
- Speed up the retrieve and pump the rod if you are not getting any strikes. They see it as a panicked prey fish.
- Red-and-white spoons with a silver metallic back or a yellow diamonds pattern are pike-catching patterns.
- Add pork rind to a trailing hook when using a spinnerbait.
- Slug-Go-style minnow bodies offer alternatives for fishing within the top 3 feet of the water.
- Black-and-silver or blue-and-silver are popular colors.
- Add a long rubber worm to your favorite pike lure.
- Pike prefer 'soft-rayed' baitfish. Find their prey & you'll find your prey.

Morning water temperatures in the upper West Branch have been in the low 60's°F (and rising through the day or as you move downstream).

Hatches/patterns: The Tricos (*Tricorythodes* #22-26) hatch has begun. *Ephemerella needhami* (#22-26, early morning), Leadwing Coachman (*Isonychia bicolor*, #12-14, fast water, afternoon/evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* spp. & *Baetis* spp.; #18, 22-24, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; green #22-26, evening; summer pupa #18-20 morning), Cahills/Summer (*Stenonema ithaca*, #12-14, early morning), Midges (#22-28, morning), Black Ants (#14-20, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#16-18, mid day), Flying Ants (#18-22, mid day, when windy/humid), Stone Hopper (#8-12, mid day) and Golden Drake (*Anthopotamus distinctus*, #10-14, late evening) are successful patterns. Evening brings out every type of bug on the water.

Housatonic River – Conditions for early morning and evening trout fishing should be good this weekend and into next week. The river has cleared and dropped back to comfortable levels for fishing following last Friday's rains, currently 718 cfs at Falls Village and 1,280 cfs at Gaylordsville. Morning water temperatures are cooler than is typical for mid-August, currently in the low 60's°F (will rise through the day).

Hatches/patterns: The White Fly (*Ephoron leukon*) is nearing the end of the hatch and has been nothing but spectacular. You really don't want to miss this one. Use a White Wulff, #10-12. Other insect activity includes Light Cahill (#12-14, evening), and Black caddis (#14-20, early morning & evening). Midges (#20-24) and stoneflies are located at the mouths of streams. Golden stonefly nymphs hatch at first light and adults egg-lay after dark. Don't forget streamers (morning & evening). Patterns to try include White Zonkers, Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn and Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). Also try brown crayfish like streamers as they are effective right now.

Lakes & Ponds – Places to try for summer trout include East Twin Lake (shiners at 40' feet), Crystal Lake (Ellington, 8 colors), Beach Pond (rigger at 23 feet), Long Pond, West Hill Pond (25-30 feet), Highland Lake (second bay, 25-30 feet), Lake McDonough (near the dam), Colebrook Reservoir (west side and near the dam), Mashapaug Lake (25feet, pearl DB Smelt) and Coventry Lake (green lights at night).

NOTES & NOTICES:

BATTERSON PARK POND. A waterski tournament is being conducted this week, August 13 through August 18 (Tuesday through Sunday) from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm each day. Although there will be some use of the state launch by event participants and organizers the state boat launch remains open and room will be available to the general public to park and launch. Boaters should however use additional caution on the lake near the waterski event area (northwest portion of lake near the Batterson Park dock and swim area).

CANDLEWOOD LAKE. CLA will be holding its annual "**Dragon Boat Races**" on Saturday, August 17 from 7 am to 5 pm in the upper end of the New Milford arm (Lynn Deming Town Park). This area will be congested with participants and spectators.

CONNECTICUT RIVER (Windsor). A canoe/kayak race will be conducted from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm on Saturday, August 17 in the vicinity of the Bissell Bridge. The loop course runs from the small island just downstream of the Bissell Bridge state launch up the river to the Farmington river and then into the Farmington River to the Route 159 bridge. Start and finish will be near the Bissell Bridge launch (the launch will remain open to use by the general public).

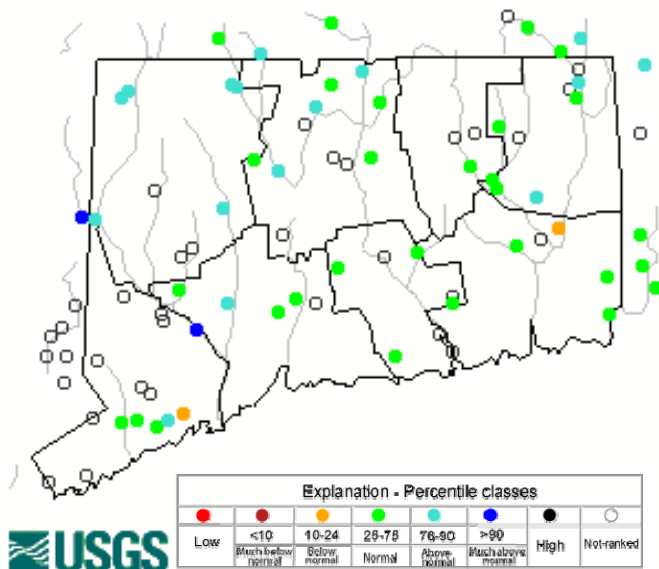
CONNECTICUT RIVER (Hartford). Riverfront Recapture will be holding its annual "**Dragon Boat Races**" on Saturday, August 17 (8 am – 4 pm) and Sunday, August 18 (8 am – 4 pm) on the CT River in Hartford between the Founders Bridge and the Charter Oak Bridge. Boat travel through the course area will be difficult during the race events, use extra caution or avoid the area.

HIGHLAND LAKE. A canoe/kayak race and swim event is scheduled for Saturday, August 17, at Highland Lake from 9 am to 11 am. This event will be held in the north bay at Resha and Holland beaches in the vicinity of the state boat launch. Boaters should use extra care when accessing the lake from the state launch.

ROGERS LAKE. The lake is currently drawn down approximately 14 inches to facilitate dam repairs. The launching of trailered boats may be difficult at this level of drawdown and the launch may be unusable by larger boats or those with deeper draft.

Stream flow conditions as of 8/15/2013

Thursday, August 15, 2013 18:30ET



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 low 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 good in western LIS to excellent in eastern sections of LIS. Bluefish spots include the usual spots: the reefs off Watch Hill, Ram Island Reef in Fishers Island Sound, the Race, Pigeon Rip, Plum Gut, Bartlett Reef, Black Point, Long Sand Shoal, Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island area, the reefs off Madison to Branford, New Haven Harbor, Charles Island area, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Bridgeport Harbor, Penfield Reef, and around the Norwalk Islands. Bluefish weighing in the low to mid teens have been reported. Snapper bluefish are in thick in the tidal rivers. Snapper fishing is rated good to excellent with most fish measuring 3-5 inches in length. The DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing dock in Old Lyme has been a popular snapper spot.

STRIPED BASS fishing is very good and consistent at many of the major reefs and rip areas throughout LIS. Fishing 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 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 off the south side of Fishers Island (Isabella Beach), south of the Stonington breakwater, lower Mystic River over to Groton Long Point, mouth of the Thames River over to Little Goshen Reef, Niantic Bay including Black Point, Sound View Beach, south side of Long Sand Shoal, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor, and off the Norwalk Islands.

SCUP (porgy) fishing remains good to excellent on the major reefs and rocky shoreline areas. The Fort Trumbull fishing pier in New London has been very consistent with scup, black sea bass, stripers and even fluke!

BLACK SEA BASS fishing is fair to good over rocky hard bottom or areas with structure. The reefs off Madison to Branford have been the better spots.

BLACKFISH fishing is also good on the major reefs and rocky areas.

BLUE CRABBING remains good to excellent in the tidal rivers and creeks. Clinton to Old Saybrook and Old Lyme to Niantic have been consistent crabbing areas.

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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www.ct.gov/deep

Bluegill & striped bass images courtesy
Duane Raver/USFWS.