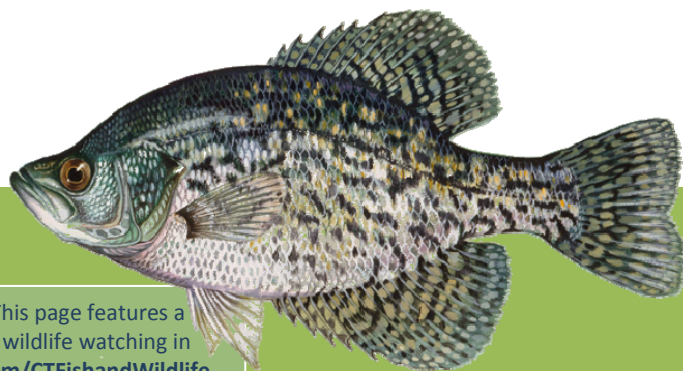


CT DEEP **2013**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 18
8/22/2013



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 was variable last week, ranging from slow to good (better reports were from later in the weekend), with reports from Lake Housatonic (fair), Mudge Pond (slow), Lake Lillinonah (fair to good), Lake McDonough (anglers were finding fish deep on bait), East twin Lake (some action, nothing big), Highland Lake (slow early, fair later in the day), Lake Saltonstall (good), Congamond Lakes (slow to fair), Candlewood Lake (fair to good), Moodus Reservoir (fair), Lake Quonnipaug (fair fishing), Messerschmidt's Pond (fair), Quaddick Lake (good) and the Mattabeset River (some nice catches). Anglers in smaller waters are having some success with worms, soft plastic frogs and Rapala scatter wraps. **Tournament angler** reports are from Winchester Lake (fair action, with a 4.81 lbunker), Candlewood Lake (fair to good), Bantam Lake (tough day for most, 4.21 lbunker), Ashland Pond (good fishing with a 6 lbunker), Powers Lake (fair fishing, not much of any size, with a 2.35 lbunker) and East Twin Lake (good for most anglers, nothing over 3 lbs).

SHARE THE EXPERIENCE
Take someone fishing

SMALLMOUTH BASS - Lake & pond smallmouth fishing has been mostly slow to fair with reports from Candlewood Lake (still good, some nice 2.5 to 3.5 smallies were caught, soft plastics, 16-18 feet, better action with some wind), Squantz Pond (slow), West Thompson Lake (some action) and Lake Lillinonah (some fish are being caught). **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake (fair to good, with some smallies in the 3-4 lb range) and Bantam lake (a few fish caught, including a 3 lbunker). **River smallmouth** fishing was very good on the Housatonic River, with some action also reported from the Scantic River, Quinebaug River and Naugatuck River.

NORTHERN PIKE – Good reports for pike action from Lake Lillinonah and Winchester Lake. It's been slow at Quaddick Lake.

Some **WALLEYE** action reported from Lake Saltonstall (slow) and Squantz Pond (fair at best, but recent catches include 9 and 7 lb fish, plus several in the 3-4 lb range).

BLACK CRAPPIE (calico bass) fishing has been generally good, best reports are from Lake Saltonstall, Lake Quonnipaug, Bantam lake and West Thompson Lake. Some anglers are finding fish suspended, use small jig heads.

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).



CATFISH – Good reports for catfish from Wauregan Reservoir (some 3 lb cats are being found), Lake Wintergreen, Lakewood Lake and Mohegan Park Pond.

CONNECTICUT RIVER

Flows are clear and continue to be comfortable for fishing and boating. **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing has generally been slow (although anglers exploring up the Mattabesset River have found some nice fish). **CATFISH** action is fair to good, recent tournament catches include a 11.7 lb cat and some fish in the 8-9 lb range. Good reports for **SMALLMOUTH BASS** in the river north of Hartford (Enfield, King's Island area & near the mouth of the Farmington River remain good spots). Also some action in the mainstem downstream of Hartford to Haddam. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing was a bit tougher this week, but still some fair to good fishing including several 3 lb plus fish.

TROUT

Rivers & streams - Conditions should be good for late summer trout fishing this weekend. We've had generally cool weather this month, dry comfortable weather is forecast for the weekend (and next week) and flows are generally at typical late August levels (see box on page 3) and very fishable. As the summer begins to wind down, anglers should expect terrestrial fly patterns to be productive. Good reports for trout last week from the West Branch Farmington River (although some anglers are noting that the trout are getting "smarter"), Housatonic River (very good in the early evening) and Hammonasset River (good below the dam, fair in the TMA).

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 – Trout fishing continues to be good on the river. Flows are clear and moderate, currently 400 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River providing another 38 cfs below Riverton. Hatches/patterns include the Trico (*Trycorythodes stygiatus*, #22-26, morning; spinner mainly), *Ephemerella needhami* (#22-26, early morning to early afternoon), Leadwing Coachman (*Isonychia bicolor*, #12-14, fast water, afternoon/evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* spp. & *Baetis* spp., #18-24, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #16-22, evening; summer), Black Ants (#14-20, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#16-18, mid day) and Flying Ants (#18-22, mid day, when windy/humid, day after rains).

Housatonic River – Conditions should be good for early morning and late evening fishing. Flows are clear and at low to moderate levels, currently 292 cfs at Falls Village and 527 cfs at Gaylordsville, and temperatures stay moderate (morning water temperatures are currently in the high 60's °F).

Hatches/patterns include Sulfurs (#12-18 dusk/dark), Blue Wing Olive (#18-24, early morning; spinner fall in evening), Leadwing Coachman (#10-12 evening), Light Cahill (#12-14, evening), and Black caddis (#14-20, early morning & evening). Try Black/Cinnamon Ants (#18-22, mid day in fast water) and Flying Ants (#18-22, mid day, when windy/humid). Don't forget streamers (morning & evening) and nymphs. For the most part, the White fly (*Ephoron leukon*, #12-14, dawn & dusk) hatch is over.

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.



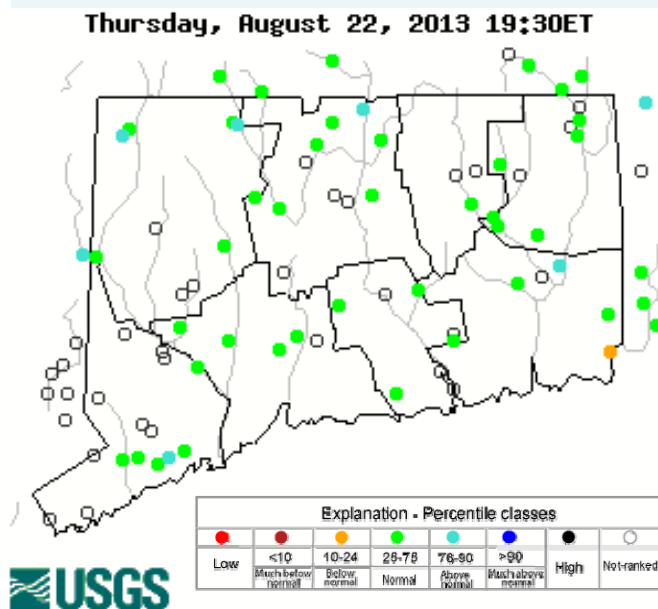
Lakes & Ponds – Fair to good reports for trout from Candlewood Lake and Lake Quonnipaug (try at 30 feet or so).

NOTES & NOTICES:

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.

LAKE ZOAR. A water ski clinic for the disabled is scheduled for **Saturday, August 24**, 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.

Stream flow conditions as of 8/22/2013



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”.

LAKE & POND BATHYMETRIC MAPS

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

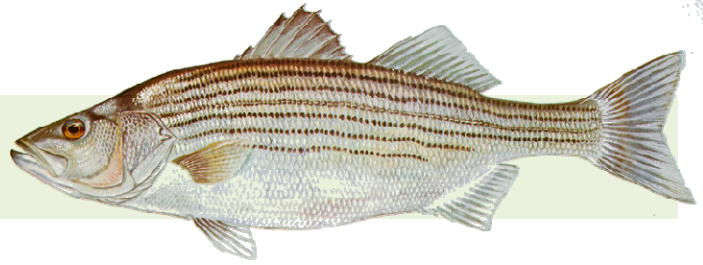
www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/fishing/general_information/lakebathymetrymaps.pdf

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) continue to 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 throughout 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, Southwest 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. Snapper fishing is rated good to excellent in the tidal rivers.

STRIPED BASS fishing remains good to excellent especially using live bunker or eels at night. 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, Cornfield Point, Sixmile Reef, 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 at the usual spots: south side of Fishers Island, off the Stonington breakwater, lower Mystic River over to Groton Long Point, mouth of the Thames River, Bloody Grounds off Black Point, Sound View Beach, Long Sand Shoal, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor, and off the Norwalk Islands. Some large fluke have been taken in 90+ feet of water over this past week.

SCUP (porgy) fishing is good to excellent throughout LIS! Porgies are now on the reefs and rocky areas in big numbers!

BLACK SEA BASS fishing is fair to good over hard bottom. There are a lot of small sublegal "throwbacks" throughout LIS which is a good sign for future years. Try to reel in fish slowly to prevent over expansion of the gas bladder when fishing deep water.

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

BLUE CRABBING remains good to excellent in the tidal rivers and creeks especially from New Haven over to New London.

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

Black crappie & striped bass images
courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.