

CT DEEP **2013**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 19
8/29/2013



common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*)



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INLAND REPORT

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing remains variable (dependent on timing of passing fronts). Places to try include Lake Saltonstall (very good), Bantam Lake, Lake Williams, Lake Housatonic, Mudge Pond, Hatch Pond, Moodus Reservoir, Lake of Isles (**catches include a 8 lb bass**), Lake Lillinonah, Congamond Lakes, Highland Lake, Pickerel Lake, Lake Wononskopomuc, Candlewood Lake, Gardner Lake, Bishop Swamp, Winchester Lake, Coventry Lake, Pachaug Pond, Lake McDonough, Mashapaug Lake, Bunnells Pond, Red Cedar Lake, Stillwater Pond, Ball Pond, Beseck Lake, Cedar Lake, Dog Pond, Billings Lake, Glasgo Pond and Park Pond. **Tournament angler** reports are from Lake Lillinonah (fair at best, with a 2.3 lb lunker), East Twin Lake (good fishing, with a 6.04 lb lunker and two other fish over 4 lbs), Candlewood Lake (fair, 4.66 lb, 5.01 lb lunkers), Quaddick Lake (fair to good, with 5.40 lb, 4.63 lb and 3.52 lb lunkers, one club average 2 lbs per fish), Lake Zoar (tough fishing, with a 3.31 lb lunker), Bantam lake (slow) and Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (fair to good, “a lot of small bass,” with a 2.44 lb lunker) and Long Pond (very tough day).

SMALLMOUTH BASS action reported from Candlewood Lake, Lake McDonough, Highland Lake, Lake Housatonic, Rainbow Reservoir, Bantam Lake, Coventry Lake and Shenipsit Lake. River smallie action reported from the Naugatuck River, upper Housatonic River (good action) and Farmington River (Tariffville area). **Tournament angler** reports are from Lake Lillinonah (some action, nothing over 2 lbs), Lake Zoar (very slow), Candlewood Lake (fair to good) and Bantam Lake (fair, with a 3.1 lb lunker).

NORTHERN PIKE fishing is reported to be good at Winchester Lake, Lake Housatonic and Bantam Lake.

Some **WALLEYE** are being reported from Lake Saltonstall.

KOKANEE SALMON are being caught at West Hill Pond (target 25-30 feet).

CARP were reported from West Thompson Reservoir, Squantz Pond and Aspinook Pond. They can also be found in Lake Lillinonah and Lake Zoar.

CHAIN PICKEREL – good reports from Wononskopomuc Lake, Silver Lake and Amos Lake.

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) and Silver Lake (Meriden).

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.



PANFISH are providing good late summer action throughout the state. Use worms, grubs, jigs or small poppers for them. Small local ponds are often great places, for larger waters try Zemko Pond, Warner Pond, Roseland Lake, Pickett's Pond, Pierrepont Pond, Red Cedar Lake, Black Pond (Meriden), Bunnells Pond, Freshwater Pond, Enders Pond, Halls Pond, Griggs Pond, Beseck Lake, Rogers Lake, Billings Lake, Gardner Lake, Coventry Lake and Bishop Swamp.

CONNECTICUT RIVER

Flows are clearing and currently a bit on the low side. **CARP** have come to the net in the Hartford to Middletown area. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are reported in the Enfield to South Windsor area. Some fish over 3 lbs have been reported. Also try the confluence with the Farmington River. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing has been fair to good for tournament anglers (good early bite, a lot of 'quality fish' for one club, lunkers include 4.77 lb and 4.06 lb largemouth). **NORTHERN PIKE** are being caught in the coves (give Wethersfield Cove a try). Fishing for **CATFISH** in the Hartford-Middletown areas is producing fish. They are being caught on cut bait (chunking) in deep holes and outside bends. Try live lining a sunfish for some good action.

TROUT

Rivers & streams - Trout fishing has been picking up, and conditions should be good for this weekend with generally very adequate and fishable flows (see box on page 4) and water temperatures that have cooled in many areas since the end of July. As summer (and many summer hatches) wind down, fly anglers should definitely include terrestrial fly patterns in their arsenal. Good reports last week from the West Branch Farmington River, Eightmile River (East Haddam) and Housatonic River (early/late).

The thermal refuge areas on the Housatonic, Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers will reopen on Sunday (September 1). Until then, remember that there's no fishing within 100 feet of the mouths of posted tributaries to these rivers.

Farmington River – Trout fishing remains good and anglers can look forward to even more fish in the river as **DEEP STOCKED 2,000 TROUT FOR THE LABOR DAY WEEKEND. These fish are all brown trout (12 inch and bigger fish) with 500 stocked from the Goodwin Dam down to the upper boundary of the year-round catch-and-release area and 1500 stocked from the lower end of the year-round catch-and-release area to the Route 177 bridge (Unionville).** Water temperatures are in the mid 60's °F (West Branch TMA, rising some during the day, and higher downstream). Flows are clear and moderate, currently 321 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River providing another 83 cfs below Riverton.

Hatches/patterns include the Trico (*Trycorythodes stygiatus*, #22-26, morning from 6:00 am – 10:00 am, spinner mainly), *Ephemerella needhami* (#16-20, early morning to early afternoon), Leadwing Coachman (*Isonychia bicolor*, #12-14, fast water, afternoon/evening in the Riverton area), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* sps. & *Baetis* sps.; #18, 22-26, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; green #22-26, evening; summer pupa #18-20 morning), Midges (#20-32, morning), Cahills/Summer (*Stenonema ithaca*, #12-14, evenings), Black Ants (#12-20, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#12-14, mid day), Flying Ants (#18-22, mid day, when windy/humid, day after rains), Stone Hopper (#8-12, mid day) and Golden Drake (*Anthopotamus distinctus*, #8-14, late evening).

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).



Housatonic River – Fishing has been fair to good, with mornings and evenings the best times. Water temperature this morning was 69 °F (rising through the day). Rain earlier in the week did refresh flows, which are moderate and very fishable, currently 521 cfs at Falls Village and 934 cfs at Gaylordsville.

Current patterns include the Leadwing Coachman (#10-12, main evening hatch), Light Cahill (#10-12, 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. Try Black/Cinnamon Ants (#14-18, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#14-16, mid day), Stone Hopper (#8-10, mid day) and Flying Ants (#18-22, mid day, when windy/humid, day after rains). Don't forget streamers (morning & evening), patterns to try include White Wooly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn and Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10).

Lakes & Ponds – Anglers are finding some fair to good late summer trout fishing, with reports from Crystal Lake (Ellington; 22-24 feet), Beach Pond (7-8 colors), Mashapaug Lake, West Hill Pond (25-30 feet) and East Twin Lake (fish over 40 feet of water).

NOTES & NOTICES:

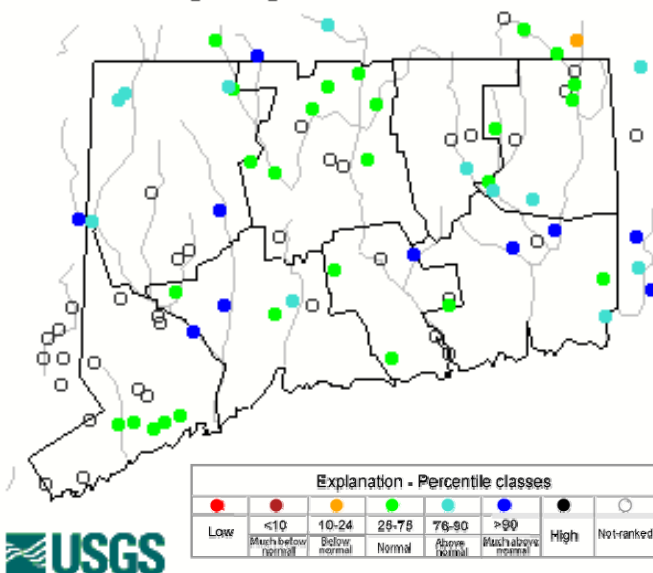
BASHAN LAKE. A sailboat race is scheduled for Sunday, September 1 from 1 pm – 3 pm in the southeast area of the lake (in front of the state launch). Use extra caution in this area during the event.

LAKE LILLINONAH. The Lake Lillinonah state boat launch (Route 133, also referred to as the “Steel Bridge” launch) will be closed for renovations beginning Tuesday, September 3. This closure is currently expected to last through December 31, 2013. Anglers/boaters can continue to access the lake using the Pond Brook state boat launch.

ROGERS LAKE. The lake is currently drawn down approximately 13 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 8/29/2013

Thursday, August 29, 2013 18:30ET

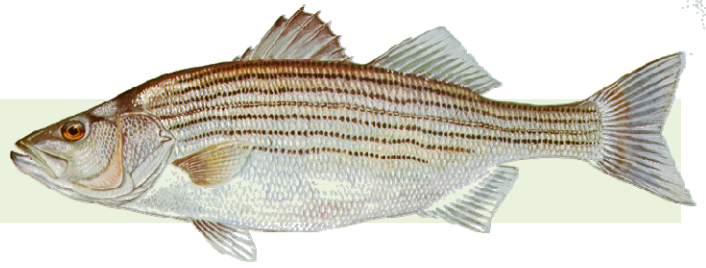


Data in the state graphic to the left are generated by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) and are available on line at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/rt>

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”.

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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 consistent throughout LIS with most choppers weighing between 4 – 8 lbs. Fishing spots include the reefs between Watch Hill and Fishers Island eastern point, Ram Island Reef in Fishers Island Sound, Thames River, 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. Snapper fishing remains good in the tidal rivers. Snappers are about 6 inches in length.

STRIPED BASS fishing is prime time around dawn and dusk. Live bait is the ticket for a “cow” bass. Live lining bunker (menhaden), eels, scup, and even snapper blues will entice any striper to eat. 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 but some doormats can still be taken in 80+ feet of water. Fluke weighing in the double digits have been caught over this past week! Fluke spots include the south side of Fishers Island, off the Stonington breakwater, around Seaflower Reef, mouth of the Thames River, Bloody Grounds off Black Point, humps off Hatchett Reef, south side of Long Sand Shoal, Falkner Island area, south off New Haven Harbor breakwaters, and off the Norwalk Islands.

SCUP (porgy) fishing is good to excellent throughout LIS with “hub caps” measuring up to 19 inches in length being reported! Any of the rocky reefs, submerged pilings and rocky shore areas will harbor these spunky fighters!

BLACK SEA BASS fishing remains good over hard bottom, rocky reefs and wrecks. Slack tide is prime time to fish on the reefs for black sea bass especially in deep water.

BLACKFISH fishing season closes from September 1st through October 9th inclusive (reopens October 10th).

BLUE CRABBING is about “prime time” in the tidal rivers and creeks. The time to go is now!

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

Common carp & striped bass images
courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.