

CT DEEP **2013**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 20
9/5/2013



smallmouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*)



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.

Hunting and Fishing Appreciation Day – Saturday September 28th



DEEP and Friends of Sessions Woods will be hosting Hunting & Fishing Appreciation Day at the Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area in Burlington. Fun activities for all ages are planned, along with educational programs and workshops about hunting and fishing. Best of all, the event is **free** to attend!

Please visit www.ct.gov/deep/huntfishday for more info.

SHARE THE EXPERIENCE
Take someone fishing

INLAND REPORT

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is good. Places to try include Congamond Lakes, Ball Pond, Lake of Isles, Winchester Lake, Lake Saltonstall, Lake Williams, Red Cedar Lake, East Twin Lake, Candlewood Lake, Highland Lake, Stillwater Pond, Wononskopomuc Lake, West Twin Lake, Mudge Pond, Hatch Pond, Leonard Pond, South Spectacle Pond, Shelton Reservoir, Lake Zoar, Amos Lake, Bantam Lake, Gardner Lake, Pachaug Pond, Rogers Lake, Mashapaug Lake, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (at dusk), Bunnells Pond, Halls Pond, Silver Lake (Meriden), Lake Hayward, Housatonic Lake, Dog Pond, Bishop Swamp & Roseland Lake. **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake (good, many over 3lbs), CT River –Haddam (good, 3 fish over 3lbs) and Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (fair to good, with a 4.12lb and 4.79lb lunker).

SMALLMOUTH BASS action reported from Candlewood Lake, Housatonic River (upper), Highland Lake, Lake Zoar, Coventry Lake and Colebrook Reservoir. **Tournament angler** reports are from CT River - Haddam (fair) and Candlewood Lake (good with a 3.26lb and 4.05lb beauty).

NORTHERN PIKE catches have been reported from Winchester Lake, Lake Lillinonah & Pachaug Pond.

CHAIN PICKEREL catches are turning up some big fish at Wononskopomuc Lake.

CARP came to net from Union Pond, Winnemauug Lake and Squantz Pond. Successful anglers used popups & boilies on a pre-baited swim while relaxing along the shore.

PANFISH continue to provide excellent late summer time action throughout the state. Use worms, grubs, jigs or small poppers for them. Areas to try include: Chatfield Hollow Pond, Black Rock State Park Pond, Zemko Pond, Whitney Flood Control Pond, Perry

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.

Pond, Roseland Lake, Mill Woods Park Pond, Mill Pond, Mirror Lake (Meriden), Lakewood Lake, Lake of Isles and Griggs Pond.

CONNECTICUT RIVER

The rain over the Labor Day weekend has brought the river up a bit. **SNAPPER BLUE** action in the lower river is good. **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing has been fair to good to excellent with two anglers boating 7 fish to 38". The cove(s), the mouth of Salmon River and the mainstem downstream from Hartford to Harbor Park & Haddam near Haddam Meadows are producing many fish. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** are being taken in the coves in the lower river. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** catches are reported in the Enfield area to the Middletown area. **CARP** are being caught on corn & dough balls in the Middletown area. Give the Mattabasset River area a try. **CATFISH** are providing great late summer action on cut bait (chunking) in brush piles near the deeper holes of the river. Try the Middletown and Portland area. **BLACK CRAPPIE** fishing is reported as good on small shiners in the back coves (Wethersfield) of the river.

TROUT

Rivers & streams -Anglers can expect fishing to improve in most rivers and streams due to increased water flows. After the recent rains most areas are very fishable (see box on page 4). The weekend weather looks to be perfect for fishing with cooler temps at night (40's – 50's) and mid 70's during the day.

Farmington River – Recently stocked trout are providing anglers with excellent fishing. Flows are clear and moderate, currently 331 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River providing another 124 cfs below Riverton.

Hatches/patterns are mostly stable and unchanging. Trico Spinners (*Tricorythodes stygiatus* #22-26 in the morning) and Dark Hendrickson (*Ephemerella needhami*, #22-26, morning) are reported on the water. The remaining bugs consist of *Isonychia bicolor* (major hatch, #12-14, fast water, evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* sps. & *Baetis* sps., #18, 22-24, mid-late afternoon), Light Cahills/Summer (*Stenonema ithaca*, #12-16, early morning), Sulfurs duns (*Heptagenia* sps., #14-20, below the dam due to low temperatures, morning, afternoon to early evening for spinners), Caddis (tan #16-22, all day; green #22-26, evening, summer pupa #18-20 morning), Midges (#22-32, morning), Black Ants (#12-20, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#12-18, mid day), Flying Ants (#18-22, mid day, when windy/humid), Stone Hopper (#8-12, mid day) and Golden Drake (*Anthopotamus distinctus*, #8-14, late evening) are successful patterns.

Housatonic River - Fishing continues to be been fair to good, with mornings and evenings the best times. Water temps are in the low-70's°F. The Labor Day rains brought the flows up quite a bit from last week, currently 1,140 cfs at Falls Village and 2,070 cfs at Gaylordsville.

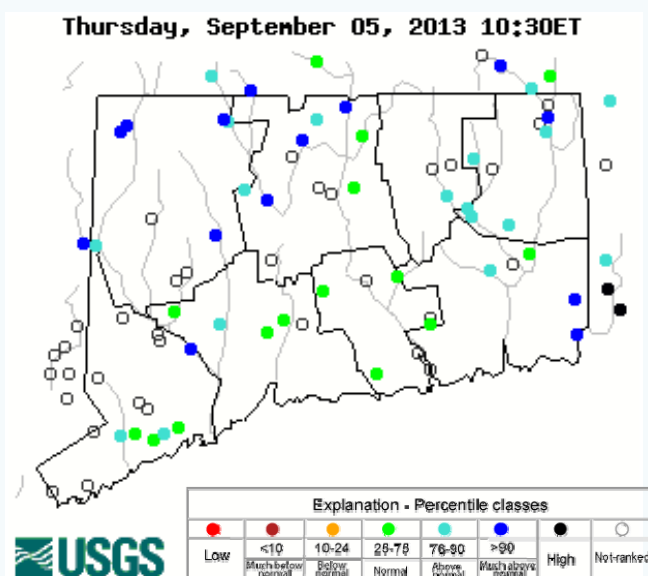
Current hatches and patterns include Sulfurs (#16-18), Blue Wing Olive (#20-26, early morning; spinner fall in evening), Leadwing Coachman (#10-12 evening, September is peek month), Cahill (#12-14, evening), and Black caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening). Golden stonefly nymphs (#6-14) hatch at first light and adults egg-lay after dark. Try Black Ants (#14-20, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#14-18, mid day), Stone Hopper (#8-10, mid day). Don't forget streamers (morning & evening). Patterns to try include: White, Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10).

Lakes & Ponds - Some lakes are still producing good fishing with reports from Crystal Lake (Ellington; target 25-30' early morning), East Twin Lake (30-35'), Wononskopomuc Lake (30'), Mashapaug Lake, Highland Lake (target 30+'), West Hill Pond (25-33') & Beach Pond (35-37').

NOTES & NOTICES:

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 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 9/05/2013

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) 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 was on the slow side (basically for almost everything) over the holiday weekend but that should change. The usual bluefish 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, around the Norwalk Islands, and Cable and Anchor Reef.

STRIPED BASS fishing was also on the slow side even for anglers live-lining baitfish! 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, 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, around the Norwalk Islands, and Cable and Anchor Reef.

SUMMER FLOUNDER fishing remains fair to good. 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) is the bright spot of the fishing report with good to excellent fishing throughout LIS! Any of the major rocky reefs and rock piles scattered throughout LIS will have scup on them!

BLACK SEA BASS fishing is good in eastern LIS and excellent in Block Island Sound.

CATCH OF THE WEEK: A 50+ lbs stingray was caught from shore at Harkness Memorial State Park!

BLUE CRABBING is still hanging in there but time is running out!

Just a Reminder – The blackfish (tautog) fishing season is closed in Connecticut!

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