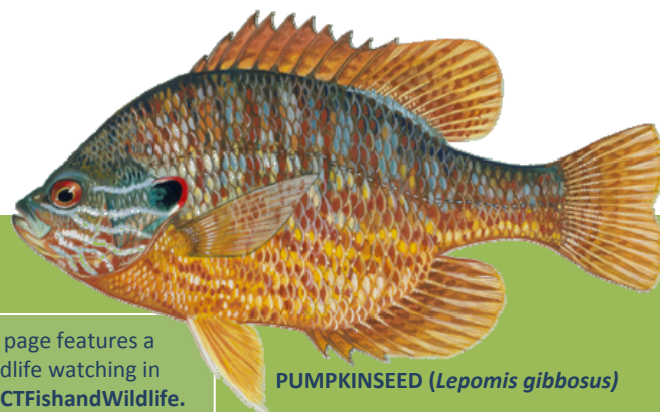


**CT DEEP** **2013**  
**FISHING REPORT NUMBER 21**  
**9/12/2013**



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](http://www.facebook.com/CTFishandWildlife).



PUMPKINSEED (*Lepomis gibbosus*)

**Hunting and Fishing Appreciation Day – Saturday September 28<sup>th</sup>**



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](http://www.ct.gov/deep/huntfishday) for more info.

**SHARE THE EXPERIENCE**  
Take someone fishing

**INLAND REPORT**

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing is generally fair to good. Areas to try include Mashapaug Lake, Highland Lake, Bantam Lake, Crystal Lake, Congamond Lakes, Wononskopomuc Lake, Hatch Pond, Candlewood Lake, Messerschmidt Pond, Winchester Lake, Quonnipaug Lake, Burr Pond, Halls Pond, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Lake Saltonstall, Lake Waramaug, Dog Pond, Bishop Swamp, Stillwater Pond, Silver Lake (Meriden) and Beseck Lake. **Tournament angler** reports are from Lower Bolton Lake (good fishing, with 6.31 and 5.21 lb

lunkers), Bashan Lake (slow fishing, and nothing of size, lunker was only 1.5 lbs), Mashapaug Lake (good early bite, then a front cleared out and the bite died, lunker was 2.69 lbs), Amos Lake (fair to good fishing, with a 5.74 lb lunker), Ashland Pond (good fishing with lots of bigger fish, including a 5.56 lb lunker, two other fish over 5 lbs and several 4 lb fish), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (good action on fish in the 1-2 lb range, only 3 fish over 3 lbs caught for one club), Candlewood Lake (fair to good fishing, some bass in the 3-4 lb range), Lake Zoar (slow, with only a 2.32 lb lunker), Highland Lake (good fishing, with a 3.2 lb lunker).

**SMALLMOUTH BASS** catches reported at Bantam Lake, Colebrook Reservoir (very good action reported), Candlewood Lake, , Coventry Lake, Squantz Pond, Bantam Lake, Mashapaug Lake and Highland Lake. **Tournament angler** reports are from Highland lake (slow) and Candlewood Lake (fair).

**NORTHERN PIKE** are rated as excellent. Catches have been reported in Bantam Lake (including fish up to 36 inches) and Winchester Lake (just before the stumps). Big spoons on the

**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](http://www.ct.gov/deep/invasivespecies) or the Aquatic Invasive species section of the 2013 CT angler's Guide( [www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide](http://www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide)).



outside edges of the weeds are working.

Big **CHAIN PICKEREL** are being caught at Wononskopomuc Lake ("best in the state").

**CARP** are being caught in Candlewood Lake and Squantz Pond. Fall is a good time for carp fishing as many other anglers pack it in. Stay the course and find where they are pooled up for some great action.

**PANFISH** are providing some good late summer time action. Use worms, grubs, jigs or small poppers for them. Areas to try include: Red Cedar Lake, Griggs Pond, Roseland Lake, Winchester Lake, Black Pond (Meriden/Middlefield), West Twin Lake, Tyler Lake, Silver Lake (Meriden), Beseck Lake, Rogers Lake, Billings Lake, Gardner Lake, Lake Zoar, Coventry Lake, Wood Creek Pond, Quinebaug Lake, Bishop Pond and Batterson Park Pond.

### CONNECTICUT RIVER

Flows are currently at moderate levels and comfortable for boating and fishing. There were many reports of **NORTHERN PIKE** (fish up to 37 inches) being caught in the lower river.

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** are being taken in the coves in the lower river. **CATFISH** (including some 10 lb plus fish) are being caught in the evening hours from pre-baited sites on chunk bait.

**SMALLMOUTH BASS** action is good in the Enfield/Windsor area. **CARP** are being caught on corn & boilies in the East Hartford and Middletown areas, and in the coves below along the river below Middletown.

### TROUT

**Rivers & streams** - Overall, trout fishing was good last week. Flows are generally in good shape (at typical levels for early September – see box on page 4) and the temperatures are coming down nicely (and a taste of fall is forecast for the weekend). As the forecast includes the potential for some thunderstorms (possibly locally heavy) tonight (Thursday, 9/12), anglers may want to check streamflows for a number of areas that can be found on the USGS website at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/current/?type=flow>. A number of hatches typically slow, don't forget terrestrial fly patterns. Streamer action should get even better as the fall approaches.

**Farmington River** – Fishing has been good. West Branch flows are currently clear and moderate (392 cfs at Riverton with the Still River adding another 56 cfs). Water temperatures are in the mid 60's°F. This week (Monday, 9/9, through Wednesday, 9/11), DEEP completed its **annual electrofishing survey** of the West Branch Farmington River. Fishing in some areas may be slow for a few days following this sampling.

Current hatches/patterns include *Isonychia bicolor* (major hatch, #12-14, fast water, evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* spp. & *Baetis* spp., #18, 22-24, mid-late afternoon), Cahills/Summer (*Stenonema ithaca*, #18-22, evenings), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; green #22-26, evening; summer pupa #18-20 morning), Midges (#22-32, morning), Black Ants (#14-20, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#14-18, mid day), Flying Ants (#16-30, mid day, when windy/humid, especially after rain), Stone Hopper (#8-14, mid day) and Golden Drake (*Anthopotamus distinctus*, #10-14, late evening).

**Housatonic River** – With generally cooler weather, fishing has been good. Morning water temperatures are now in the mid 60's°F. flows are currently clear, moderate (503 cfs at Falls Village and 710 cfs at Gaylordsville). As thunderstorms are possible tonight (Thursday, 9/12), anglers should call FirstLight Power at 1-888-417-4837

#### 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.



or check the USGS website (<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/current/?type=flow>) for updated Housatonic River flow information.

Current insect hatches/patterns include flying ants (#14-20, mid-day, when windy/humid, September is peek month), Fall Sulfurs (#16-18), Leadwing Coachman (#10-12 evening, September is peek month), Sulfurs duns (#16-18, morning; afternoon to early evening for spinners), Cahill (#12-14, evening) and Black caddis (#14-20, early morning & evening). Try Black Ants (#14-20, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#14-18, mid day) and Stone Hopper (#8-10, mid day). Don't forget streamers (morning & evening), typically patterns include White, Wooly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn and Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10).

**Lakes & Ponds** – Anglers continue to find fair to good late summer trout fishing, with reports from Mashapaug Lake, Wononskopomuc Lake, Crystal Lake (target 22-25 feet), Highland Lake, Beach Pond (15 fish for one angler, over 30 feet of water) and West Hill Pond (30-35 feet down).

#### NOTES & NOTICES:

**CONNECTICUT RIVER - Haddam.** The Connecticut Yankee-Haddam Neck Power Plant discharge canal has been closed to public access due to security concerns.

**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.

**LAKE MCDONOUGH.** The MDC boat launch facility has closed for the season.

**ROGERS LAKE.** The lake is currently drawn down approximately 12 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, September 14, 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.

---

***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](http://www.ct.gov/deep/fishing).

## TIPS & TRICKS - FLY FISHING FOR CARP

### Sight Casting

- ✓ casting the fly 1 or 2 feet ahead of them.
- ✓ carp can often be seen tailing in the shallows.
- ✓ carp are eating organisms they find from the bottom.
- ✓ expect a long hard fight that can take you "into your backing".

### Blind Casting.

- ✓ cast where carp are likely to be & hope you are right.
- ✓ OR cast to where you know carp are because you have pre-baited.

### Carp Flies

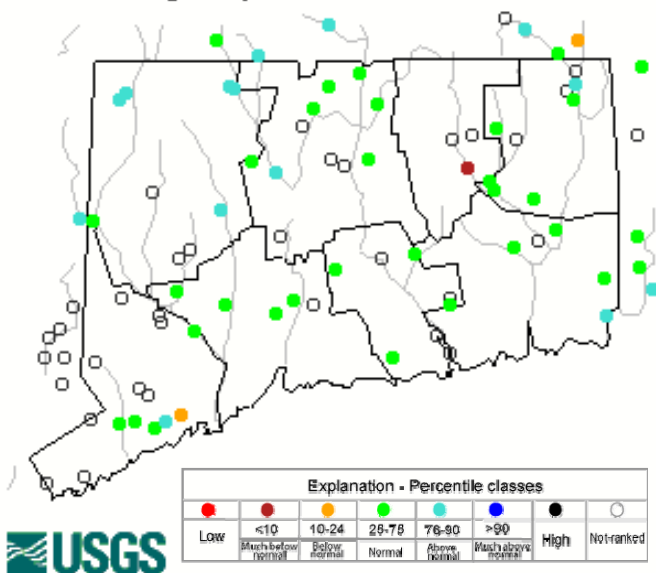
- ✓ choosing a fly that imitates a food the fish will recognize.
- ✓ aquatic creatures.
- ✓ plant material.
- ✓ introduced food -- food that humans toss into the water that carp learn to eat.
- ✓ Carp are very sensitive to taste and smell.
- ✓ rub flies with mud or algae from the bank or bottom to make it have a "natural" taste.

### Nymphs

- ✓ nymph should be on or near the bottom.
- ✓ nymph should move "naturally".
- ✓ drag is unwanted.
- ✓ use a strike indicator.

## Stream flow conditions as of 9/12/2013

Thursday, September 12, 2013 17:30ET

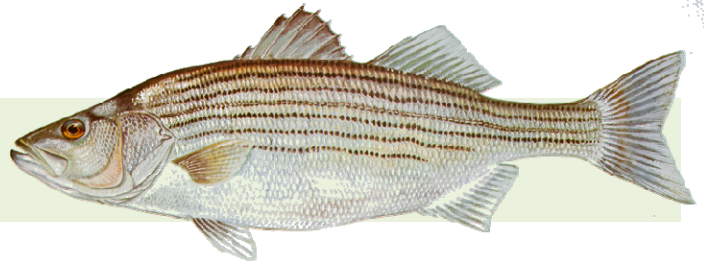


Data in the state graphic to the left are generated by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) and are available on line at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/rt>

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 75<sup>th</sup> percentile means only ¼ of the streamflow values were above the value and thus would be considered "above normal". Stream flow between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> are considered to be "normal flows" and those 25<sup>th</sup> or less are considered to be "below normal".

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact us at (860) 418-5910 or [deep.accommodations@ct.gov](mailto:deep.accommodations@ct.gov) if you have a disability and need a communication aid or service; have limited proficiency in English and may need information in another language; or if you wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint.

## MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the high 60's to around the 70 °F mark. 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://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1)

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

<http://www.wunderground.com/MAR/AN/330.html>

**BLUEFISH** fishing has picked up with most fish weighing in the 4 to 6 lbs range. Larger 12+ lb “slammers” can be taken on fresh chunk baits in the major tidal rivers on the flood tide and the top of the ebb. Other 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. Snappers are in thick, now measuring about 8 inches in length.

**STRIPED BASS** fishing is best during dawn and dusk times. Live lining bunker or eels is the way to go. Trolling parachute rigs on wire is also productive. 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 is fair to good as fish start to migrate out of LIS. 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, and south off the New Haven Harbor breakwaters.

**SCUP (porgy)** fishing is prime time with some “hub caps” in the 15 to 17 inch range being caught off the reefs. Any of the major rocky reefs, wrecks, and rock piles will do.

**BLACK SEA BASS** fishing is good with some nice size “hump heads” being reported and fishing should get better as we shift into fall.

**HICKORY SHAD** can be found mixed in with snappers in the lower Connecticut River.

**ATLANTIC BONITO** are roaming around eastern LIS (Hatchett Reef, Bartlett Reef, Pine Island area to the Race including Little Gull Island). In the west, try fishing Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands, and Cable and Anchor Reef. Diving gulls and terns are a good give away.

**LITTLE TUNNY (false albacore)** should be showing up any day now!

**BLUE CRABBING** is still good with some nice size “jimmies” being reported. The time to go is now!

---

### DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of  
**ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106

[www.ct.gov/deep](http://www.ct.gov/deep)

Pumpkinseed & striped bass images  
courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.