

CT DEEP **2013**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 22
9/19/2013



Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*)



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.

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INLAND REPORT

ATLANTIC SALMON - 2013 FALL ATLANTIC SALMON STOCKING BEGINS

This week DEEP began the 2013 autumn stockings of Atlantic salmon by stocking 600 Atlantic salmon into the Shetucket River (200 fish), Crystal Lake (100 fish), upper Naugatuck river (100 fish), lower Naugatuck river (100 fish) and Mount Tom Pond (100 fish).

The group of Atlantic salmon being released this week for the fishery range in weight from 2-6 pounds each. In early October, approximately 400 additional fish in the same size range will be available for stocking. Following spawning later this fall, DEEP expects several hundred additional salmon from the Kensington Hatchery will be available for stocking in November. These fish will range in weight from 3 to 15 pounds each.

For a summary of Atlantic salmon fishing regulations see page 4.

TROUT- DEEP BEGINS ANNUAL FALL TROUT STOCKINGS.

DEEP's fall trout stockings began this week. From now through mid October, DEEP is releasing 29,000 trophy and adult sized trout into selected waters throughout the state. Approximately 12,800 are trophy size brown trout (all greater than 12 inches in length) and the remaining 16,200 adults are standard size (9-10 inch) rainbow trout. This week DEEP stocked over 10,000 trout (7,250 brown trout and 3,200 rainbow trout).

Rivers and streams stocked this week: The **Salmon River** (1,000 brown trout in the **TMA**, 300 brown trout below the TMA), **Moosup River TMA** (300 brown trout), **Yantic River TMA** (350 brown trout), **Natchaug River** (1,000 brown trout) and **Willimantic River TMA** (300 brown trout) in eastern CT; and the **Mill River TMA** (200 brown trout), **Saugatuck River TMA** (250 brown trout), **Mianus River TMA** (300 brown trout) and the **Sleeping Giant TMA** (Mill River-Hamden, 200 brown trout) in western CT.

Lakes and ponds stocked this week: **Crystal Lake** (500 brown trout) in eastern CT and **Mount Tom Pond** (300 brown trout), **Stillwater Pond** (200 brown trout), **Tyler Pond** (250 brown trout), **West Side Pond** (150 brown trout) and **Mohawk Pond** (150 brown trout) in western CT.

Trout Parks stocked this week: The **Valley Falls** (400 rainbow trout), **Natchaug River** (400 rainbow trout), **Mohegan Park Pond** (400 rainbow trout), **Chatfield Hollow** (400 rainbow trout) and **Day Pond** (400 rainbow trout) Trout Parks in eastern CT, and the Wolfe Park (**Great Hollow Pond**, 500 brown trout & 400 rainbow trout), **Black Rock Pond** (500 brown trout), **Wharton Brook Pond** (500 brown trout & 400 rainbow trout) and **Black Rock Pond** (400 rainbow trout) Trout Parks in western CT.

RIVERS & STREAMS - Trout fishing should be picking up. The fall stockings have started, temperatures continue to be moderate, and flows in most areas are generally quite fishable, right around typical early fall levels in most areas (see *state stream flow graphic on page 4*). Anglers will find that streamers will play an important role in the fall. Try white, yellow & brown colors. Patterns to try include White, Wooly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). Nymphing has been productive Good reports last week from the Farmington River & Housatonic River (early/late).

FIND TROUT STOCKING MAPS ON OUR WEBSITE

Maps of all of the state's trout streams and rivers showing the many stocking and access points are available online at www.ct.gov/deep/troutstockingmaps



Farmington River – Fishing was good last week and conditions should be good for the upcoming weekend and next week. The weather forecast is generally good, there are plenty of trout waiting for anglers (including many of the 2,000 brown trout stocked just before Labor Day), West Branch flows are clear and moderate (360 cfs at Riverton with the Still River adding another 44 cfs) and water temperatures are in the mid 60's°F.

Hatches/patterns include *Isonychia bicolor* (#12-14, fast water, afternoon/evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* & *Baetis* spp., #18, 22-24, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #18-20, all day; green #20-22, evening; summer pupa #18-20 morning), Midges (#22-32, morning), Black Ants (#16-18, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#16-18, mid day), Flying Ants (#14-20, mid day, when windy/humid) and Stone Hopper (#10-12, mid day).

Housatonic River – Trout fishing should be good, with comfortable weather in the forecast, clear & very fishable flows (381 cfs at Falls Village and 644 cfs at Gaylordsville) and morning water temperatures in the mid to upper 50's°F (rising some through the day).

Hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive (#20-26 on cloudy days, early morning; spinner fall in evening), Leadwing Coachman (#10-12 evening), Black caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening), Light Cahills (#12-14, evening) and Sulfurs (#16-18, evenings). Black/Cinnamon Ants (#14-20, mid day in fast water), Sulfurs (#16-18), Black Beetles (#14-18, mid day), Stone Hopper (#8-10, mid day) and Flying Ants (#14-20, mid day, when windy/humid). Trout will ignore everything else when ants are on the water, also try nymphing the pockets, deeper riffles and pool heads.

LAKES & PONDS – Lakes reporting good trout fishing include West Hill Pond, Highland Lake, East Twin Lake, Crystal Lake (Ellington) and Beach Pond.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is reported as fair to good. Places to try include Mashapaug Lake, Highland Lake, Bantam Lake, Crystal Lake, Congamond Lakes, Lake Saltonstall, Wononskopomuc Lake, Candlewood Lake, Messerschmidt Pond, Winchester Lake, East Twin Lake, Billings Lake, Pierrepont Pond, Scoville Reservoir (slow), West Twin Lake, Hatch Pond, Upper Bolton Lake, Stillwater Lake, Lake Zoar, Halls Pond, Quaddick Reservoir, Silver Lake (Meriden), Burr Pond, Cedar Lake, Bishop Swamp, Griggs Pond, Red Cedar Lake, Mono Pond and Mudge Pond. **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake 9 fair to good fishing, with a number of 3-4 lb fish, and some larger including 5.65 lb), Bashan Lake (fair fishing, but nothing over 2 lbs), Beach Pond (fair at best, with only a 1.78 lbunker), Pattagansett Lake (good fishing, with a 3'13 lbunker),

Upper & Lower Moodus Reservoirs (a recent two-day found fair fishing, 4.9 and 4.3 lb lunkers, but most fish under 2 lbs),

SMALLMOUTH BASS catches reported from West Hill Pond, Bantam Lake, Colebrook Reservoir (low water, good fishing), Candlewood Lake (good), Highland Lake (fair), Bashan Lake (few), Coventry Lake, Mashapaug Lake, and Lake Zoar. Anglers are still finding some fair to good river smallie fishing on the upper Housatonic River, Quinebaug River Farmington River (Tariffville) and Naugatuck River. **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake (good fishing, with 4.31 lb, 3.64 lb smallie lunkers) and Beach Pond (nothing).

NORTHERN PIKE fishing is rated as very good. Pike are showing up in Bantam Lake (many in the 30 inch plus range), Winchester Lake and Pachaug Pond.

BLACK CRAPPIE are picking up with reports of fish coming from Lake Saltonstall, Park Pond and the Pequonnock River.

CARP are being caught in Lake Zoar, Candlewood Lake, Squantz Pond, Rogers Lake, Batterson Park Pond and West Thompson Reservoir.

KOKANEE SALMON are being caught from West Hill Pond. Fish in the 14-15 inch range were caught trolling slow over 30 feet of water. Action is over by mid-morning. The fish are just starting to crimson up for the spawn. Silvers are still coming to net.

CONNECTICUT RIVER

Flows are back at moderate levels and comfortable for boating and fishing. **BLACK CRAPPIE** action is improving in the coves throughout the river. Target the backwaters of Wethersfield Cove with small shiners. **NORTHERN PIKE** (many up to 30 inches plus) fishing is reported as very good in the main stem and the coves. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are still bending the rod for many anglers in the upper part of the river (Hartford/Windsor/Enfield). **LARGEMOUTH BASS** are providing some fair action from below Hartford to Haddam. Great **CHANNEL CATFISH** fishing is being reported, with some big fish weighing in over 13 pounds. Success is being found by live lining sunfish suspended above the bottom. Anglers should also try cut bait or chunks near brush piles next to deeper holes on the outside river edges. Look for slower moving waters. **CARP** are providing a lot of action. Locations to target include Chapman Pond, Hamburg Cove, Keeney Cove, Wethersfield Cove, East Hartford area, Park River outflow (excellent) and Wrights Cove.

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 (boat launch). 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.

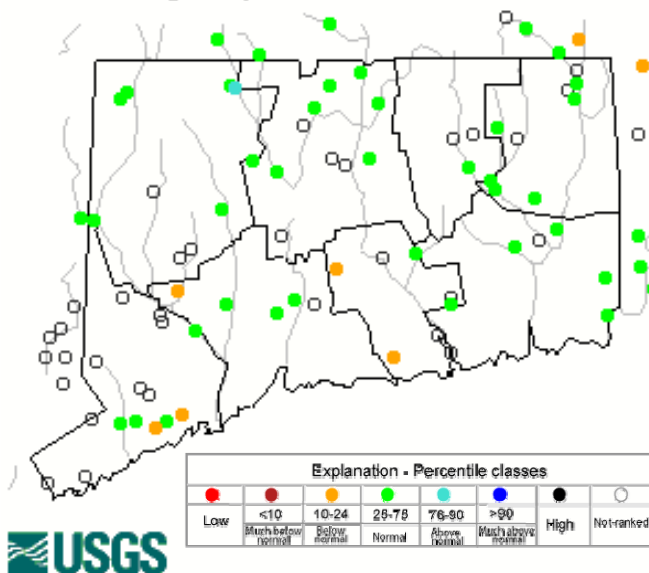
LAKE LILLINONAH (rowing regatta) A rowing/crew regatta is scheduled for Sunday, September 22, from 8 am to 11 am. The course extends from Addis Park (above Lover's Leap) to approximately the route 133 bridge. Navigation in this area may be difficult.

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

ROGERS LAKE. The lake remains 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.

Atlantic salmon fishing regulations and areas summary

- **Regulations for Atlantic salmon on the Shetucket and Naugatuck Rivers.** In the Naugatuck, Housatonic and Shetucket Rivers, the daily creel limit for Atlantic salmon is one fish per day through September 30, 2013. From October 1 through November 30, angling for Atlantic salmon is restricted to **catch-and-release only**. From December 1, 2013, through March 31, 2014, the daily creel limit for Atlantic salmon will be one. During the open season in the rivers, the legal method for taking Atlantic salmon is limited to angling using a single fly, or an artificial lure with a single free swinging hook and no additional weight can be added to the line above the fly or lure. Also, from October 1st through March 31st, fishing for other species in the designated Atlantic Salmon “Broodstock” Areas is restricted to the gear legal for Atlantic salmon.
- On the **Shetucket River**, anglers can fish for salmon downstream from the Scotland Dam (Windham) to the Water Street Bridge in Norwich (the first bridge upstream of Norwich Harbor). The salmon are stocked into one designated Atlantic Salmon “Broodstock Area”, from the Scotland Dam to the Occum Dam.
- Anglers are allowed to fish for salmon in the **Naugatuck River** from the confluence of the East and West Branches (Torrington) downstream to the Housatonic River (Derby). Anglers may also fish for Atlantic salmon in the Housatonic River downstream of Derby Dam. The salmon are typically stocked into two designated Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas on the Naugatuck River, the “Campville Section” of the upper Naugatuck River from Route 118 downstream to the Thomaston Flood Control Dam (Litchfield-Thomaston) and the “Beacon Falls Section” of the lower Naugatuck, from Prospect Street (Naugatuck) downstream to Pines Bridge Road (Route 42 bridge, Beacon Falls). From October 1st through March 31st, fishing for other species in these designated Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas is restricted to the gear legal for Atlantic salmon.
- The regulations for Atlantic salmon released into lakes and ponds are different from the regulations for salmon on the Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers. **In each lake, the regulations for methods, seasons and minimum lengths for salmon will be the same as for trout in that specific water body but the daily creel limit will be one salmon per day.** (Please refer to the 2013 CT Angler's Guide for trout regulations).

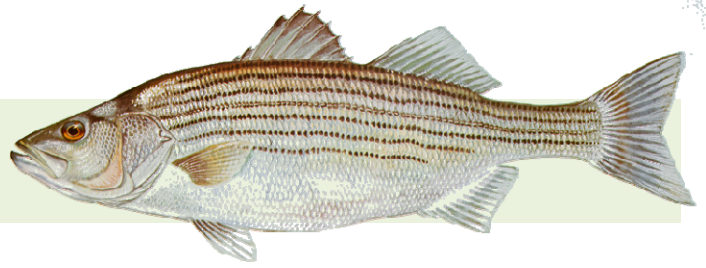
Stream flow conditions as of 9/19/2013**Thursday, September 19, 2013 19:30ET**

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) are in the mid to high 60'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 is rated good with some "choppers" hitting the scales at 14+ lbs. The Race, Pigeon Rip, Plum Gut, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, and Cable and Anchor Reef have been consistent fishing areas. Other bluefish spots include the reefs between Watch Hill and Fishers Island eastern point, Ram Island Reef in Fishers Island Sound, Thames River, Bartlett Reef, Black Point, Connecticut River, Long Sand Shoal, Sixmile Reef, Southwest Reef, Falkner Island area, the reefs off Madison to Branford, New Haven Harbor, Charles Island area, Housatonic River, Bridgeport Harbor, Penfield Reef, and around the Norwalk Islands.

STRIPED BASS fishing is good especially during early morning, evening and on overcast days. The usual 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. Live bunker or eels and fresh cut chunk baits are the ticket!

SUMMER FLOUNDER fishing is waning as water temperatures drop. However, deep water (90+ft) will still hold a doormat or two. The south side of Fishers Island, Bloody Grounds off Black Point, Falkner Island area, and south off the New Haven Harbor breakwaters are spots worth trying.

SCUP (porgy) fishing is in high gear! Any of the major rocky reefs will be stacked up with scup!

BLACK SEA BASS fishing is also approaching "prime time" with good to excellent fishing over gnarly hard bottom areas.

HICKORY SHAD can be found in the lower Connecticut River and tributaries.

ATLANTIC BONITO and LITTLE TUNNY (false albacore) are hit or miss as usual for these wide ranging speedsters. Fishing spots include Watch Hill area, Pine Island area to the Race including Little Gull Island, Bartlett Reef, Hatchett Reef, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands, and Cable and Anchor Reef.

BLUE CRABBING days are dwindling down but the crab quality is excellent with hard shelled jimmies packed full with meat!

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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Striped bass images courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.