

CT DEEP **2013**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 29
11/7/2013



Walleye (*Sander vitreus*)



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- **THIS IS THE FINAL REGULAR SEASON 2013 FISHING REPORT**
(weekly reports will resume next spring).
- **OCCASIONAL REPORTS WILL BE ISSUED INCLUDING DURING THE ICE FISHING SEASON.**

THANK YOU, HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND GOOD FISHING!

INLAND REPORT



ATLANTIC SALMON - Stocking Update - DEEP began spawning salmon at the Kensington Hatchery last week and approximately 100 spawned salmon were stocked out earlier this week in the Naugatuck River (upper-25 fish, lower- 25 fish) and Shetucket River (50 fish). These fish are beautiful, ranging in size from 2 to 15 pounds, and average 10 pounds each.

These stockings will bring the number of broodstock Atlantic salmon stocked this fall to approximately 1,800 fish (besides the Naugatuck & Shetucket rivers, Crystal Lake and Mount Tom Pond have also been stocked with salmon this fall). Some additional salmon should also become available in December. **For a summary of broodstock Atlantic salmon fishing regulations, see page 3.**

TROUT

RIVERS & STREAMS - Anglers are reporting good fishing in the West Branch Farmington River, Naugatuck River, Housatonic River, Blackberry River and Salmon River. Conditions this weekend will be variable with flows continuing to drop below typical mid-fall levels in many areas (see stream flow graphic on page 3).

Streamer anglers using 2X tippet are having success (9 am – 1 pm during low light periods/overcast days). This & nymphing dominate the early morning & late afternoon. For streamers try white, yellow and brown colors and patterns include Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). Try bottom bouncing nymphs with Tan & Winter Caddis pupa (#16-18), Serendipity (#14-16), Pheasant Tail (#12-20), Prince (#6-18) and Hare's ear (#8-20).

Farmington River – Fishing continues to be good. Flows are clear and moderate (currently 154 cfs at Riverton with the Still River adding another 111 cfs). Hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive (#20-24, dominant hatch), with *Isonychia* (#12-14-nymph, afternoon), Midges (#22-32) & Caddis mixed in. For best action try Blue Wing Olives (#20-24, late morning, 8-10x tippet) and Caddis (winter & tan #16-18, morning). Expect most of the action to be between 11:30 am and 3:00 pm.

Housatonic River – Mid-autumn fishing has been good. Flows are somewhat lower than typical early November levels, currently 521 cfs at Falls Village and 661 cfs at Gaylordsville. Morning water temperatures have been in the upper 30's and lower 40's °F (warming in the afternoon). Hatches/patterns include Blue

Wing Olive (#18-22, main hatch in the afternoon), Midges (#18-22) and Tan & Winter caddis (#14-18, early morning & late afternoon).

LAKES & PONDS – Trout fishing was generally fair to good last week with reports from Squantz Pond, Saugatuck Reservoir, Highland Lake (inlets, near shore), Mohegan Park Pond, East Twin Lake, Crystal Lake (Ellington, inlet to Crystal Lake Brook), Long Pond and Beach Pond (near the causeway).

There should be plenty of the 224 Seeforellen-strain broodstock brown trout that DEEP stocked last week into ten lakes and ponds. The fish stocked last week were raised at the Kensington State Fish Hatchery and weigh between 3 and 19 pounds each (averaging 12 pounds each). These fish were released into Beach Pond (Voluntown) (30 fish), Black Pond (Middlefield/Meriden) (25 fish), Cedar Lake (Chester) (25 fish), Mashapaug Lake (Union) (30 fish), Mohawk Pond (Cornwall/Goshen) (18 fish), Stillwater Pond (Torrington) (12 fish), Squantz Pond (New Fairfield/Sherman) (30 fish), Tyler Lake (Goshen) (12 fish), West Hill Pond (New Hartford/Barkhamsted) (30 fish) and Westside Pond (New Hartford/Barkhamsted) (12 fish).

SMALLMOUTH BASS – Some catches reported from West Hill Pond, Highland Lake, Gardner Lake and the Willimantic, Naugatuck and Farmington (Simsbury area) rivers. **Tournament reports** - Candlewood lake smallmouth fishing was excellent last weekend, with several 30 lb bags (for a 2 man team – 8 fish limit per team event) and lots of 3-4 lb smallies. Many fish were caught in shallow on spinner baits and crank baits.

LARGEMOUTH BASS - A number of lakes in the later stages of turnover and fishing remains variable, with some reports last week from West Hill Pond, Highland Lake, Bantam Lake, Congamond Lakes, Candlewood Lake (slow) and Quaddick Reservoir. **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake (generally slow).

NORTHERN PIKE fall bite is producing many good size fish. Best reports from Bantam Lake, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir and Pachaug Pond.

BLACK CRAPPIE are coming to net in Mansfield Hollow Reservoir and Park Pond.

PANFISH are providing mid-fall time action. Use worms, grubs, jigs or small poppers for them. Areas to try include Tyler Lake, Bishop Swamp, Dog Pond, Stillwater Pond, West Twin Lake, Amos Lake, Lake Hayward, Black Pond (Meriden), Halls Pond, Glasgo Pond, Gorton Pond, Ball Pond and Avery Pond.

CONNECTICUT RIVER

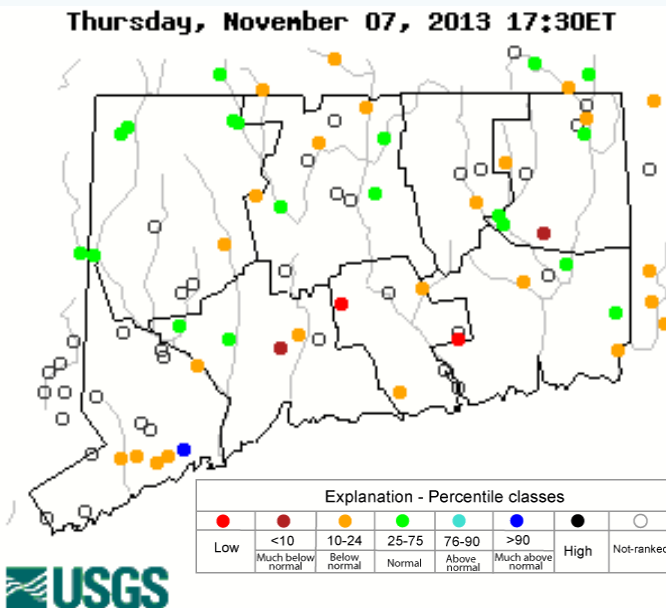
Flows continue to be comfortable for fishing. They have however dropped from last week's levels and are again lower than is typical and access through some typically difficult shallow areas may be limited. Fishing in the mouth/lower river has been excellent. **STRIPED BASS** (to 35 lbs) action in the lower river is hot as the Hickory Shad are moving out. Successful anglers are using plugs, cut bait, live lining Hickory Shad and eels. Several **BLUEFISH** (to 14 lbs) have been reported as well. **CATFISH** are still being caught throughout the river. Cut bait is working well. **BLACK CRAPPIE** fishing has heated up and is putting on a good showing in the coves up and down the river for anglers using small shiners. Use a small jig in your presentation.

NORTHERN PIKE fishing is reported as good and getting better with several fish (to 38 inches) being caught this past week. Fish have been found in Wethersfield Cove, and from Harbor Park (Middletown) down river to the Salmon River. The Chester area has produced well. Sebile lures have worked for several anglers.

SMALLMOUTH BASS in the upper river are still giving anglers willing to search for them good fights.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing in Wrights Cove has been good. **CARP** are being caught with chunky fish coming in as they bulk up for the winter. **WHITE PERCH** are fishing well in the Essex area. **YELLOW PERCH** have moved into the shallows and are providing anglers with some excellent mid-fall action.

Stream flow conditions as of 11/7/2013



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”.

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).

NOTES & NOTICES:

BESECK LAKE A 13 foot drawdown to facilitate dam repairs began October 4.

BURR POND (boat launch). The boat launch on Burr Pond (in Burr Pond State Park- Torrington) is currently scheduled to be closed for repaving from November 4th through November 15th.

CANDLEWOOD LAKE (safety buoy removals) - The Candlewood Lake authority has completed removal of the hazard, navigation and speed buoys for the winter. Boaters, especially those unfamiliar with the lake should use extra caution out on the lake.

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

DRAWDOWNS (eastern CT)... "Winter" drawdowns of **Bashan Lake, Beach Pond, Lower Bolton Lake, Middle Bolton Lake, Gardner Lake, Mashapaug Lake, Pickerel Lake** and **Pachaug Pond** are in progress.

HIGHLAND LAKE (drawdown). A 4 foot drawdown of Highland Lake is scheduled to begin November 1st.

LAKE LILLINONAH (boat launch). The Lake Lillinonah state boat launch (Route 133, also referred to as the "Steel Bridge" launch) is closed for renovations. 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 (drawdown) Lake Lillinonah is currently drawn down approximately 9.5 feet from its typical minimum summer level, with refilling currently scheduled for November 17th. The drawdown duration this fall will be longer (nearly two weeks) and the depth of drawdown several feet deeper than is typical for the fall drawdown to facilitate renovation of the Lake Lillinonah state boat launch (Route 133 launch). During this drawdown, **launching of trailer boats will not be possible at the Pond Brook state boat launch.**

ROGERS LAKE. The lake remains (as of 11/5) down nearly one foot. Dam repairs have been completed and refill has begun but has been slow as the rate of refill is dependent on rainfall amounts in the watershed (and it continues to be relatively dry). 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.

WEST BRANCH RESERVOIR (Hogback Reservoir). The West Branch Reservoir was drawn down 70 feet to facilitate an inspection of Colebrook River Lake outflow structures and refill began early last week (as of 11/7, the lake was down 30 feet). Refill is expected to take approximately two more weeks.

FISHING SEASONS. Anglers are reminded that the fishing season has closed at several lakes and ponds scattered throughout the state, most notably **LAKE WONOSKOPOMUC, GREEN FALLS RESERVOIR, BATTERSON PARK POND** and **SHENIPSIT RESERVOIR**. The fishing season will reopen at these water bodies at 6 am on April 19th, 2014.

Additionally, the fishing season at a number of areas including **BUNNELLS POND** (Beardsley Park), **GREAT HOLLOW POND** (Wolfe Park), **LAKE MCDONOUGH**, the **MALTBY LAKES, LAKE SALTONSTALL, MOHEGAN PARK POND** (Spaulding Pond, Norwich), **LAKE CHAMBERLAIN** and most designated "children's areas" will close after **November 30** and **SAUGATUCK RESERVOIR** will close after **December 31st**. *(Please refer to the 2013 CT Angler's Guide for complete regulations).*

TIPS & TRICKS – IMPROVE YOUR RIVER FISHING

Learn to read the water

- Most important ability to predict where fish will be found.
- Eliminate unproductive sections of river.
- Increases chances of success.

Fish the edges

- Current break, depth, structure or light changes.
- Separate holding water from less desirable water.
- Holding areas are where fish don't want to leave.

Learn waters in your area

- Observe all stream flows, including low summer flows & early fall flows.
- Learn troughs, holes, boulders & stream beds.
- Observe surface disturbance from these features.
- Identify slicks, riffles & standing waves.

Become a technique specialist

- Diversity of gear & techniques can be confusing.
- Pick one or two techniques, stick with them & become a specialist.
- Try standard drift fishing gear with bait and learn to back-troll plugs.

Fish "Prime Time"

- Each stream has its own distinct peak fishing periods.
- When fish run & optimum flow coincide you have "Prime Time".
- After high water, it will drop/recede into its 'home stream color'.
- When this happens get out on the water.

High/Low water/visibility

- High flow, fish feed high in water column.
- Low flow, fish feed low in water column.
- High visibility fish don't feel as safe & will travel at night.
- Low visibility fish feel safe & will travel during the day.

"The Touch" catches the fish

- "The touch" is maintaining proper line tension, recognizing a bite & setting the hook like you mean it.
- "The touch" comes with experience.
- Get out there and get experience!

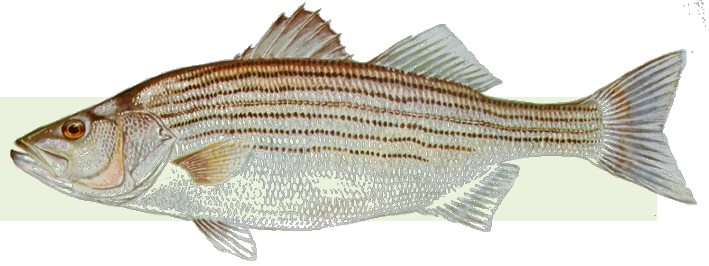


FIND TROUT STOCKING MAPS ON OUR WEBSITE

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

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the high 50'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>

TAUTOG (blackfish) fishing continues to be good to excellent throughout LIS. Fishing in water 10-20 ft at any of the breakwaters, reefs, wrecks, and areas with structure will do. Best baits are Asian shore crabs, hermit crabs, and green crabs. The fresher the bait the better!

BLUEFISH and **STRIPED BASS** are in the lower tidal rivers chasing menhaden and hickory shad! The lower Connecticut River from the Baldwin Bridge down to the breakwaters continues to be the hot spot.

HICKORY SHAD fishing is still good to excellent in the Connecticut River and the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier is the place to be! Flood tide is best. Other hickory shad fishing spots include the Thames River and Branford River.

Angler reminder: Black Sea Bass season is closed until June 14, 2014.

Check out our Coastal Access Guide at <http://www.lisrc.uconn.edu/coastalaccess/> for more shore fishing locations close to home!

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.

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DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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Yellow perch & striped bass images courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.