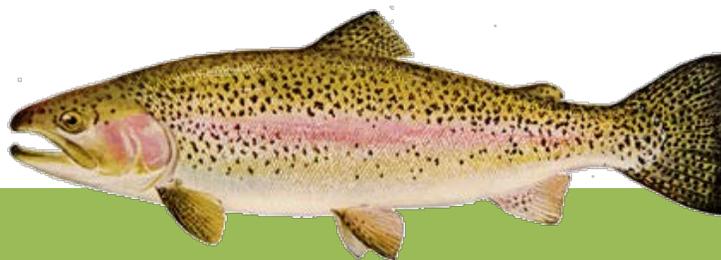


CT DEEP **2014**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 1
4/24/2014



rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)



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.

INLAND REPORT



TROUT

OPENING DAY –The extended winter and April rains may have meant a slow start to the trout season. Anglers were however greeted with a beautiful, mostly clear but cool morning and enjoyed great weather throughout Opening Day. Eight of the eleven Trout Parks were stocked on Opening Day and the many kids present enjoyed helping us stock. Approximately 389,000 trout were stocked throughout the state before Opening Day and DEEP’s in-season stocking is now underway with 221,000 additional trout scheduled to be stocked between Opening Day and the end of May.

RIVERS & STREAMS - Conditions should be good for trout fishing this weekend. Flows are very fishable, have dropped back to typical spring levels (see stream flow graphic on page 3), generally comfortable weather is forecast, and there are plenty of recently stocked trout waiting for anglers.

Opening Day fishing was generally fair to slow, and many anglers feeling that fish were harder to find this year. With several high flow events earlier in April, and generally higher flows, stocked fish may have been more widely dispersed than for the last several Opening Days.

Best Opening Day reports were from the Scantic River, West Branch Farmington River, Indian Hole Brook, Birdseye Brook and lower Pootatuck River. Mixed reports/Fair action (typically some anglers with full creels, many with one to several catches, and a number of skunks) from the Fenton River, Salmon River, Blackberry River, Mohawk Brook, Mianus River and Rippowam River. Fishing was reported as slow at Salmon Brook (Granby), Naugatuck River, Farmill River, East Aspetuck River, Pequabuck River, Mill Brook and the Hammonasset River.

Farmington River – Trout fishing has been fair to good and conditions should be very good for the upcoming weekend and next week. West Branch flows are clearing, moderate and quite fishable, currently 191 cfs at Riverton plus an additional 165 cfs from the Still River. The West Branch (the year-round C&R area) was stocked this week and the Farmington in the Unionville-Tariffville

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.



stretch was stocked late last week. Hatches/patterns include Blue Winged Olive, Midges and Early Stone flies (Blacks, Greys) and a variety of Nymphs (still producing well). Surface activity will increase with rising temperatures.

Housatonic River – Trout action was fair. Conditions for fishing should be fair to good this weekend and into next week. Morning water temperatures are currently in the lower 40's°F. Flows continue to clear and are fishable (still high, but at typical late April levels), currently 1,490 cfs at Falls Village and 2,5800 cfs at Gaylordsville, with some showers/rain in the forecast. Hatches/patterns are limited and include Brown Stone flies, Parachute Adams (#14-26), Midges (#20-28) and black/brown stoneflies (#12-16). Nymphing and streamers are producing. With increasing temperatures more bugs will start to show up.

Rivers and streams stocking update (Note that all stocking schedules are subject to change): This week in **eastern CT**, the **Shetucket River, Susquetonscut Brook, Beaver Brook, Salmon River** (both the Trophy Trout area and the TMA), **Farm River** (upper & lower), **Branford River, West River, Natchaug River, Mount Hope River, Fenton River, Eight Mile River, East Branch Eight Mile River**, and **Hammonasset River** (including the TMA) are all scheduled for stocking.

In western CT, the **Bantam River** (inlet, outlet and Fly-Fishing-Only area) **West Branch Farmington River** (year round catch-and-release portion of the TMA), **Kittletown Brook, Shepaug River, East Aspetuck River, Mill River** (Fairfield, including the TMA), **Wepawaug River, Saugatuck River (upper), William "Doc" Skerlick TMA** (on Saugatuck River), **West Branch Saugatuck River** Macedonia Brook (in State Park) and **Mill River** (Hamden, including the Sleeping Giant TMA) are scheduled to be stocked this week.

LAKES & PONDS – Fair to good fishing and some really nice fish were found in a number of lakes/ponds throughout Connecticut, with reports from Pattaconk Lake (mixed success), Gardner Lake (fair), Mashapaug Lake (fair to good), Lake Wintergreen (fair to good), Cedar Lake, Beach Pond (fair to good), Black Pond (Meriden, good), Crystal Lake (fair), Stillwater Pond (fair-good), Baummer's Pond (slow), Wononskopomuc Lake (good to very good early bite), Squantz Pond (on the slow side), Candlewood Lake (good, with some 5 & 6 lb trout being caught) and West Hill Pond (fair).

Lakes and ponds stocking update (Note that all stocking schedules are subject to change): This week in **eastern CT**, **Lake Saltonstall, Branford Supply Pond, Black Pond** (Woodstock), **Gardner Lake** and **Horse Pond** are scheduled to be stocked.

In western CT, **East Twin Lake, Highland Lake, Mohawk Pond, Tyler Pond, West Side Pond, Mohegan Lake, Birge Pond, Lake Wintergreen, Mirror Lake** (Hubbard Park Pond) and **West Hill Pond** are scheduled to be stocked.

TROUT PARKS – Fishing again ranged from fair to very good at the Trout Parks. All were stocked before Opening Day and eight of them, Chatfield Hollow (good action in the pond and lower brook, slow to fair in the upper pond), Mohegan Park Pond (good), Valley Falls Park Pond (generally good fishing, with at least three trout over 6 lbs among the catches), Black Rock Pond (fair), Wolfe Park-Great Hollow Pond (fair action), Southford Falls (mixed results), Stratton Brook (good early, then slowing) and Wharton Brook (fair at best) were stocked again on Opening Day. The Black Rock (Branch Brook only), Wolfe Park (Great Hollow Pond), Day Pond, Chatfield Hollow and Natchaug River Trout Parks are scheduled to be stocked this week.

ATLANTIC SALMON – Several nice catches reported from the Shetucket River and Crystal Lake this past weekend.

LARGEMOUTH BASS & SMALLMOUTH BASS. The extended winter has meant a late start to spring bass fishing. **Tournament angler** reports are from Lake Zoar (tough fishing, but with a 4.12 lb smallie and

a 2.53 lb largemouth for lunkers), Pachaug Pond (slow, with a 6.05 lb largemouth for a lunker), Lake Lillinonah (fair, mostly smallmouth, with a 3.15 smallie for a lunker) and Candlewood Lake (“fishing seems a bit behind” with more smaller fish being caught, still some 28 lb weights for 8-fish bags for several two-man teams).

WALLEYE – Spring action hasn’t begun, only reports are for several small fish caught at Squantz Pond

CATFISH – Some catches reported at Mohegan Park Pond, Pattaconk Lake, Lake Wintergreen and Silver Lake (Berlin/Meriden).

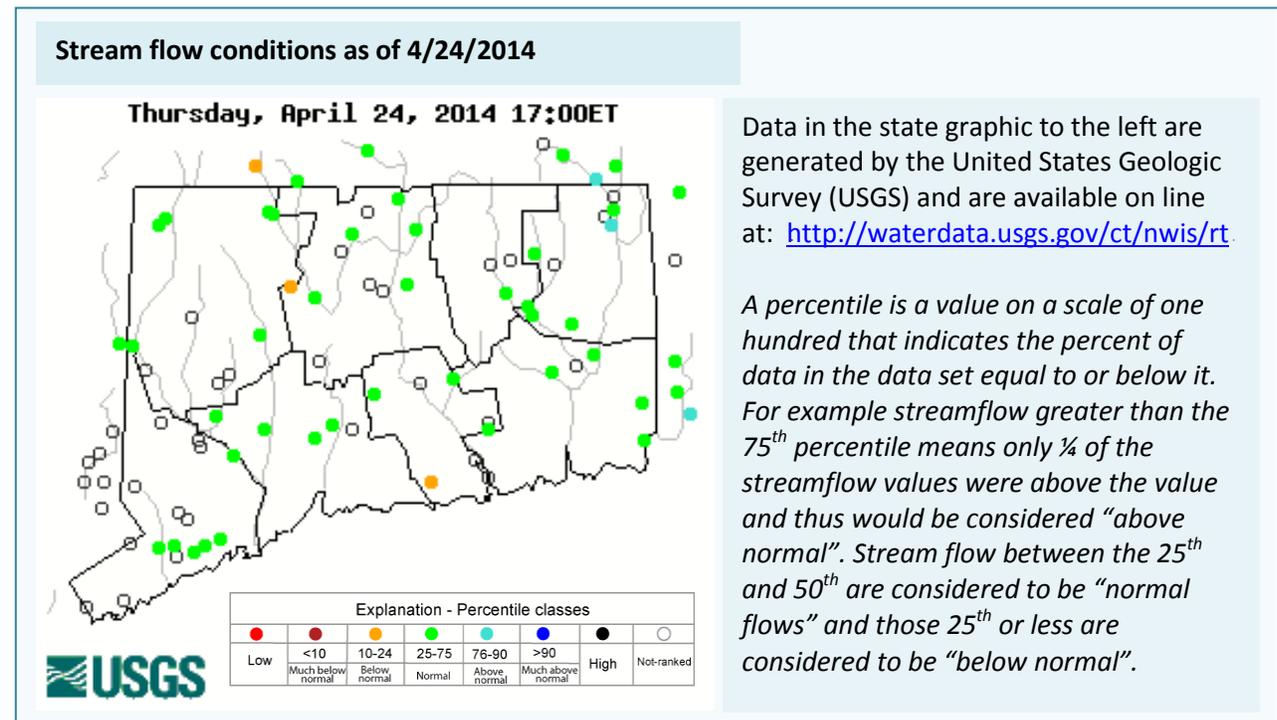
CONNECTICUT RIVER

The river is still turbid and on the high side, but continues to drop to more comfortable levels. Last week’s very high flows, turbidity and floating debris kept most anglers off the river. The river is still turbid and on the high side, but continues to drop to more comfortable levels.

NOTES & NOTICES:

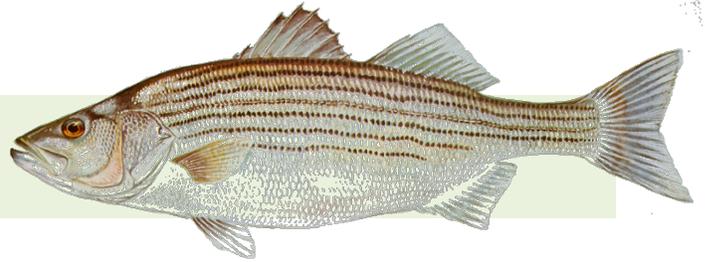
BESECK LAKE A 13 foot drawdown to facilitate dam repairs is ongoing.

LAKE LILLINONAH The newly renovated Route 133 state boat launch is open to full use beginning late Friday (4/25) afternoon.



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MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the low 40'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>

STRIPED BASS fishing is good in the Housatonic River, Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier), and the Black Hall River. Sand and blood worms will do the trick especially in murky water.

WINTER FLOUNDER fishing has been on the slow side. Early season flounder spots include the lower Mystic River, Poquonock River at Bluff Point State Park, mouth of the Thames River in the Pine Island area including Baker Cove, Niantic River including the bay, and Norwalk Harbor.

BLACKFISH fishing spring season runs April 1st-30th with a daily bag limit of 2 fish per angler. However, with water temperatures in the low 40's °F don't expect a lot of action until the water warms up. The New Haven breakwaters are one of the better early season fishing spots for tog.

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 2014 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 image courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.