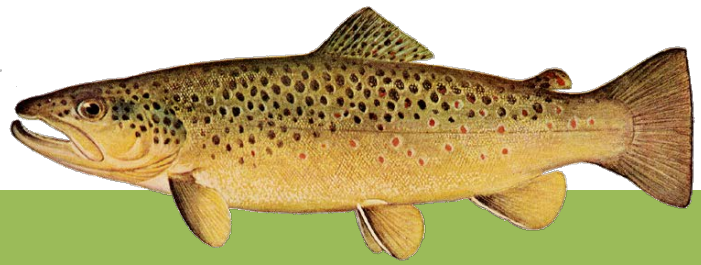


CT DEEP 2014 FISHING REPORT NUMBER 2 5/1/2014



brown trout (*Salmo trutta*)



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

RIVERS & STREAMS - Trout anglers found some good action last week. However flows have increased throughout the state due to this week's rains (see stream flow graphic on page 4) and a number of areas are currently difficult to fish, and some possibly unsafe (especially for waders). With mostly dry, comfortable weather forecast for the weekend, conditions should improve some and anglers should keep smaller streams and tributaries in mind as they'll drop quickest (stream flows for a number of areas can be found at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/rt>).

Good reports last week from the West Branch Farmington River (including a 7.75 lb brown trout), Pomperaug River, East Aspetuck River, Scantic River, Tankerhoosen River, Housatonic River, Shetucket River, Hop River, Mill River (5 lb plus rainbow trout), Salmon River (23 inch brown trout caught & released), Weppawaug River, Natchaug River, (6 lb & 7.1 lb brown trout among the catches), Yantic River (8 lb rainbow trout), Norwalk River (6.63 lb rainbow trout), Blackledge River (8.15 lb rainbow trout), Hammonasset River, Saugatuck River, Quinnipiac River, Pootatuck River, Eightmile River, Willimantic River, Moosup River, Norwalk River, Blackberry River, Eightmile River (Haddam) and Hop River.

Farmington River – Fishing was good last week. Conditions are currently difficult for fishing in much of the river. West Branch lows are currently moderate at Riverton (269 cfs) and turbid and high below the Still River (currently adding 1,580 cfs), and flows farther downstream on the Farmington River are very high and unfishable (4,320 cfs at Unionville and 6,070 at Tariffville). Still River flows have begun to drop so conditions may improve for the weekend in the TMA. With Lake McDonough expected to spill later tonight, up to 900 cfs could be added from the East Branch in New Hartford.

Hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive (a.k.a. *Baetis vagans*; #18-20 in a parachute or emerging du; noon to 5pm), Hendrickson (a.k.a. red quill; #12-#14; try around 1:30pm with spinners in the evening mixed in), Winter/Summer Caddis (#18-26), Stonefly nymphs (#16-18), Midge (#22-32) and Blue Quill (a.k.a. paralep; #16-18) in a parachute or emerger (midday).

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.



Nymphs (#18-22) are always a good go-to fly, try Bead Head, Midge Pupa, Brassie, Zebra Midge or Copper John patterns. Streamers have also been producing. Use White Zonkers & Buggers (#4-12) as well as Muddlers, Micky Finn, Grey or Black Ghost.

Housatonic River – Trout fish had been fairly good. However, flows are high and turbid (currently 3,770 cfs at Falls Village and 6,300 cfs at Gaylordsville) and very challenging to unfishable (and un-wadeable) for most anglers. Anglers can call FirstLight Power Resources at 1-888-417-4837 or check the USGS website (<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/current/?type=flow>) for updated Housatonic River flow information (and also check with a local bait & tackle shop). Water temperatures are in the upper 40's to low 50's°F.

Hatches/patterns. The Hendrickson hatch was starting (and comes off around 2:00 pm). Anglers using Hendrickson (#12-14), March Brown (#10-12), Pheasant Tail (#12-18) and Copper John (#12-16) are finding nymphing to be productive. Try streamers (Yellow/White Zuddlers or Gray Ghost) around 6:30pm. Brown and green woolly buggers as well as white Muddler minnows are working.

Rivers and streams stocking update (Note that all stocking schedules are subject to change): This week in **western Connecticut**; the **Muddy River**, **Farmington River** (Farmington - Tariffville), **Mianus River** (including the TMA), **Pequonnock River** (including in Beardsley Park, Trumbull Basin SP), **Pootatuck River** (Upper), **Housatonic River** (upper TMA), **Weekeepemee River**, **Nonewaug River**, **Hop Brook** and **Little River** (Oxford/Seymour) are all scheduled for stocking.

In eastern CT, **Mount Misery Brook**, **Myron Kinnie Brook**, **Pachaug River**, **Scantic River** (lower & upper), **Willimantic River** (below the TMA), **Green Falls River**, **Indiantown Brook**, **Hunts Brook**, **Shunock Brook**, **Roaring Brook** (Stafford.), **Willimantic River** (Stafford), **Middle River**, **Roaring Brook** (Glastonbury), **Little River** (Canterbury), **Yantic River** (including the TMA), **Crystal Lake Brook**, **Tankerhoosen River**, **Hockanum River** (both below the TMA & above the TMA), **Scantic River** (below route 190 bridge), **Salmon River** (both the TMA and the Trophy Trout area), **Jeremy River**, **Blackledge River** (lower), **Five Mile River** (lower river – Thompson/Putnam/Killingly), **Quinebaug River** and **Natchaug River** are scheduled to be stocked this week.

LAKES & PONDS – Fish are being found throughout the water column. Trolling your favorite lures at 5-7 colors, (15-20 feet), has produced some good fishing in a number of trout lakes. Other anglers are targeting big fish in deeper water with bait and trolling streamers on the surface has also produced some explosive hits. Reports are from Beach Pond, Lake McDonough (25 fish for one angler), Black Pond (Meriden), Crystal Lake (Ellington, 7 colors), Lake Wononskopomuc (target 15-20 feet), Stillwater Pond, Baummers Pond, Long Pond, Bigelow Pond, Mashapaug Lake, Birge Pond (Bristol, added to the stocking schedule this year), Mirror Lake (Meriden, added to the stocking schedule this year), Congamond Lakes, Cedar Lake (catches include a 26 inch brown trout), Candlewood Lake (a number of 5-6 lb trout being caught, a number of them in shallow), Squantz Pond (10.75 lb rainbow trout), West Hill Pond, Highland Lake, East Twin Lake (13 trout for one angler), Mount Tom Pond, Mohawk Pond and Quonnipaug Lake.

Lakes and ponds stocking update (Note that all stocking schedules are subject to change): This week in **western CT**, **Mount Tom Pond**, **Black Rock Lake** (USACE flood control impoundment), **Keney Park Pond**, **Stanley Quarter Park Pond**, **Beaver Park Pond/Lagoon**, **Rowan's Pond** (Butternut Park Pond), **Candlewood Lake**, **West Branch Reservoir**, **Colebrook River Lake** (Colebrook Reservoir), **Bunnells Pond** (Beardsley Park Pond), **Twin Brooks Pond**, **Fountain Lake**, **West Hill Pond**, **Lake McDonough**, **West Branch Reservoir**, **Highland Lake** and **Squantz Pond** are scheduled to be stocked.

In eastern CT, **Somersville Mill Pond**, **Broad Brook Mill Pond**, **Quonnipaug Lake**, **Rogers Lake**, **Mansfield Training Ponds**, **Green Falls Reservoir**, **Hewitt Fly Pond**, **Saw Mill Pond**, **Long Pond**, **Gay City Park Pond**, **Angus Park Pond**, **Cedar Lake**, **Hanover Reservoir**, **Higganum Reservoir**, **Walkers Reservoir** and **Bicentennial Pond** are scheduled to be stocked.

TROUT PARKS – Fishing again ranged from fair to very good at the Trout Parks. **Black Rock Pond, Day Pond, Mohegan Park Pond, Natchaug River, Stratton Brook, Valley Falls Park Pond and Wharton Brook Trout Parks** are scheduled to be stocked this week.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing has picked up some over the last week with fair April action in a number of areas. Try targeting dark bottom, warmer back water coves that warm quicker. Areas to try include Squantz Pond, Bantam Lake, Lake Wononskopomuc, Black Pond (Meriden), Congamond Lake, Moodus Reservoir, Mudge Pond, Highland Lake, Sunrise Park, Lake Saltonstall, Ball Pond, Hopeville Pond, Twin Brooks Park, Batterson Park Pond, Lower Bolton Lake, Lake Zoar, Silver Lake, Lake Lillinonah and Lake McDonough.

Tournament angler reports are from Highland Lake (fair at best, with a 3.18 lbunker), Amos Lake (tough fishing, with a 4.29 lbunker), Lake Lillinonah (slow), Pachaug Pond (tough day, few fish, and nothing reaching 2 lbs), Moodus Reservoir (slow, with a 2.18 lbunker), Quaddick Lake (slow to fair, but with lots of 10-11 inch “shorts” caught, with 1.79 lb and 3.75 lb lunkers, one club found their fish tight to structure), Pattagansett Lake (fair, with a 5 lbunker), Gardner Lake (fair to good, with 4.31 lbunker) and Candlewood Lake (action seems a bit behind this year, likely due to the extended winter).

SMALLMOUTH BASS action reported from Lake McDonough, Highland Lake, Candlewood Lake (good) and Squantz Pond. **Tournament angler** reports are from Highland Lake (slow for smallmouth), Lake Lillinonah (fair, nothing over 2 lbs), Gardner Lake (not many) and Candlewood Lake (good action).

ATLANTIC SALMON catches reported from Mount Tom Pond, Crystal Lake and the Shetucket River.

BLACK CRAPPIE – Some spring action reported from Lake McDonough and Park Pond.

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

CHAIN PICKEREL are showing up at Upper and Lower Moodus Reservoir, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Lake Wononskopomuc, Bantam Lake, Highland Lake and Wood Creek Pond.

NORTHERN PIKE – Some action reported from Bantam Lake including a 39 inch fish.

WALLEYE are being reported from Batterson Park Pond and Lake Saltonstall.

CONNECTICUT RIVER

The river has risen some and is now a bit higher than is typically for late April/early May. The Cooler than usual spring water temperatures and several high flow events have delayed the fish runs normally seen at this time of the year. **STRIPED BASS** are midway up the river. Water conditions are making it difficult to locate and entice them but when you do it is a good day of fishing. The mid-lower section of the river is good for schoolie size (16-25”) fish. Sand & blood worms are working, also try big plastic baits & swim baits. **SHAD** are reported in very small numbers with some action coming from the confluence of the Farmington River area and the Bissell Bridge area. Anglers catching them for striper bait are reminded that the only

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 or the Aquatic Invasive species section of the 2014 CT angler’s Guide(www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide).



legal method of harvesting is angling. Shad darts and willow leafs are the artificial of choice.

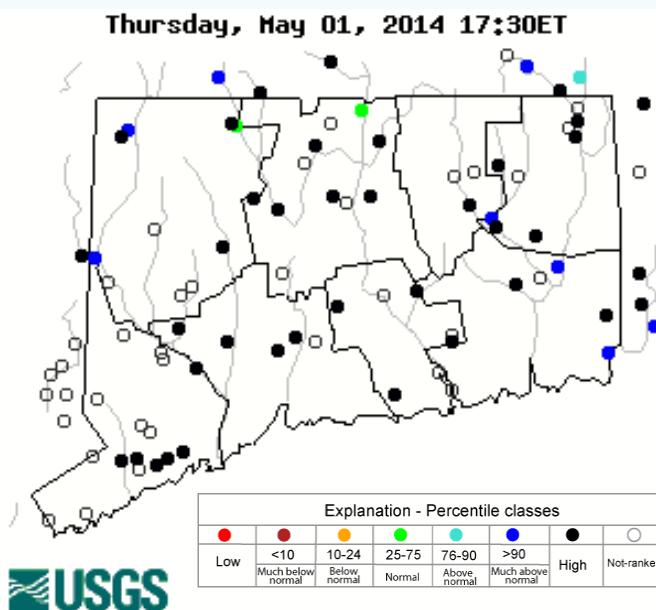
LARGEMOUTH BASS are being caught from the back coves. **NORTHERN PIKE** are reported in Wethersfield, Middletown, Rocky Hill and Haddam Meadow sections of the river. The Mattabassett River has produced some smaller fish. Fly anglers have had some success fast strip and pausing large streamers. Experiment with weighted and un-weighted streamers. The fish in the river seem to have lock jaw and anglers are advised to target fish in the coves and confluence of the streams for now. Shallower, warmer waters seem to be the ticket. **CATFISH** (5-10 lb plus fish) in the mid-river section are giving evening anglers some action. Sandworms or cut bait are catching fish. Several **CARP** were caught this past week as the season is well underway for anglers targeting 'Connecticut Tanks'. Give it try. You'll be surprised at how hard they pull. Try chumming your fishing area for several days before actually fishing it. **WHITE PERCH** can be caught in Hamburg Cove.

NOTES & NOTICES:

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

LAKE LILLINONAH (launches) The newly renovated Route 133 state boat launch is now open to full use. The lake has also been drawn down 2 feet below the summer minimum operating level as a flood control measure, making the Pond Brook launch unusable by many trailer boats.

Stream flow conditions as of 5/1/2014

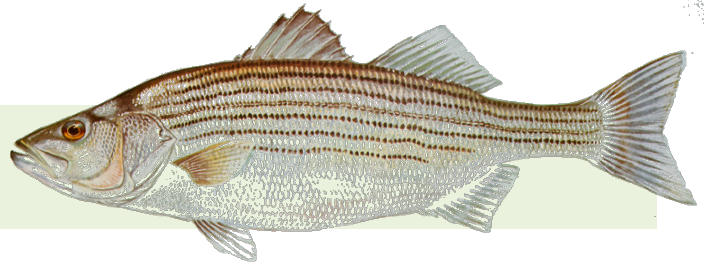


Data in the state graphic to the left are generated by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) and are available on line at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/rt>.

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".

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 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 mid 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 remains good in the Thames River, Niantic River, Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier), Black Hall River, Housatonic River and Norwalk Harbor. Sand and blood worms have been the best baits.

WINTER FLOUNDER fishing remains very slow. 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, New Haven Harbor, lower Saugatuck River and Norwalk Harbor.

BLACKFISH (tautog) fishing season is closed from May 1st through June 30th.

Special note- BONUS STRIPED BASS FISHING PROGRAM

The Bonus Striped Bass Voucher Program will run May 1 through December 31 in 2014. Vouchers will be available beginning May 1 at DEEP Offices and Facilities listed below. There will be a one voucher limit per license holder appearing in person*. Please present your fishing license to the licensing agent when requesting a voucher. You may also purchase your license at the same time you request a voucher. Vouchers will be offered as a free product through our licensing system. License holders will be limited to one voucher per year. Vouchers will be distributed on a first come first serve basis for as long as supplies last.


*An adult may also request a single additional voucher for one angler under the age of 16 holding a [Youth Fishing Passport](#).

DEEP Offices/Facilities	Address	Town	State	Zip
Marine Headquarters , M-F 8am-4pm, 860-434-6043	333 Ferry Road	Old Lyme	CT	06371
Eastern District , M-F 8:30am-4pm, 860-295-9523	209 Hebron Ave	Marlborough	CT	06447
Western District , M-F 8:30am-4pm, 860-485-0226	230 Plymouth Rd	Harwinton	CT	06791
Franklin WMA , M-F 8:30am-4:30pm, 860-642-7239	391 Route 32	Franklin	CT	06254
Sessions Woods WMA , M-F 8:30am-4pm, 860-675-8130	341 Milford Street (Rte 69)	Burlington	CT	06013
CTDEEP Main Office M-F 9am-4pm, 860-424-3105	79 Elm Street	Hartford	CT	06106
Sherwood Island State Park M-S 8am-4:30pm, 203-226-6983	Route 1 north to the Sherwood Island Connector in Westport	Green Farms	CT	06838

The striped bass bonus fishery is an opportunity to harvest a limited number of smaller (22 inch to less than 28 inches) striped bass during May through December, both in the Marine and Inland Districts of Connecticut state waters only. The Bonus fishery was approved by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Striped Bass Management Board which oversees the conservation of the species throughout its range. Amendment 6 to the Striped Bass Fishery Management plan currently allocates a 23,750 pound commercial striped bass quota to Connecticut which is being used in this program to provide this additional recreational fishing opportunity since commercial striped bass harvest is prohibited in this state. The unused commercial quota equates to 4,025 fish available for harvest under this program.

Anglers are also encouraged to use this program to introduce a friend, neighbor or child to fishing: *"Share the Experience – Take Someone Fishing"*. The department is also interested in encouraging and enhancing urban and shore fishing opportunity which the bonus striper program is especially well suited for. Bass fishermen generally may want to hold onto a voucher to use if an undersized fish intended for release is deep hooked or otherwise unlikely to survive. Alternatively, anglers should consider taking a smaller bonus fish home for a meal and releasing the larger (28"+) "spawner" fish.

2014 Connecticut Bonus Striped Bass Voucher
0001



To be completed upon harvest of a qualifying fish

Date: / **2014**

(mm) (in)

Total length: **22" 23" 24" 25" 26" 27"**

Please circle one length. Drop fractional lengths: for example, mark 23 1/4" as 23"

I understand this voucher authorizes the possession of one bonus striped bass harvested today. I also understand this voucher is not valid until I have recorded today's date and the total length of the bonus striped bass I have harvested and until I have signed this voucher in ink and recorded my Conservation ID #. I further understand that any striped bass less than 28 inches total length in my possession without a completed and signed voucher is a violation subject to fine and suspension of my sportfishing and hunting privileges. I will return this voucher to DEEP Marine Fisheries within 48 hours of harvesting a bonus striped bass.

Sample Only!

Signature

Conservation ID #

Questions?

A bonus striped bass is a striped bass at least 22 inches but less than 28 inches total length harvested from Connecticut waters between May 1 and December 31 and accompanied by a valid voucher.

Web: www.ct.gov/deep/saltwaterfishing

Phone: 860-434-6043

E-mail: deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov

Program Regulations

- A bonus striped bass is at least 22 inches but less than 28 inches.
- One voucher is good for one (1) bonus striped bass, and only one voucher may be used per day.
- Open Season: May 1 through December 31, 2014.
- Important: To be valid, the voucher card must be filled out and signed immediately upon harvest of a qualifying fish.
- Vouchers must be retained with the striped bass until the fish is taken to your home or other location where it is to be consumed.
- Mail the voucher back to Marine Fisheries. The voucher is already addressed and postage paid for return on the reverse side. It's free, so please mail it back to assure continuation of this program.
- Vouchers are valid in Connecticut state waters only.
- The normal limit of two (2) striped bass 28 inches or greater may also be harvested.

A total of 4,025 vouchers will be made available at DEEP offices/facilities, distributed by ENCON Officers, and CT DEEP Marine Angler Survey creel agents. There is no fee for the vouchers. A limited number of vouchers will be reserved for programs such as "Take a Kid Fishing", "Take a Veteran Fishing", Municipal youth and urban fishing programs. Please contact Marine Fisheries (deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov or telephone: 860-434-6043) if your organizations supports such a program and you would like to receive vouchers.

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



**Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106

www.ct.gov/deep

Striped bass image courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.