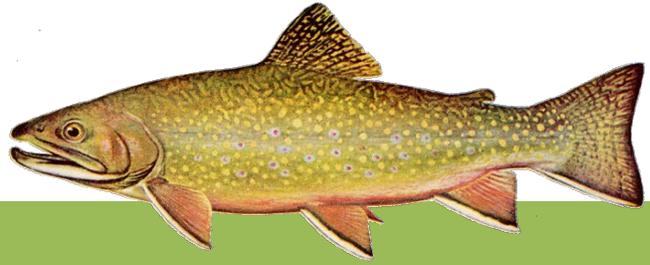


CT DEEP **2014**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 3
5/8/2014



brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*)



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.

FREE FISHING DAY – This Saturday, May 10th

DEEP has designated this Saturday, May 10th, as a “Free Fishing Day” where no license is required to fish recreationally in Connecticut waters (both inland & marine).

This is a great opportunity for experienced anglers to both share their passion for fishing and protect its future by introducing a family member, friend or acquaintance to the sport of fishing, and a great time for visitors to our state to try out the many fishing opportunities found in Connecticut.

There are a number of fishing events scheduled to take place on “Free Fishing Day.” A “Family Fishing Day” is scheduled as part of DEEP’s “**Great Park Pursuit Spring Sprint**” at Chatfield Hollow State Park (Killingworth). This event will run from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, and there will be plenty of activities including fishing on Schreeder’s Pond, fish sampling, fish stocking, a fish fry, games and prizes. **The Great Park Pursuit** is a part of the agency’s **No Child Left Inside**® initiative. For more information on the “**The Great Park Pursuit Family Fishing Day**” email diane.joy@ct.gov, call DEEP at 860-424-397, or visit www.NoChildLeftInside.org. Information on the other events can be found at www.ct.gov/deep/fishing.



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 – The river should be more fishable this weekend as conditions improve. Fishing was difficult in portions of the river last week & weekend due to the variable and sometimes high flows. West Branch flows are currently moderately high at Riverton (873 cfs) due to increased releases to lower Colebrook River Lake. However, it is expected that West Branch releases will drop to more comfortable levels for the weekend. Additionally, the Still River has dropped nicely and is currently adding only 184 cfs.

Hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive (a.k.a. *Baetis vagans*; #18-24) in a parachute or emerging dun (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) and Stonefly nymphs (#16-18), Midge (#20-32). Also try Rusty Spinners (#16-18), Mahogany Duns/Blue Quills (#18-20), Tan Caddis (#14-18) and Winter Caddis (#18-22). Nymphs (#18-22) are always a good go-to fly. Try Bead Head, Midge Pupa, Brassie, Zebra Midge or Copper John patterns. Streamers are also producing. Use White Zonkers & Buggers (#4-12) as well as Muddlers, Micky Finn, Grey or Black Ghost.

Housatonic River – Conditions should be fair to good for the weekend. Flows have dropped to fishable levels, although still on the high side, currently 1,500 cfs at Falls Village and 2,690 cfs at Gaylordsville. Morning water temperatures remain in the upper 40's to low 50's°F.

Hatches/patterns include Hendrickson (#12-14, hatch near 2:00pm), Blue Wing Olive (a.k.a. *Baetis vagans*; #16-18), Green/Olive Caddis & Tan/Brown Caddis. Anglers using March Brown (#10-12),

Pheasant Tail (#12-18) & Copper John (#12-16) are finding nymphing to be very productive. Try streamers (Yellow/White Zuddlers or Gray Ghost) around 6:30 pm. 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 **West Branch Farmington River & Farmington River** (Farmington River TMA, from Goodwin Dam to route 177), the upper **Naugatuck River** (Harwinton, Litchfield, Torrington, including in the TMA), **Pomperaug River, Coginchaug River, Farmington River** (Route 177 to Route 4 Farmington), **West Branch Salmon Brook, East Branch Salmon Brook, Whiting River, Blackberry River, Norwalk River** (upper & lower), **Sandy Brook, Still River** (Colebrook), **Nepaug River, Quinnipiac River**, the **Sleeping Giant TMA** (on Mill River – Hamden) and the **Bull's Bridge TMA** (on Housatonic River) are all scheduled for stocking.

In eastern CT, Hammonasset River, Whitfords Brook, Latimer Brook, the **Hammonasset River TMA, Quinebaug River, Moosup River, Kitt Brook, Broad Brook** (Preston), **Choate Brook, Quinebaug River, Bigelow Brook, Still River** (Eastford), **Pattaconk Brook**, the **Shetucket River, Salmon River** (both the TMA & Trophy Trout Area), **Dickenson Creek** and lower **Blackledge River** are scheduled to be stocked this week.

LAKES & PONDS – Fish can be found by trolling at 5-7 colors, (15-20 feet) in many lakes & ponds throughout Connecticut. Additionally, some anglers are targeting big fish in deeper water with bait. Places to try include Candlewood Lake (good fishing reported), Mashapaug Lake, Highland Lake, Lake McDonough, West

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.



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).



Branch (Hogback) Reservoir, Colebrook Reservoir, Bashan Lake, Cedar Lake, Crystal Lake, Black Pond (Woodstock), Saugatuck Reservoir, West Hill Pond, Beach Pond, Long Pond, Wononskopomuc Lake (target 15-20 feet), East Twin Lake, Crystal Lake (Ellington, 6 colors), Bigelow Pond, Mount Tom Pond, Mohawk Pond and Quonnapaug Lake.

Lakes and ponds stocking update (Note that all stocking schedules are subject to change): This week in western CT, **Wononskopomuc Lake, Prospect Town Park Pond, Upper Fulton Park Pond, Ball Pond and Christensen's Pond** are scheduled to be stocked.

In eastern CT, **Hewitt Fly Pond, Long Pond, Lantern Hill Pond, Hyde Mill Pond, Bigelow Pond, Mashapaug Lake, Paine Pond, Cedar Lake, Pattaconk Lake, Beaver Brook Park Ponds, Gardner Lake, Rogers Lake, Wangumbaug Lake (Coventy Lake), Shenipsit Lake, Amos Lake, Wyassup Lake, Beach Pond and Billings Lake** are scheduled to be stocked.

TROUT PARKS – Fishing again ranged from good to very good at the Trout Parks. The **Chatfield Hollow, Mohegan Park Pond, Southford Falls, Wolfe Park (Great Hollow Pond), Black Rock Pond, Day Pond, Stratton Brook, Kent Falls, Valley Falls Park Pond and Wharton Brook** Trout Parks are scheduled to be stocked this week.

CONNECTICUT RIVER

Flows have dropped to more comfortable levels (although a bit on the high side) this week, are still turbid, and water temperatures continue to be cooler than is typical for early May. **STRIPED BASS** (schoolie size) are midway up the river. The mid-lower section of the river is picking up for schoolie size (16-25") fish. Sand & blood worms are working. Also try big plastic baits & swim baits. **SHAD** are reported in low numbers with some action coming from the lower river. Additional fish can be found at the confluence of the Farmington River and the Bissell Bridge area. Anglers that may be catching them for striper bait are reminded that the only legal method of harvesting is angling. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** are being caught in the warmer back coves with some big pre-spawned fish in the mix. **NORTHERN PIKE** are reported in the coves in the Wethersfield & Middletown areas with some Rocky Hill fish being found. **WHITE PERCH** are making a strong showing in the coves of the lower river.

TIPS & TRICKS – STRIPED BASS

- ✓ When drifting bait use a fish finder to help define fish location/structure.
- ✓ Can strike so hard the line breaks. Set the drag loosely.
- ✓ Exchange live well water frequently.
- ✓ In pre-spawn mode fish near confluence of rivers/streams.
- ✓ Look for bait fish schools to help find stripers.
- ✓ Set hook immediately if you get a strike.
- ✓ Are fast, powerful, roaming predators.
- ✓ Are opportunistic & will scavenge.
- ✓ Will chase down & eat almost anything smaller than them.
- ✓ Will charge through a baitfish school in a feeding frenzy.
- ✓ Watch for diving birds

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing has picked up over the last week with good late April action in a number of areas. Targeting dark bottom warmer back water coves can be very productive. Areas to try include Mashapaug Lake, Highland Lake, Moodus Reservoir, Congamond Lakes, Lake McDonough, Rainbow Reservoir, Bashan Lake, Candlewood Lake, Saugatuck River, Bantam Lake, Billings Lake, Wononskopomuc Lake, Lake Saltonstall, Ball Pond, Batterson Park Pond, Hopeville Pond, Batterson Park Pond, Lower Bolton Lake, Lake Zoar, Bishop swamp, Silver Lake, Beseck Lake, Lake Lillinonah and Squantz Pond. **Tournament angler** reports are from Gardner Lake (anglers had to work for their fish, but the fish were "...short, fat, healthy specimens...", lunker was 4.44 lb), Aspinook Pond (fair fishing, 4.17 lb lunker), Mansfield hollow Reservoir (fish were hard to find, with a 4.7 lb lunker), Pachaug Pond (has picked up some but still cool, with a 3.15 lunker for one club, nothing over 2 lbs for another), East Twin Lake (fair at best, but with a 6.98

lb lunker), Lake Lillinonah (fair for largemouth, 4.8 lb lunker), Mashapaug Lake (on the tough side, and nothing over 2 lbs) and Pickerel Lake (tough day, and the lunker was only 1.57 lbs).

SMALLMOUTH BASS are reported at Moodus Reservoir(an uncommon catch here), Lake McDonough, Highland Lake (5.3 lb smallie among the catches), Coventry Lake, Candlewood Lake and Squantz Pond.

Tournament angler reports are from Candlewood Lake (very good smallie fishing, although not as many fish in the 4-5 lb plus range as last year, lunkers include 4.24 lb and 5.2 lb smallies), Gardner Lake (tough to find), Pachaug Pond (a few smallmouth continue to be caught here, with a 3.13 lb lunker) and Lake Lillinonah (good, with a number of 2-4 lb smallmouth in the bags, 4.64 lb lunker).

ATLANTIC SALMON catches reported from lower Naugatuck River.

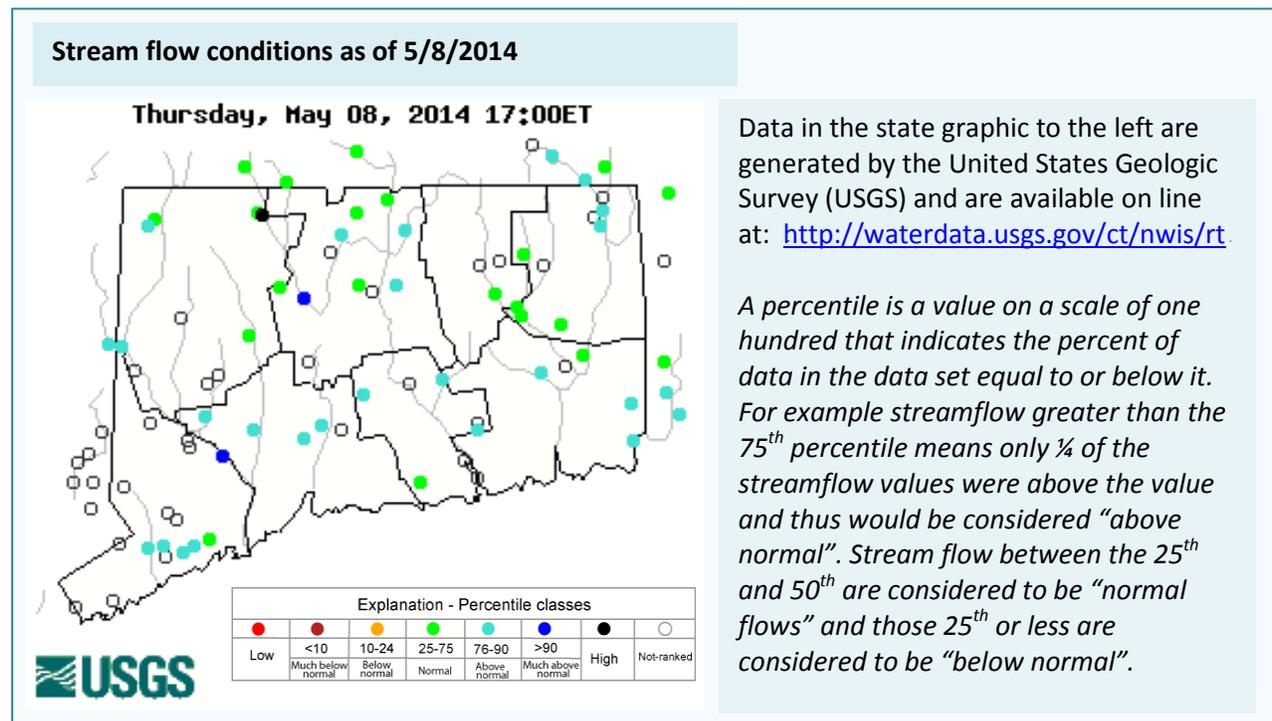
BLACK CRAPPIE. Good action reported at Lake McDonough, Lake Saltonstall, Bantam River and Park Pond.

CARP were caught from the Lower Housatonic River, Lake Saltonstall and Rogers Lake this past week.

CHAIN PICKEREL are being caught at Lake Wononskopomuc, Silver Lake, Amos Lake, Halls Pond, Wood Creek Pond, Black Pond (Meriden) and Winchester Lake.

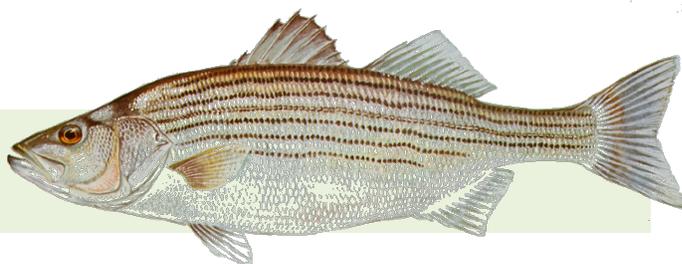
NORTHERN PIKE action reported from Bantam Lake.

WALLEYE. Some catches are being reported from Batterson Park Pond & Lake Saltonstall.



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MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the mid to upper 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 fair to good for schoolies in most of the tidal rivers along the Connecticut shoreline. There are also some keepers in the mix as well. Striper spots include the Pawcatuck River, Mystic River, Thames River, Niantic River, lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier), Black Hall River, New Haven Harbor (Sandy Point), Housatonic River and Norwalk Harbor including the islands. Sand and blood worms have been working the best especially in turbid waters. Casting swimming lures, small jigs with twister tails, soft baits, and Kastmasters and other metal lures will all work. Fishing should get better as we approach the magical 50°F mark!

WINTER FLOUNDER fishing remains slow in the Poquonock River at Bluff Point State Park, Niantic River, Jordan Cove, lower Saugatuck River and the channels in Norwalk Harbor. Other flounder spots include the lower Mystic River, and the mouth of the Thames River in the Pine Island area including Baker Cove.

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 is a limit of one voucher annually per fishing license holder. However, for convenience one person may pick up at most two vouchers by presenting valid fishing licenses for two anglers. Children are also eligible to receive a voucher by signing up for a free [Youth Fishing Passport](#). Vouchers will be available on a first come first serve basis for as long as supplies last.

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**

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 #:

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.

