

CT DEEP **2014**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 4
5/15/2014



smallmouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*)



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.

TROUT

RIVERS & STREAMS - Trout fishing has improved as flows dropped and temperatures warmed a bit. Conditions may however be variable this weekend (with Sunday forecast as the better day). Flows in most areas are currently at typical mid-May levels and quite comfortable for fishing (see stream flow graphic on page 4). Showers and rain (perhaps heavy) are in the forecast for late Friday and early Saturday, so anglers should expect flows to increase in some areas (stream flows for a number of areas can be found at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/rt>). Anglers have been finding success using shiners and grubs, and broodstock trout have been keeping anglers happy, with a number of big fish coming to creel.

Fishing success continues to be hit or miss, with fair to good action for some and tough days for others. Reports from the Wepawaug River, Willimantic River (very slow for several anglers), Norwalk River, Salmon River, Farmill River, Housatonic River, Natchaug River, Hockanum River, West Branch Farmington River, Farmington river, Pequabuck River, Saugatuck River, Norwalk River, Pomperaug River, Naugatuck River, Bantam River, Blackberry River, East Aspetuck River, Hammonasset River, Tankerhoosen River, Yantic River, Quinebaug River and Eightmile River (East Haddam/Lyme).

Farmington River – Conditions were fairly good this week. Water temperatures are currently in the upper 40's°F. West Branch flows are clear and moderate, currently 314 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River adding another 152 cfs (note that depending on precipitation amounts, flows may be variable this weekend).

Current hatches include Hendrickson (a.k.a. red quills; #12-14 were hatching in the afternoon from Riverton to Collinsville), Blue Winged Olive (#18-20), Blue Quill (a.k.a. paralep; #16-18), Early Stonefly (#6-16), Quill Gordon (#14), Green Caddis & Brown/Tan Caddis (#16-18) and Sulphurs (#16-20). Successful fly anglers are using Blue Winged Olives (#16-18), Winter/Summer Caddis (#16-18), Sulphur Emerger (#16-20), Rusty Spinners (#16-20), Midges (#22-32), Blue Quill (#16-18), Pheasant Tails (#14-18) and Mahogany Duns (#16-18).

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.



Housatonic River – Fishing has been good this week. Flows have dropped to typical mid-May levels (currently 1,030 cfs at Falls Village and 1,780 cfs at Gaylordsville), but still on the high side for comfortable wading. With rain in the forecast, flows may increase by Saturday. Morning water temperatures have warmed to the upper 50's°F.

Current hatches include Green Caddis (just starting), Tan Caddis, March Brown/Gray Fox (starting to show up) & Blue Winged Olives (cloudy days). Caddis (#14-16, green, olive & tan, just starting), Hendrickson Spinner (Rusty, #12-14), Adams (#12-20), March Brown (#10-12) are working well. Caddis, Gray Fox, March Browns and Blue Wing Olives patterns are suggested. Look for the rainbow trout to be in faster water. Anglers using light colored streamers fished at early evening on sinking-tip line should be very successful on overcast days. For those nymphing, low & slow is working very well. Bottom bumping is catching some fish.

Rivers and streams stocking update (Note that all stocking schedules are subject to change): This week in **western Connecticut**; the **Norwalk River** (Merwin Meadows area), **Naugatuck River** (middle to lower sections, Thomaston-Waterbury-Beacon Falls), **Farmill River**, **Leadmine Brook**, **Pequabuck River** (Rockwell Park - Boulevard), **Hall Meadow Brook**, **East Branch Naugatuck River**, **West Branch Naugatuck River**, **Saugatuck River** (lower–Weston/Westport), **East Aspetuck River**, **Pond Brook**, **Pootatuck River** (lower –Newtown), **Pomperaug River**, **Mill River** (Hamden, including the Sleeping Giant TMA), the **Housatonic River TMA**, **Pequonnock River** (including in Beardsley Park, Trumbull Basin SP), **Naugatuck River** (upper – Harwinton/Litchfield/Torrington) and **Little River** (Oxford)) are all scheduled for stocking.

In eastern CT, the **Natchaug River**, **Moosup River TMA**, **Quinebaug River**, **Blackledge River** (lower), **Roaring Brook** (Glastonbury), **Ten Mile River** (Lebanon), **Skungamaug River**, **Hop River**, **Quinebaug River**, **Snake Meadow Brook**, **Quanduck Brook**, **Blackwells Brook**, **Mashamoquet Brook**, **Moosup River**, **Mount Hope River**, **Fenton River**, **Willimantic River** (Stafford), **Furnace Brook** (Stafford), **Scantic River** (upper & lower), **Farm River** (upper & lower), **Branford River**, **West River**, **Hammonasset River** (including the TMA), **Latimer Brook**, **Eight Mile River** and **Natchaug River** are scheduled to be stocked this week.

LAKES & PONDS – Fair to good reports for trout from Highland Lake, Coventry Lake, West Hill Pond, Mount Tom Pond, Crystal Lake, Beach Pond, Lake McDonough, East Twin Lake, Mohawk Pond, Mashapaug Lake, Bigelow Pond, Wononskopomuc Lake, Long Pond, Colebrook Reservoir, Lake Hayward, Rogers Lake, Billings Lake and Wyassup Lake.

Lakes and ponds stocking update (Note that all stocking schedules are subject to change): This week in **western CT**, **Mirror Lake** (Hubbard Park Pond), **West Hill Pond**, **Hop Brook Lake**, **Nells Rock Reservoir**, **Pickett's Pond**, **Scoville Reservoir**, **Stillwater Pond**, **Huntington Park Pond** (Starret Pond), **Baummer Pond** and **Fountain Lake** are scheduled to be stocked.

In eastern CT, **Gay City Park Pond**, **Angus Park Pond**, **Wauregan Reservoir**, **Moosup Pond**, **Black Pond** (Woodstock), **Lake Saltonstall**, **Quonnipaug Lake**, **Dodge Pond**, **Uncas Lake** and **Bashan Lake** are scheduled to be stocked.

TROUT PARKS – Fishing was generally good at the Trout Parks. The **Chatfield Hollow**, **Natchaug River**, **Southford Falls Pond**, **Wharton Brook Pond**, **Wolfe Park** (Great Hollow Pond), **Black Rock Pond**, **Stratton Brook Park Pond**, **Mohegan Park Pond**, **Natchaug River** and **Valley Falls Park Pond** Trout Parks are scheduled to be stocked this week.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing continues to pick up and has been good in many areas. Places to try include Billings Lake, Batterson Park Pond, Candlewood Lake, Highland Lake, Halls Pond, East Twin Lake (7.7 lbs largemouth among the catches), Wononskopomuc Lake, Bantam Lake, Mount Tom Pond, Bashan Lake, Hatch Pond, Wood Creek Pond, Winchester Lake, Lake McDonough, Lake Saltonstall, Moodus Reservoir, West Hill Pond, Breakneck Pond, Babcock Pond, Black Pond (Woodstock), Bishop Swamp Pond, Mudge Pond, Quonnipaug Lake, Pachaug Pond, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Silver Lake (Meriden), Red Cedar Lake, Mashapaug Lake, Mono Pond, Ball Pond, Dog Pond, Pickerel Lake, Kenosia Lake and Quaddick Reservoir. **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake (some good action on largemouth, lunkers included several fish in the 5-6 lb range and two over 6.5 lbs), Amos Lake (tough for one club this past weekend, with a 3.6 lb lunker, better action last week with a 4.56 lb lunker), Pachaug Pond (fair fishing, with a 4.86 lb lunker), Lake Zoar (fair action, several fish in the 3-4 lb range), Aspinook Pond (on the slow side, 4.75 lb lunker) and Gardner Lake (fair action, with a 3.6 lb lunker).



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).

SMALLMOUTH BASS are being caught at Candlewood Lake (lots of 3-4 lb fish), West Branch Reservoir, Colebrook River Lake, Bashan Lake, Rainbow Reservoir and Highland Lake. **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake (very good for smallies with many fish found shallow this past week, lunkers included 4.44 lb, 4.52 lb, 5.47 lb fish), Lake Zoar (smallie fishing slowed this past week) and Gardner Lake (very tough for smallmouth).

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

CHANNEL CATFISH... A few fish are being caught from Keeney Park Pond, Batterson Park Pond, Lake Wintergreen and Silver Lake (Meriden).

NORTHERN PIKE action reported from Bantam Lake.

WALLEYE from Batterson Park Pond and Coventry Lake (night best).

LAKE & POND BATHYMETRIC MAPS

Bathymetric maps of many of Connecticut's public access lakes and ponds can be found online at:

www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/fishing/general_information/lakebathymetrymaps.pdf

Both plain line maps and maps overlaying an aerial photo available.



CONNECTICUT RIVER

The river has dropped to comfortable levels (a bit below typical mid-May levels) this week, and has cleared some, although water temperatures continue to be cooler than is typical for May. **STRIPED BASS** are now being reported in the Rocky Hill – Hartford areas. Increasing water clarity has helped put fish in the boat. Plastics and bait are working to produce some legal fish. Anglers are reminded that taking river herring (alewife & blueback herring) from the river is currently prohibited. Don't forget to take advantage of the 'Bonus Striped Bass Voucher' (see pages 5 & 6 or visit <http://www.ct.gov/deep/saltwaterfishing>). **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing in mid-river areas is reported as good. **CATFISH** are responding to dead bait, chunking & sandworms in the Hartford to Middletown area. **SHAD** catches are reported up river to the Rainbow dam. Expect more fish as the water temperature increases. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are being caught in the mid to upper section of the river in the back coves. **WHITE PERCH** are reported from the coves along the lower river. Hamburg, North and South Coves are the best bets.

TIPS & TRICKS – AMERICAN SHAD

- Are current related fish.
- More active at water temperature over 50 degrees.
- Shallow water areas above deep water are good areas to fish
- Dawn & dusk are prime fishing times.
- Many anglers fish double rigs.
- Light tackle is recommended.
- They move up river at about 8 miles/day.
- Dark rainy days are very good fishing.
- Vary the weight of your lure or the speed of your retrieve until you find what works.
- Cast upstream & reel as fast as you can & pause where you think the fish are.
- They usually slam it on the pause.
- Shad are usually caught in deeper water near the bottom.
- Cast slightly upstream and let the jig sink down to the bottom.
- You'll know you have the right amount of lead when the lure lightly "ticks" the bottom.

NOTABLE FISH THIS WEEK:

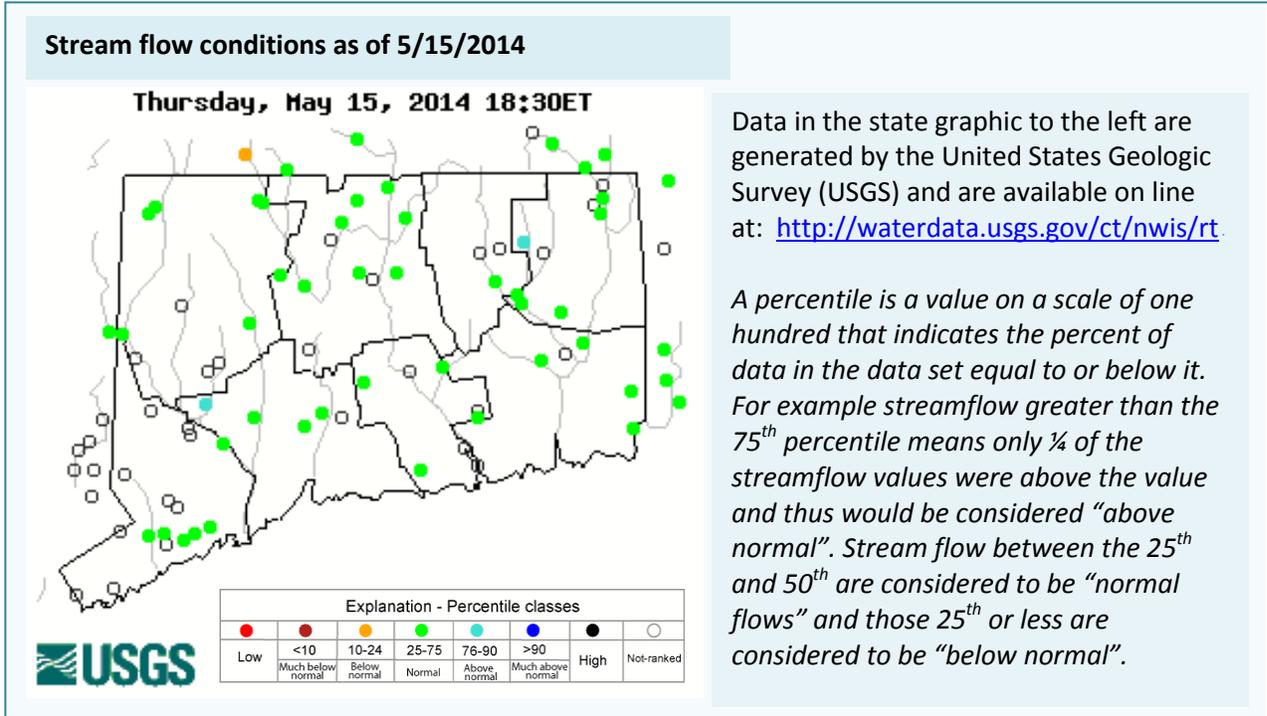
- **Trophy Fish Award Program** submission - 10.05 lb brown trout caught by Matthew Gileau (Rocky Hill) on the Salmon River.
- **And a fish of merit** - A Northern Pike (estimated at 39 inches) caught from Bantam Lake by Frank Barata (Litchfield).

NOTES & NOTICES:

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

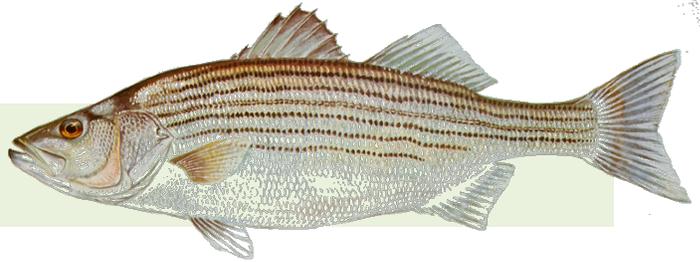
LOWER BOLTON LAKE A sail boat regatta is scheduled for **Sunday, May 18th** from **9:00 am to 4:00 pm** in the central area of the lake. Boaters should extra care on the lake.

POWERS LAKE- CT National Guard Bridge Engineer Unit will be conducting float bridge exercises and training on **May 17 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm** and on **May 18 from 7:30 am to 12:00 pm** at the Powers Lake State boat launch and on the lake. The launch will remain open for use by the public.



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 upper 40's to low 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>

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**

(mm) (dd)

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

Please circle one length. Drop fractional lengths: for example, mark 25 1/4" as 25"

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/sabwaterfishing 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.

