

CT DEEP **2014**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 8
6/12/2014



Brown Bullhead (*Ameiurus nebulosus*)



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Take someone fishing

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is generally good but post spawn fishing can be tough. Areas to try include Amos Lake, Ball Pond, Bantam Lake, Bashan Lake, Batterson Park Pond, Beseck Lake, Billings Lake, Bishop Pond, Black Pond (Meriden), Burr Pond, Candlewood Lake, Cedar Lake, Congamond Lakes, Coventry Lake, East Twin Lake, Gardner Lake, Great Hollow Pond, Highland Lake, Lake McDonough, Lake Saltonstall, Lake Waramaug, Maltby Lakes, Mamasasco Lake, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Mashapaug Lake, Middle Bolton Lake, Mono Pond, Moodus Reservoir, Mudge Pond, Pachaug Pond, Pickerel Lake, Red Cedar Lake, Silver Lake (Berlin/Meriden), Stillwater Pond, West Hill Pond and Winchester Lake. **Tournament angler** reports are from Aspinook Pond (fair to good action, with a 4.81 lb lunger), Mashapaug lake (fair fishing , with only two fish over 2 lbs in the bags), Pickerel Lake (good fishing, with a 4.95 lb lunger), Rogers Lake (fair at best, nothing of real size), Candlewood Lake (fair to good for largemouth, some fish over 4 lbs), East Twin Lake (although a number of full bags, on the tough side with fish post spawn and not that much size, with a 4.55 lb lunger) and Highland Lake (very good fishing).

SMALLMOUTH BASS are reported at Colebrook Reservoir, Candlewood Lake, Mashapaug Lake, Highland Lake, Bantam Lake, Coventry Lake, Gardner Lake and Squantz Pond. **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake (good for those target smallmouth, including several 4 lb plus fish), East Twin Lake (a few) and Mashapaug Pond (several, but tough).

NORTHERN PIKE fishing is reported to be good in Bantam Lake and Winchester Lake.

KOKANEE are being caught at West Hill Pond (night fishing with corn) and East Twin Lake (silver/blue) during periods of low light. Try fishing slow (3 colors of lead line) for these great fighters.

WALLEYE are being reported from Lake Saltonstall.

CHANNEL CATFISH have been reported from Silver Lake

REMINDER TO ANGLERS-
FISHING IN OR CASTING INTO PERMITTED SWIM AREAS IS PROHIBITED.

State regulations prohibit fishing in or into a swim area that's been permitted by DEEP. Additionally, vessels cannot be operated within a permitted swim area, and there's a 100 foot "no-wake" zone around the perimeter. Swim areas that have been permitted by DEEP will be marked by white buoys with orange markings, and there should be a permit number posted on the buoys. They may or may not have small orange barrier floats to further demarcate the area. Should questions arise concerning the validity of the swim area (*no permit numbers or the area appears to have been changed/enlarged or keeps moving*), please contact DEEP's Boating Division at 860-434-8638.



(Meriden), Wintergreen Lake, Pickett's Pond, Mohegan Park Pond and Keeney Park Pond.

PANFISH season is starting strong with many fish giving young anglers a fun time. Fishing in the shallows with a worm is sure to bring in these scrappy fighters. Any local pond near you can be productive. Use worms, grubs and any type of inexpensive fishing equipment to catch fish. Kids love this non-stop action and it will keep them occupied for hours. Visit our learn-to-fish program (www.ct.gov/deep/CARE). Locations to try include Amos Lake, Butternut Pond, Hanover Pond, Enders Pond, Anderson Pond, Burr Pond, Halls Pond, Mirror Lake, Hodge Pond, Howells Pond, Black Rock State Park Pond, Hewitt Pond, Lake Kenosia and Little Pond.

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - Conditions should be fairly good for the weekend with nice weather in the forecast. Flows in most areas are currently at or below typical mid-June levels (see stream flow graphic on page 4) but may increase Friday as some rain and T-storms are expected Thursday night and Friday.

The generally moderate weather and sufficient flows this spring have created good fishing conditions as we move into summer. Anglers are reporting success using flies, lures, worms & corn/mealworm combinations. Terrestrial patterns should not be ignored as many insects have been washed into the water. Virtually every insect in and on the water is active and many are hatching right now.

Good reports from last week include the West Branch Farmington River, Farmington River, Housatonic River, Salmon River TMA, Crystal Lake Brook, Hammonasset River, Naugatuck River TMA, Pootatuck River, Blackberry River, Sandy Brook, East Aspetuck River, Eightmile River (Lyme), Leadmine Brook, Pequonnock River, Hockanum River, Pequabuck River and Salmon River.

Anglers are reminded that the thermal refuge areas on the Housatonic, Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers are closed to fishing beginning June 15. These areas will reopen on September 1. There is no fishing within 100 feet of the mouths of posted tributaries to these rivers.

Farmington River – Trout fishing has been very good and fishing conditions should be good for the weekend. Flows are currently clear and moderate (291 cfs at Riverton with the Still River adding another 81 cfs), although depending on rainfall locations and amounts, Still river flows may increase on Friday. Morning water temperatures are in the low 50's°F.

Hatches include *Isonychia* (#12-14), *Vitreus* [a.k.a. pale evening dun] #16, from 5:00pm to dark, Tan Caddis (#16-18) good all day, Sulfurs, (*Invaria* #16 hatches mid-day and *Dorothea* #16-18). Successful **patterns** include Light Cahill (#12-18), March Brown nymphs (#12-14, during the day), Gray Fox (#14, afternoon), Blue Wing Olives (#18-20, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; green #22-26, evening), Midges (#20-32) and Pale Evening Duns (*Epeorus vitreus* #14-16, afternoon & early evenings). March Brown, Sulphur & Rusty Spinners are falling in the evenings.

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).



Housatonic River – Trout fishing has been good. Morning water temperatures are generally in the mid 60's°F and flows are quite fishable, currently clear and just a bit on the high side (810 cfs at Falls Village and 1,160 cfs at Gaylordsville). With rain possible, flows may increase for the weekend. Anglers can check the USGS website (<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/current/?type=flow>) or call FirstLight Power Resources at 1-888-417-4837 or for updated Housatonic River flow information.

Hatches/patterns. Major insect hatches are here and are providing excellent fly fishing. Alder/Zebra Caddis (#10-12) are starting up right now and should last up to 4 weeks. This is a major hatch and will produce some great fishing. Alder flies are very active during hot days. Additional bugs include the Sulphurs (#14-18, evening), Blue Wing Olive (#16-18, cloudy days, early morning; spinner fall in evening), *Isonychia* (#8-12 late afternoon & evening, just starting), Cahill (#14, evenings), Adams (#12-16, evening), March Brown (#10-12, afternoon) and Gray Foxes (#14-16). Green caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening) are on the water. Midges and early golden stoneflies (#6-10) are also being seen at the mouths of tributaries.

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS – Trout fishing has been fairly good and anglers can expect to find some big trout into mid-June. Places to try include Mashapaug Lake (over 20 trout for a boat, on Kobra-112/fly at 3 colors), West Hill Pond (20-30 feet down), East Twin Lake (try 35-40 feet of water), Squantz Pond, Crystal Lake (target 35-40 feet, 7 colors, Kobra-218), Black Pond (Woodstock 7 fish at 2 colors for one angler), Highland Lake (4 fish at 15-20 feet for one angler), Candlewood Lake, Stillwater Pond, Mount Tom Pond, Mohawk Pond, Lake Wononskopomuc (4-5 colors), Beach Pond (am, 100 foot wire line, black wooly bugger) Coventry Lake (15 foot, Kobra-19) and Black Pond (Meriden).

CONNECTICUT RIVER

Flows are currently somewhat lower than typical mid-June levels however with some rain in the forecast, flows may increase for the weekend. Catches of **STRIPED BASS** at the river mouth continued to be good. Trolling tube & worm and casting soft plastics will often work in stained water for those angling from a safe location. The fish are moving out to the reefs. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** tournament reports for the river indicate a mixed bag with some anglers getting some really good bags (15-21 lbs for 8 fish) and other anglers struggling to find a fish.

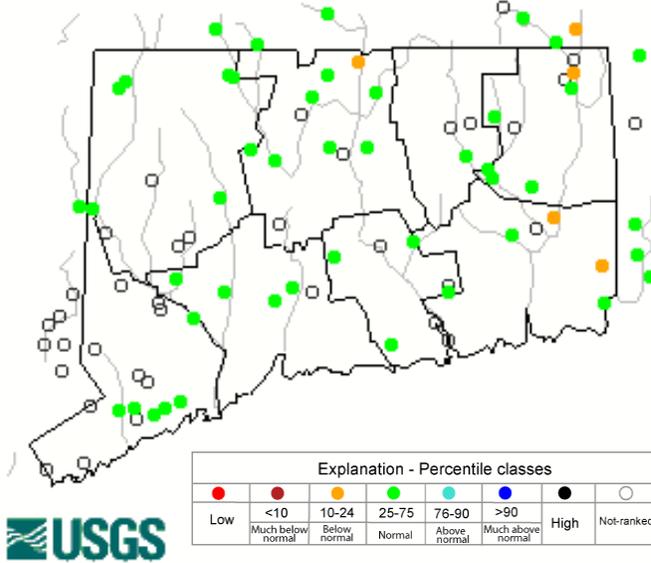
NOTES & NOTICES:

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

COVENTRY LAKE. Triathlon training will be conducted from 7:00 am to 9:00 am on Saturday, June 14th. The course will run from Patriots Park to the island at the northwestern end of the lake. Boaters should use additional caution on the lake.

Stream flow conditions as of 6/12/2014

Thursday, June 12, 2014 20:00ET



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”.

LAKE & POND BATHYMETRIC MAPS

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

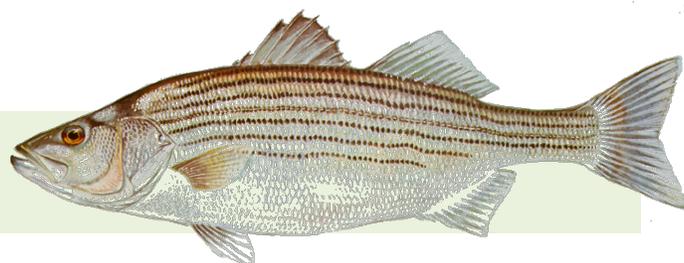
www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/fishing/general_information/lakebathymetrymaps.pdf

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



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MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) remain in the mid 50's to low 60'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 has improved on the reefs for anglers fishing pre-dawn hours and past dusk. Live lining eels, bunker or scup have yielded some “cow” bass over the past week. Remember to use non-offset circle hooks to reduce “gut hooking” when using live or cut chunk baits. The usual striper areas include the Watch Hill reefs, lower Thames River, the Race, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, outer Bartlett Reef, Black Point, Hatchett Reef, lower Connecticut River (Great Island), Long Sand Shoal, Cornfield Point, Southwest Reef (outer), Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island area, the reefs off Branford, New Haven Harbor (including Sandy Point), Charles Island area, Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Bridgeport Harbor, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands, and Cable and Anchor Reef.

BLUEFISH fishing is good with fish in the 3 to 5 lb range being common. Bluefish are throughout LIS. The more consistent spots include the Race, Plum Gut, Sluiceway, and the major reefs mid sound such as Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground and Cable and Anchor Reef in western LIS. Fresh bunker or hickory shad chunks on three way bottom rigs have been effective.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing has also improved especially in eastern LIS and the south side of Fishers Island. Fluke in the 5 to 7 lbs range have been reported. The usual fluke spots include south shore of Fishers Island (Isabella Beach, Wilderness Point), Watch Hill to Napatree Point, off the Stonington breakwater, mouth of the Mystic River to Groton Long Point, Thames River channel, Gardiners Bay over to Greenport (NY), Twotree Channel, Black Point/Niantic Bay, Long Sand Shoal, Westbrook-Clinton area, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor to West Haven, off the mouth of the Housatonic River, Norwalk Islands, and across over to Port Jefferson (NY).

SCUP (porgy) fishing is fair to good on the major reefs throughout LIS and should improve as the season progresses.

HICKORY SHAD fishing is fair to good in the lower Connecticut River by the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier and in Clinton Harbor. Flood tide is your best bet.

WEAKFISH fishing remains fair to good in New Haven Harbor over to Milford Point.

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

2014 Connecticut Bonus Striped Bass Voucher **0001**



- This voucher is good for retention of **ONE (1)** bonus striped bass.
- **ONE (1)** bonus fish may be harvested per day.
- Valid May 1 through Dec. 31, 2014.
- Valid only in Connecticut State Waters.

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 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

unlikely to survive. Alternatively, anglers should consider taking a smaller bonus fish home for a meal and releasing the larger (28"+) "spawner" fish.

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

*Brown Bullhead & Striped Bass images
courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.*