



Connecticut Department of

**ENERGY &  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**

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P R E S S                      R E L E A S E

## **DEEP COMPLETES 2014 CATFISH STOCKINGS**

***Five additional lakes & ponds stocked as catfish stocking program continues to expand to new areas***

Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) today announced that one of the most sought after freshwater game fish species in the country, the Channel Catfish, has been stocked in water bodies across Connecticut. (see list of locations below.) DEEP has stocked 17,000 channel "cats" into twenty four lakes and ponds. This marks the eighth year DEEP has been able to stock Channel Catfish purchased with Federal Sport Fish Restoration Funds.

The "cats" are stocked at the adult size, averaging 12-18 inches in length and weigh just under 2 pounds; and as juveniles, averaging 9-12 inches and about ½ pound. Stocking the adult size fish provides an immediate summer fishery for a great tasting-high quality fish, while stocking of juveniles provides a cost-effective investment for great catfish fishing into the future.

"This DEEP program establishes channel catfish in lakes where we know there is sufficient habitat to support a population of large gamefish," said Susan Whalen, Deputy Commissioner of DEEP. "Anglers have reported taking 5-7 lb fish from several of the lakes. DEEP believes that the combination of a popular gamefish stocked into waters that are selected based on scientific data is a winning combination. We've had great success in using this approach to develop exciting fisheries for northern pike and walleye and now we're looking forward to similar results with catfish."

Of the twenty four waters being stocked, five are new to the Community Fishing Waters Program (CFW), the goal of which is to create and enhance year-round fishing opportunities in urban areas by combining trout stocking (in the spring and fall) with catfish stocking (in late spring or early summer). This program began in 2007 and this year expanded to five new waters.

"Connecticut has a diversity of fishing opportunities, freshwater and marine, all within a short drive or bus ride from most citizens. Stocking catfish in urban areas provides excellent family recreational opportunities close to home for the many local residents," said Deputy Commissioner Whalen. "The Community Fishing Program is one of our many efforts to promote fishing throughout the state and to provide opportunities for all to enjoy the great outdoors."

Tips on fishing for Channel Cats and how to prepare a delicious meal with your catch are easily found with a quick internet search. There is currently no minimum size for harvest or daily catch limit for catfish in Connecticut. DEEP strongly encourages anglers to enjoy fishing and catching this great gamefish, but please only take those fish you intend to eat.

All anglers can find fishing regulations in the *2014 Connecticut Angler's Guide*, found online at [www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide](http://www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide). Print version of the guides are available at more than 350 locations statewide, including town halls, bait & tackle shops and other vendors selling outdoor equipment, DEEP facilities, and commercial marinas and campgrounds, or by contacting DEEP's Inland Fisheries Division (860-424-FISH). Additional fishing and fisheries related information can be found on the DEEP web site at: [www.ct.gov/deep/fishing](http://www.ct.gov/deep/fishing) and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/CTFishandWildlife](https://www.facebook.com/CTFishandWildlife).

<i><b>Water</b></i>	<i><b>Community</b></i>	<i><b>Approximate number</b></i>	<i><b>Size</b></i>
Silver Lake	Berlin-Meriden	1,500	Yearlings
Bunnells Pond (Beardsley Park Pond)*	Bridgeport	750	Adults
Birge Pond**	Bristol	500	Adults
Pattaconk Lake	Chester	720	Yearlings
Lake Kenosia	Danbury	695	Yearlings
Picketts Pond	Derby	400	Adults
Freshwater Pond	Enfield	400	Adults
Batterson Park Pond	Farmington	285	Yearlings
Hopeville Pond	Griswold	1,285	Yearlings
Lake Wintergreen*	Hamden	1,520	Adults & Yearlings
Keeney Park Pond*	Hartford	300	Adults
Quinebaug Lake	Killingly	1,290	Yearlings
Mirror Lake (Hubbard Park Pond)**	Meriden	350	Adults
Black Pond	Meriden-Middlefield	725	Yearlings
Rowans Pond (Butternut Park Pond)**	Middletown	200	Adults
Stanley Quarter Pond**	New Britain	300	Adults
Beaver Park Lagoon (North)**	New Haven	400	Adults
Spaulding Pond (Mohegan Park Pond)*	Norwich	670	Adults
Maltby Pond #2	Orange-West Haven	215	Yearlings
Maltby Pond #3	Orange-West Haven	235	Yearlings
Stillwater Pond	Torrington	930	Yearlings
Burr Pond	Torrington	825	Yearlings
Lakewood Lake*	Waterbury	1,425	Adults
Scoville Reservoir	Wolcott	1,150	Yearlings

\*Community Fishing Water

\*\*Community Fishing Water new to the program in 2014

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