

CT DEEP **2016**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 2
4/21/2016



Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)



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 STOCKING—Approximately 371,000 trout were stocked before Opening Day into 100 lakes and ponds and nearly 170 rivers and streams located throughout Connecticut. DEEP's in-season stockings are now underway with nearly 230,000 additional trout scheduled to be stocked between Opening Day and the end of May.

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - Conditions should be very good for trout fishing this weekend. Flows are very fishable, although generally lower than typical spring levels (*see stream flow graphic on page 5*), comfortable weather is forecast, and there are plenty of recently stocked trout waiting for anglers.

With temperatures warming, fishing is getting better (generally fair to good now) with reports from Macedonia Brook (very good), Mill River (Hamden – slow), Norwalk River (good), Naugatuck River (good), West Branch Farmington River & Farmington River (good to very good, caddis, blue-quill working), Pequonnock River (good action once morning warms up), Quinebaug River (some nice action, catches include a 23 inch, 6.2 lb Rainbow), Fivemile River (good), Little River (fair-good), Mashamoquet Brook (fair), Natchaug River (fair to good, including 23 inch, 6.5 lb Brown), Shetucket River, Yantic River, Salmon River, Jeremy River, Blackledge River, and Hammonasset River (some action, with evening bite better, streamers, small floaters and drifting bait, some nymphs working).

Farmington River - Fishing has been good to very good and conditions for the weekend should be very good. Good weather is forecast, water temperatures are in the mid 60's°F, West Branch flows are clear, on the low to moderate side (currently 157 cfs at Riverton with the Still River adding another 81 cfs) and very comfortable for fishing.

Hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive (a.k.a. *Baetis vagans*; #16-24) in a parachute or emerging dun

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.



(noon to 5pm), Hendrickson (a.k.a. red quill; #12-#14; try around 1:30 pm with spinners in the evening mixed in), Winter/Summer Caddis (#18-22) and Black Midge (#20-32). Also try Rusty Spinners (#16-18), Mahogany Duns/Blue Quills (#16-18), Tan Caddis (#16-18) and Winter Caddis (#18-22). Nymphing is working well now (#18-22 nymphs are always a good go-to fly). Also try Stoneflies (#6-10), Pheasant Tails (#14-20), Black Stoneflies (#18-22), Bead Head, Midge Pupa, Brassie, Zebra Midge or Copper John patterns.

Housatonic River - Fishing has been good and the river will be great for fishing this weekend. Flows are clear, and quite comfortable for wading, being lower than is typical for mid-late April (currently 884 cfs at Falls Village and 1,220 cfs at Gaylordsville). Morning water temperatures are in the upper 40's°F, and warming a bit through the day.

Hatches/patterns. **Hendrickson hatch is starting** and comes off around 2:00 pm. Try Hendrickson (#12-14), March Brown (#10-12), Pheasant Tail (#12-18) & Copper John (#12-16). Try streamers (Yellow/White Zuddlers or Gray Ghost), 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):

In **western Connecticut**; **Eight Mile Brook**, **Kettletown Brook**, the **Mill River** (Hamden, including the TMA), **Mill River** (Fairfield, doesn't include the TMA), **Wepawaug River**, **Muddy River**, **Pequonnock River** (Trumbull Basin area), the **Farmington River TMA** (the West Branch Farmington River from the Goodwin Dam down to the upper boundary of the year-round catch-and-release area), **Naugatuck River TMA**, **Pequonnock River** (Beardsley Park), and the **Farmington River TMA** (from the lower Collinsville dam to the route 177 bridge) were stocked.

In **eastern Connecticut**; the **Branford River**, **Farm River** (both upper & lower), **West River**, **Beaver Brook**, **Moosup River**, **Shetucket River**, **Susquetonscut Brook**, **Ten Mile River** (Lebanon), **Eightmile River**, **East Branch Eightmile River**, **Coginchaug River**, **Yantic River** (including the TMA), **Five Mile River** (Thompson, Putnam, Killingly), **Quinebaug River** (Thompson, Putnam, Killingly, Plainfield, Griswold), **Pachaug River**, **Hop River**, **Hockanum River** (areas upstream of the TMA & downstream of the TMA), **Tankerhoosen River**, **Crystal Lake Brook**, **Salmon River** (Colchester, including the TMA), **Still River**, **Latimer Brook** and **Pattaconk Brook** were stocked.

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS - Trout fishing was generally fair to good with reports from Beach Pond (17.5 inch, 2 lb Brown Trout among the catches), Long Pond (steady), Candlewood Lake (lots of trout in shallows), Squantz Pond ("bunch of bigger Rainbows caught"), Ball Pond (fair action at best, but catches include a 6 lb Brown Trout), Rogers Lake (good bite early morning), Highland Lake (fair trolling, but slow from shore), West Hill Pond (good trolling minnows), Quonnipaug Lake (on the slow side, but some nice browns from the bottom are being caught) and Baldwin Pond ("...plenty of fish still in there"). Also some good reports from several of the Community Fishing Waters including Birge Pond.

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.



Lakes and ponds stocking update (Note that all stocking schedules are subject to change):

In **western Connecticut**; Hop Brook Lake, Black Rock Lake, Mount Tom Pond, Mirror Lake, Birge Pond, and Bunnells Pond.

In **eastern Connecticut**; Branford Supply Pond, Quonnipaug Lake, Lake Saltonstall, Beaver Brook Park Ponds, Billings Lake, Hewitt Fly Pond, Lantern Hill Pond, Cedar Lake, Higganum Reservoir, Pasture Pond, Wauregan Reservoir, Walkers Reservoir, Bigelow Pond, Paine Pond, Gay City Pond, Dodge Pond, Norwich Pond, Uncas Lake, Pattaconk Lake and Millers Pond.

TROUT PARKS – Fishing ranged from fair to very good at the Trout Parks. All were stocked before Opening Day and four of them, Black Rock Pond, Chatfield Hollow, Southford Falls and Wharton Brook, were stocked again on Opening Day. The **Southford Falls, Wolfe Park (Great Hollow Pond), Black Rock State Park** (both **Branch Brook & Black Rock Pond**), **Kent Falls, Wharton Brook, Day Pond** and **Mohegan Park Pond Trout Parks** were stocked this week.

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 2016 CT angler's Guide(www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide).



LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing has picked up some over the last week in a number of areas, with bass still finding their spring spots and temperatures warming only slowly. Good reports are from Highland Lake (fish structure) and Lake Lillinonah, fair reports from Candlewood Lake and Lower Bolton Lake, and slow fishing reported from Lake McDonough, Congamond Lakes, and Mansfield Hollow Reservoir.

Tournament angler reports are from Amos Lake (windy with whitecaps, water temps 48- 50° F, fair fishing on early bite, with some nice fish weighed, 5.8 lb lunker, and a 2.8 lb average weight per fish), Gardner Lake (slow fishing, with a 2.56 lb lunker), Beach Pond (cold water, very slow, with a 3.3 lb lunker), Pattagansett Lake (tough fishing, few catches, with a 3.08 lb lunker), and Candlewood Lake (bass are starting to move in, lunkers include a 6.9 lb bass caught on a jerk-bait).

SMALLMOUTH BASS. Some smallmouth are being found, with reports from Candlewood Lake (picking up, look for them shallow), Highland Lake (fair) and Lake Lillinonah (some). **Tournament angler** report from Candlewood Lake (some really nice winning bags including 30.5 lb, 29.5 lb and 24 lb weights – mostly smallies, but many are still finding it hard to catch many), Gardner Lake (none) and Beach Pond (none).

WALLEYE catches reported from Squantz Pond (at night, including several fish in the 7-8 lb range), at Mashapaug lake however, anglers are not having any luck (fish usually can be found over humps deep, but not last week).

BLACK CRAPPIE action is good in a number of areas throughout the state, with reports from Candlewood Lake (some real slabs can be found), Lake Saltonstall, Lake of Isles, Pachaug Pond and Avery Pond.

CONNECTICUT RIVER

The river remains cool (warming slowly) and flows are currently well below typical mid-April levels. Some fish are in the river but reports for **AMERICAN SHAD** are few (should pick up as water temperatures increase). Shad darts and willow leafs generally work well. **BLACK CRAPPIE** fishing is good.

STRIPED BASS are being found in the river, mostly schoolie size and action is slow. Some **NORTHERN PIKE** catches continue to be reported in the Middletown to Haddam Meadow section. Anglers are finding some **SMALLMOUTH BASS** in the mainstem.

Mianus River Fishway

2016 Open House Dates

125 River Road Extension, Cos Cob

Saturday, April 23rd 10am - 12pm

(note rescheduled date)

and

Saturday, May 21st 2pm - 4pm

Sponsored by:

Town of Greenwich
Conservation Commission



The Greenwich Conservation Commission will be hosting two open house events at the Mianus River Fishway during the annual herring migration. All are invited to stop by and learn about the history of the fishway and the incredible life cycle of the fish that depend on it. Staff and volunteers will be available to provide tours of the fishway and answer any questions. For more information, contact Amanda Ryan at (203)622-6461 or amanda.ryan@greenwichct.org.



NOTES & NOTICES:

BASHAN LAKE (drawdown). Bashan Lake remains drawn down (slow refill has begun – lake currently remains down approximately 5 feet – note that refill rate is dependent on rainfall amounts) following dam repairs and the state boat launch remains closed.

COVENTRY LAKE (invasive species alert). Hydrilla, a very highly invasive aquatic plant, has been found growing in Coventry Lake. All lake users should take extra care to check and clean their boats (including canoes, kayaks and rowing sculls), trailers, and fishing equipment before leaving the boat launch, or leaving the lakeshore.

COVENTRY LAKE (rowing regatta). A high school rowing/crew regatta is scheduled for Saturday, April 23, from 9 am to 3 pm. The course will run across the lake from the Patriots Park area to the island at the northwestern end of the lake. Boaters should use additional caution on the lake.

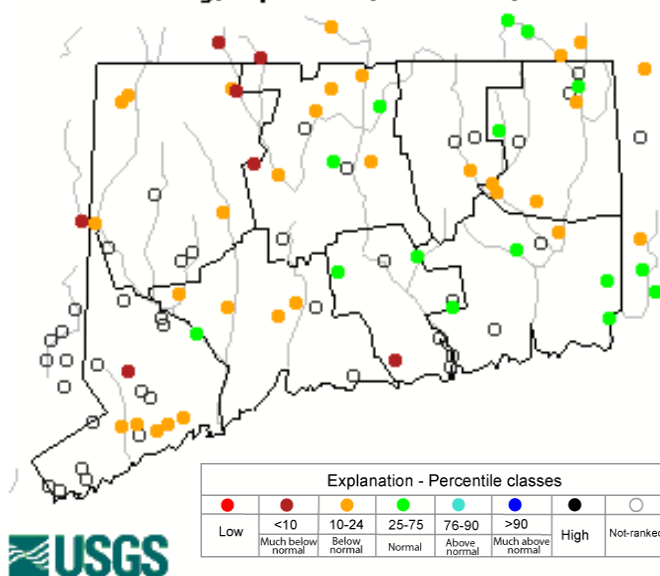
DOOLEY POND (drawdown). A drawdown of Dooley Pond to facilitate dam repairs is ongoing (expected to last to September 1). The state boat launch is currently closed.

GLASGO POND (drawdown). A drawdown of Glasgo Pond to facilitate dam repairs began September 16. Launching of boats is difficult to impossible.

HOUSATONIC LAKE (rowing regatta)- A high school rowing/crew regatta is scheduled for Sunday, April 24, from 2 pm to 5 pm. Boaters should use additional caution on the lake.

Stream flow conditions as of 4/21/2016

Thursday, April 21, 2016 19:30ET



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".

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the mid 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 good in the Housatonic River, Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier), and the Black Hall River. Sand and blood worms will do the trick especially in murky water.

WINTER FLOUNDER fishing is on the slow side. Early season 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, and Norwalk Harbor.

BLACKFISH fishing spring season runs April 1st – April 30th. However, with water temperatures in the low 50's °F fishing has been very good with worms, clams and Asian crabs. The New Haven breakwaters are one of the better early season fishing spots for tog. Try fishing in 8 – 25 feet of water. Shallower the better (warmer). This next week should be fantastic. Remember that the season is closed May 1 – June 30th (inclusive).

SHORE FISHING SPOTS & TIDE TABLE INFORMATION

To find a saltwater shore fishing spot close to where you live, go to the following website:

<http://www.lisrc.uconn.edu/coastalaccess/>.

For **Enhanced Opportunity Shore Fishing** sites and other fishing information including a site map go to the following website

<http://www.depdata.ct.gov/maps/saltwaterfish/map.htm>.

Please see page 64 of the [2016 CT Angler's Guide](#) for CT tide information.

Special section- BONUS STRIPED BASS FISHING PROGRAM-

STRIPED BASS REPORTING CARDS & TAGS NOW AVAILABLE.

The **Bonus Striped Bass Program** will run from May 1 through December 31 in 2016. **DEEP will distribute TWO Harvest Tags and Harvest Report Cards per license holder this year.** The tag must be securely affixed to the jaw of the fish immediately upon harvest and must remain on the fish until you arrive home. The harvest report card must also be completed upon harvesting a qualifying fish. The report card should then be returned to DEEP within two days of harvest. The cards are pre-addressed to Marine Fisheries and are postage paid. You simply need to drop the completed card in any mail box.

Tags are available at DEEP Offices and Facilities listed below. There is a limit of **TWO TAGS** annually per Connecticut fishing license holder. However, for convenience one person may pick up at most **FOUR TAGS** for friends and relatives by presenting valid Connecticut fishing licenses for these anglers. Children are also eligible to receive a tag by signing up for a free [Youth Fishing Passport](#). **Tags are 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 , 860-642-7239 M-F 8:30am-4:30pm	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

Program Regulations

- A bonus striped bass is at least 22 inches but less than 28 inches.
- Open Season: May 1 through December 31, 2015.
- Only one bonus striped bass may be harvested daily.
- The fish must be tagged immediately upon harvest, with the tag securely affixed to the lower jaw.
- The tag must remain on the fish until you have returned to your home or other location where the fish is to be consumed.
- Anglers are also required to complete a bonus striper report card provided with the tag immediately upon harvesting a qualifying fish.
- Mail the report card back to Marine Fisheries within two days of harvesting the fish. The card 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.
- Tags are valid in Connecticut state waters only.
- The normal limit of one (1) striped bass 28 inches or greater may also be harvested.

Voucher Distribution

A total of 3,018 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 tags. A limited number of tags 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. The Bonus Striped Bass Voucher Program runs from **May 1 through December 31** in 2015. For convenience one person may pick up vouchers for others by presenting valid fishing licenses for these 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.

For Current Connecticut Recreational Fishing Regulations: Anglers should consult the 2016 Connecticut Anglers Guide which is now available at most Town Clerks Offices, DEEP offices and at tackle stores selling fishing licenses. Current regulations, electronic versions of the Angler's Guide and additional information can all be accessed on the DEEP website at: www.ct.gov/deep/fishing.

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.

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



**Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

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www.ct.gov/deep