

CT DEEP **2016**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 5
5/12/2016



Black Crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*)



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 two weeks remain for our in-season trout stocking. Water level and temperatures look ideal (although low for May 12) for anglers to experience great fishing.

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - Trout fishing is about as good as it gets. The waters are stocked, flows are stable, and cool nights and warm days making for ideal trout fishing.

This week several anglers shared their catch of 2-4 pound rainbows from the Pomperaug, Natchaug, Salmon, and Naugatuck Rivers. With nice size holdover browns from both the Farmington and Housatonic.

Farmington River - Fishing continues to be good to very good to excellent. West Branch flows are clear, a bit on the low side and dropping (currently 138 cfs at Riverton with the Still River adding 87 cfs). Midday water temperatures remain in the low to mid 50's °F. A reminder that "rock snot" (Didymo) is currently blooming in the West Branch near Riverton, all anglers should be extra vigilant about "Check, Clean, Dry" to help prevent the spread to other waters.

Hatches/patterns Should be starting to see more and more activity including the start of caddis (tan #16-18), Hendrickson (still going, upper catch-and-release area through Riverton), Mahogany Dun (#14-16), Stonefly nymphs (#16-18), and Midge (#20-32). Nymphing has been consistent, try wooly buggers, muddler minnow, Stoneflies (#6-10), Pheasant Tails (#14-20), and Black Stoneflies (#18-22) among others.

Housatonic River - Fishing has been good. Conditions for the weekend will be variable. Currently flows are turbid, lower than typical early-May levels (currently 748 cfs at Falls Village and 1,340 cfs at Gaylordsville) and very fishable. Anglers can call FirstLight Power Resources at 1-888-417-4837 or check the USGS website (<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/current/?type=flow>) for updated Housatonic

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.



River flow information (and also check with a local bait & tackle shop). Morning water temperatures are in the mid to upper 40's °F.

Hatches/patterns include Hendrickson (#12-14), Blue Wing Olive (a.k.a. *Baetis vagans*; #16-18), Green/Olive Caddis (#16-18). Anglers using March Brown (#10-12), Pheasant Tail (#12-18) & Stonefly nymphs (#16-18) are finding nymphing to be very productive. Try streamers (Yellow/White Zuddlers or Gray Ghost). Brown and green woolly buggers are working.

Rivers and streams stocking update (Note that all stocking schedules are subject to change):

In **western Connecticut**; **Pequabuck River**, **Naugatuck River** (Thomaston to Waterbury), **East Aspetuck River**, **Pond Brook**, **Pootatuck River** (lower portions) and **Mill River** (Hamden, including the TMA), 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), **Mad River**, **Kent Falls Brook**, **Blackberry River**, **Naugatuck River** (Waterbury-Beacon Falls), **Mianus River** (including the TMA), **Farmington River** (from Route 177 bridge to Route 4 Bridge), **Pootatuck River** (upper portions) and **Pequonnock River**.

In **eastern Connecticut**; the **Fivemile River**, **Quinebaug River** (Thompson, Putnam, Killingly, Plainfield), **Moosup River**, **Snake Meadow Brook**, **West River**, **East River**, **Salmon River** (including the TMA), **Jeremy River**, **Blackledge River** (lower), **Scantic River** (upper & lower sections), **Natchaug River**, **Mount Hope River**, **Fenton River**, **Hockanum River** (areas upstream of the TMA & downstream of the TMA), **French River**, **Eightmile River**, **Hunts Brook**, **Latimer Brook**, **Pachaug River**, **Quinebaug River** (Griswold), **Roaring Brook** (Stafford), **Middle River**, **Willimantic River** (section above the TMA), and **Furnace Brook** (Stafford).

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS - Trout fishing has been generally good with reports from Beach Pond (fair), Hewitt fly Pond (good), Crystal Lake, Highland Lake (heavy bait for browns was working for some), Saugatuck Reservoir, Candlewood Lake (fair), and Squantz Pond (good).

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

In **western Connecticut**; **Colebrook River Lake**, **Highland Lake**, **East Twin Lake**, **Lake McDonough**, **Scoville Reservoir**, **Mad River Flood Control Impoundment**, **Ball Pond**, and **Twin Brooks Pond**.

In **eastern Connecticut**; **Pasture Pond**, **Crystal Lake**, **Walker's Reservoir**, **Black Pond** (Woodstock), **Uncas Lake** and **Rogers Lake**.

TROUT PARKS – Fishing is reported as good to very good at our Trout Parks and Community Fishing Waters. **Stratton Brook**, **Southford Falls**, **Wolfe Park**, **Wharton Brook** (aquatic plants becoming thick), **Black Rock Pond** (pond only), **Kent Falls**, **Day Pond**, **Valley Falls**, and **Natchaug River Trout Parks** were stocked.

COMMUNITY FISHING WATERS- **Mirror Lake** and **Mohegan Park Pond** were stocked and reports of angler's catching their limit were common.

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.



LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing has picked up some over the last week in a number of areas (but some work is generally required). **Tournament angler** reports are from Amos Lake (very slow morning bite for one club, fair fishing at best for another, 2.27 lb and 4.1 lb lunkers), Aspinook Pond (slow to fair at best, 4.54 lb lunker), Gardner Lake (average fishing for largemouth, mostly 1-2 lb fish with 5.05 lb, 2.47 and 2.3 lb lunkers), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (slow, 2.45 lb lunker), Moodus Reservoir (fair at best, 4.04 lb lunker but mostly 1 lb fish), Pachaug Pond (slow, 3.69 lb lunker), Bantam Lake (slow for largemouth, but with a nice 5.69 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (fair for largemouth, with **A 8.70 LB MONSTER LUNKER** for a CT TBF tournament, plus 5.74 lb, 4.61 lb, 3.66 lb & 3.3 lb lunkers for several other tournies), Highland Lake (slow action for most, with a 2.82 lb lunker), Lake Lillinonah (fair to good fishing with 4.57 lb, 4.53 lb and 3.95 lb lunkers) and Mudge Pond (fair fishing, 3.0 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 2016 CT angler's Guide(www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide).

SMALLMOUTH BASS. **Tournament angler** reports are from Bantam Lake (slow to fair action on smallies), Candlewood Lake (it's been mostly slow but is now just starting to heat up, 4.7 lb, 3.64 lb, 3.62 lb, 2.73 lb, 2.1 lb lunkers), Gardner Lake (difficult to find fish), Highland Lake (very few in bags), and Lake Lillinonah (fair to good action).

BLACK CRAPPIE fishing is very good throughout the state.

WALLEYE Good reports continue from Squantz Pond.

COMMON CARP Very good reports from shallow coves on the Connecticut River, Lake Zoar, Lake Housatonic, Lake Lillinonah, and lower Housatonic River (New Milford), and Hanover Pond- Meriden.

CONNECTICUT RIVER

For the third straight week the Connecticut River has been 11 C (52 F), and flowing at around 17,000 cfs. This is most unusual for the river in May, keeping the runs from fully developing. Flows are turbid and somewhat high, but are well below typical early May levels. **STRIPED BASS** (schoolie-size and some bigger fish) are being found scatter throughout the river. Some 20 lb plus fish caught in the upper river (good action on bloodworms and plugs). Action at the mouth has been better early in the morning. **AMERICAN SHAD** can be found throughout the river (fair to good action continues in the Enfield area) although water temperatures may still be slowing them down some. Willow leaves have been working well. **BLACK CRAPPIE** fishing is good (small grey or silver plastic jigs). Some **LARGEMOUTH BASS** are being caught (best reports from Salmon River Cove). **CT River tournament reports-** Slow to fair for largemouth with a 3.97 lb lunker, slow for smallmouth with a 2.36 lb lunker.

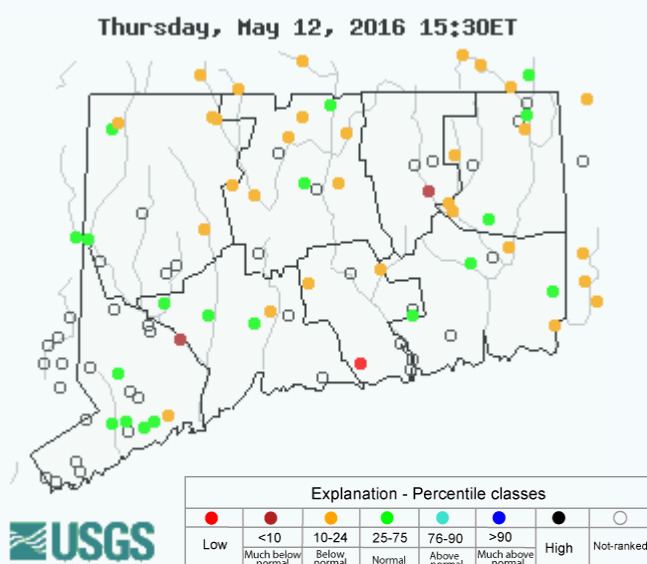
NOTES & NOTICES:

BASHAN LAKE (drawdown). Bashan Lake remains drawn down (slow refill has begun – lake currently remains down approximately 3-5 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.

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 is ongoing (began September 2015). Launching of boats is difficult to impossible.

Stream flow conditions as of 5/12/2016

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 low to 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 continue to be very good for “schoolies” in most of the tidal rivers along the Connecticut shoreline. There are also some very big keepers (45 pound cow bass Stratford) 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 and Dock and Dine), 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 around the high tide and the beginning of the ebb. Casting swimming lures, small jigs (Chartreuse color) with twister tails, soft baits, and Kastmasters and other metal lures will all work. Fishing is awesome in the lower rivers/estuaries where the water temperature has approached the magical 55°F mark and there are schools of 1 year old menhaden! The top-water fishing has been fantastic...

Bonus Striped Bass Tags are just about gone for this year. Thank you for everyone who took advantage of this unique program.

SUMMER FLOUNDER fishing season opens May 17 to September 21.

WINTER FLOUNDER fishing is improving in the Poquonock River at Bluff Point State Park, Niantic River, The Brothers, Jordan Cove, lower Saugatuck River, Calf Pasture Beach area, Norwalk Islands (Cockonoe) 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.

WHITE PERCH fishing is good in most of the tidal rivers and coves along the Connecticut shoreline. Perch spots include the Pawcatuck River, Mystic River, Thames River, upper Niantic River, lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier), Black Hall River, Lieutenant River, North/South Cove and Hamburg Cove. Grass shrimp and small garden worms are the keys to success.

SCUP (porgy) fishing is fair overall. Much better in Gardiners Bay and the Peconics. Porgies measuring 10-16 inches (“hubcap size”) have been reported! Porgy fishing has also been reported at these shore fishing locations: Rocky Neck State Park, Meigs Point Hammonasset State Park and Fort Trumbull State Park. Locate your favorite [Enhanced Shore Fishing Opportunities](#) for these excellent eating “Reef Slammers”. These “panfish of the sea” are easily caught on sandworms/cut squid

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.

or any other small piece of bait. Contact your [local bait and tackle shop](#) for updated fishing information.

BLACK SEA BASS fishing is slow. The early season hot spot is Falkner Island. Fishing over any deep water structure in 60 to 100 ft around slack tide will produce some trophy-sized “humpbacks”. Fish shallower and you will catch plenty of keeper-sized sea bass. It’s important to continue to move from structure to structure to find these beautiful and awesome eating fish. Remember, **CT black sea bass regulations are as follows...15 inch min. length, 5 fish daily limit from May 1st to December 31st.**

Berkely Gulp (swimming mullet) on a jig along with squid with a spinner works great for these “Bucketmouths”.

HICKORY SHAD fishing is good...some nice 16 to 21 inch “CT Tarpon” continue to be caught by those who try. Try the Black Hall River, Lieutenant River, lower Connecticut River by the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier, Baldwin Bridge State Boat Launch, Clinton Harbor, lower Housatonic River and Fort Trumbull. These “CT Tarpon” providing outstanding/fun shore fishing for anglers. **Tie on a silver willowleaf lure or a small chateuse jig (add a 14-20 inch leader) with a slip sinker above the swivel along with light tackle (6lb test main line).** Cast to current breaks/channels and retrieve the lure and hold on/have fun...

WEAKFISH. Look for weakfish in Guilford/New Haven Harbor over to the Milford/Stratford area along with the Peconics (NY).

BLUEFISH. The Race, Millstone Outflow, Plum Gut and the north side of Long Island including Gardiners Bay and the Peconics are early bluefish spots.

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.

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DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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