

CT DEEP **2016**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 7
5/26/2016



Channel Catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*)



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

CHANNEL CATFISH STOCKING— The annual stocking of yearling and adult channel catfish was completed this week. Over **15,800** catfish (5,800 12-18 inch fish averaging 1.5-2.0 lbs apiece and 10,000 9-12 inch fish) were stocked into 23 water bodies scattered throughout the state (listed below).

Good reports from the Community Fishing Waters including; Bunnells Pond (Bridgeport), Birge Pond (Bristol), Keney Park Pond (Hartford), Mohegan Park Pond (Norwich), Picketts Pond (Derby), Stanley Quarter Pond (New Britain) and Lake Wintergreen (Hamden).

Other catfish waters include Beaver Park Lagoon (north pond - New Haven), Center Springs Park Pond (Manchester), Freshwater Pond (Enfield), Lakewood Lake (Waterbury), Rowans Pond (Butternut Park Pond – Middletown), Batterson Park Pond (Farmington), Black Pond (Meriden-Middlefield, Burr Pond (Torrington), Hopeville Pond (Griswold), Lake Kenosia (Danbury), Maltby Lake #2 (Orange-West Haven) -, Maltby Lake #3 (Orange-West Haven), Quinebaug Lake (Killingly), Scoville Reservoir (Wolcott), Silver Lake – (Berlin-Meriden) and Stillwater Pond (Torrington).

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - Trout fishing remains very good. Trout remain spread throughout our rivers and streams providing a challenge to find. With the very warm air temperatures for the next few days, fish will begin to look for deeper pockets in rivers and slightly deeper in lakes.

Many anglers reporting catching double-digit numbers of trout (catch and release) as well as those who took a few home. Highlights included some nice looking 20+ inch brown (Farmington TMA) and Highland Lake.

Farmington River - Fishing continues to be excellent. West Branch flows are clear and very fishable (about 304 cfs at Riverton with the Still River adding 56 cfs). Midday water temperatures remain in the mid 50's °F.

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).



Hatches/patterns Brown and black caddis at dusk seemed to be very productive. One angler reporting the water was “boiling” with the spinner fall. Early evening activity should continue to be productive with hot days and muggy nights. Be sure to have extra of these in your box; caddis (tan #16-18), black (#18-22), Hendrickson and Mahogany Dun (#14-16), Stonefly nymphs (#16-18), and Midge (#20-32). Nymphing can be a good go to as hatches are intermittent. Try wooly buggers (brown and green), muddler minnow, Stoneflies (#6-10), Pheasant Tails (#14-20), among others.

Housatonic River - Fishing has been good. Conditions for the weekend should be great for fishing. Flows continue to remain very low and slowly dropping (currently 509 cfs at Falls Village and 904 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 River flow information (and also check with a local bait & tackle shop). Morning water temperatures are in the low to mid 50's °F.

Hatches/patterns Same general conditions as the Farmington, keep a variety of flies on hand. Especially, 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 working well. Try streamers (Yellow/White Zuddlers or Gray Ghost). Brown and green wooly buggers are working.

RIVERS AND STREAMS: The Naugatuck River (Beautiful Rainbow on a black ant from Beacon Falls), Natchaug River, Mount Hope River, Roaring Brook (Stafford), Hockanum River, are all producing with cahills, march browns, and blue wing olives.

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS - Trout fishing has been generally good with reports from Ball Pond (good), Hewitt Fly Pond (good), Crystal Lake, Highland Lake, Saugatuck Reservoir, Candlewood Lake (good), and Squantz Pond (good). DEEP electrofishing crews captured a 27" brown while conducting routine lake and pond monitoring on Wononskopomuc last week.

TROUT PARKS & COMMUNITY FISHING WATERS – Fishing is reported as fair as the fish have been thinned out a bit.

LARGEMOUTH BASS in general is good to very good. Activity is heating up along with the water temperatures in the shallow coves and bays. Good catches being reported this week from Walkers Reservoir (Vernon), Mashapaug Pond (Union), and Mudge Pond (Sharon). **Tournament angler reports** (none this week)

SMALLMOUTH BASS. Reported as fair to good. Candlewood lake is the best bet for lunkers otherwise the lower Housatonic River (Kent to New Milford) can provide some great action on ultralight gear. **Tournament angler reports** (none this week)

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.



BLACK CRAPPIE reports slowing down, however, persistence will pay off. Try South Spectacle Lake (Kent), Roseland Lake (Pomfret), or Candlewood Lake.

CHAIN PICKEREL Remains excellent from most waters.

COMMON CARP from the CT CARP'ers in Middletown, phenomenal fishing over the weekend with at least 20 fish over 20lb and 8 over 30lb topped by a 37lb 12oz beast for Edwin Stackhouse (beating his previous PB of 29lb). Ian Sorrell caught one of 30.04 and Andrew Nichols from the Fishin Factory picked up a run and landed another 30.

CONNECTICUT RIVER Water temperatures are still on the cool side. Flows are clear and at well below typical levels (at 7,320 with normal being 18,800 CFS). **STRIPED BASS** (schoolie-size and some bigger fish) are being found scattered throughout the river. A handful of 20 lb plus fish caught in the upper river (good action on bloodworms, large white slugos, and plugs). **AMERICAN SHAD** are here and there and can be found throughout the river (some action in the Enfield area). Willow leafs remain the standby. **BLACK CRAPPIE** fishing remains fair to good (small grey, white, or silver plastic jigs).

Some **LARGEMOUTH BASS** are being caught. **CT River tournament reports-** none

NOTES & NOTICES:

BASHAN LAKE (drawdown). Bashan Lake remains drawn down (slow refill continues – 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.

BEACH POND (closure). The state boat launch at Beach Pond is scheduled to be closed on Friday, May 27 to facilitate site study and preparation for eventual renovations. The launch will reopen on Saturday, 5/28.

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.

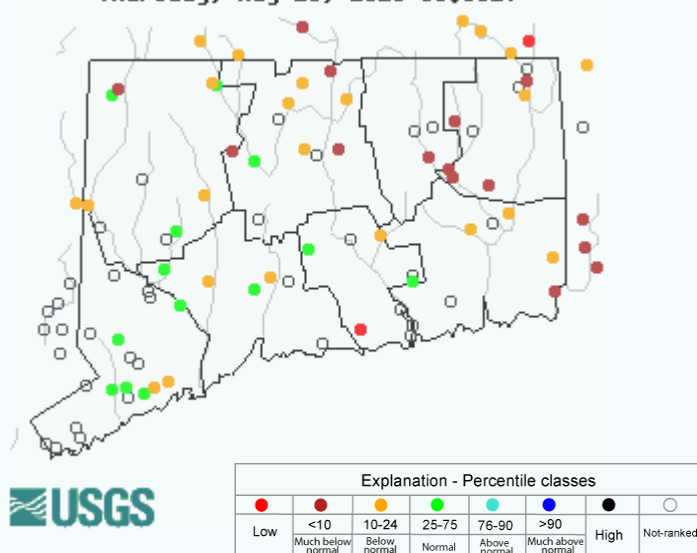
DOOLEY POND (drawdown). A drawdown of Dooley Pond to facilitate dam repairs is ongoing (expected to last to September 1). The state boat launch is currently closed.

GLASGO POND (drawdown). A drawdown of Glasgo Pond to facilitate dam repairs is ongoing (began September 2015). Launching of boats is difficult to impossible.

LAKE WARAMAUG (rowing regatta). A high school rowing event is scheduled for **Sunday, May 22 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm** in the western most basin. Boaters should use additional caution in the western portion of the lake.

Stream flow conditions as of 5/26/2016

Thursday, May 26, 2016 09:30ET



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”.

*Celebrating 150 Years!*

The DEEP's Bureau of Natural Resources is celebrating its 150th Anniversary in 2016. Joining in the celebration are the Divisions of Wildlife, Inland Fisheries, Marine Fisheries, Forestry, and the Environmental Conservation (EnCon) Police, as well as many partners.

Throughout 2016, we will look back at our history and also look ahead to the future of natural resources in our state. Follow along with the celebration and participate in special events to be held year-long on our special web page (www.ct.gov/deep/naturalresources150).

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the mid to upper 50's °F and rising. 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>

This week's marine report was limited due to staffing, so some of the information from last week (still pertinent) is being reported again.

STRIPED BASS now is the time to fish the tidal rivers and coves before the fish move out to the reefs. Good action still reported in the Thames, Connecticut, and Housatonic Rivers.

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

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is good overall. Fluke spots include the typical locations: south shore of Fishers Island

(Isabella Beach, Wilderness Point), Napatree Point and along the beach, off the Stonington breakwater, mouth of the Mystic River to Groton Long Point, Thames River channel, Two Tree Island Channel, Black Point/Niantic Bay/River, Long Sand Shoal, Westbrook-Clinton area, Falkner Island area, West Haven to Woodmont, New Haven Harbor including by the breakwaters, off the mouth of the Housatonic River, and around the Norwalk Islands.

Try drifting with a white or pink Bucktail Jig and attach a Berkely 3"-4" Gulp Mullet in chartreuse, white or pink color. Fresh squid and or silversides (spearing) have also been producing. **Minimum size is 18 inches and the daily creel limit is 5 fish per person.**

SCUP (porgy) off shore fishing is crazy with reports of anglers catching over 1,000 on a single charter trip. Much better in Gardiners Bay and the Peconics (Little Peconic Bay is hot). **Hook up with a [Party or Charter Boat](#) and enjoy some of the best scup fishing you will ever experience.** Porgies measuring 12-18 inches ("hubcap size") have been caught!

Porgy fishing has also been reported at these excellent 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 or any other small piece of bait. Contact your [local bait and tackle shop](#) for updated fishing information.

BLACK SEA BASS fishing is slow but improving. The early season hot spot is Falkner Island and from New Haven to Woodmont. 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

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.

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.**

HICKORY SHAD fishing is fair in the lower Connecticut River by the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier. Connecticut Tarpon (Hickory shad) can be found mixed in with schoolie striped bass and harbor blues. Flood or Ebb tide is best and lures of choice are a willow leaf (silver), kastmaster (single hook), small plastic jigs (white or chartreuse), and or shad darts in various colors. One day they are here in large numbers...the next day you are left wondering...where did they go.

WEAKFISH. Look for weakfish in Guilford/New Haven Harbor over to the Milford/Stratford area along with the Peconics (NY). Some really nice 8 to 12 pound fish have been recently caught at Sandy Point in West Haven.

BLUEFISH. The Race, Millstone Outflow, Plum Gut and the north side of Long Island including Gardiners Bay and the Peconics are the early season hotspots. The "Blues" are coming as we speak...chasing the squid into the sound.

***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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