

**CT DEEP** **2015**  
**FISHING REPORT NUMBER 8**  
**6/2/2016**



Scup or Porgy (*Stenotomus chrysops*)



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](https://www.facebook.com/CTFishandWildlife).



## INLAND REPORT

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing is reported as fair to good. Bass should be hitting the spawn very soon. Places to try include East Twin Lake, Shetucket River, Lake Lillinonah, Highland Lake, Cedar Lake, West Hill Pond, Lake McDonough, Congamond Lakes, Bantam Lake, Wyassup Lake, Beseck Lake (re-filled and producing some fish), Pickerel Lake, Wononskopomuc Lake, Black Pond (Meriden), Silver Lake (Meriden), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Candlewood Lake, Lake Saltonstall, Mudge Pond, Lake Waramaug, Batterson Park Pond, Burr Pond, Gardner Lake, Moodus Reservoir, Bishop Pond, Pachaug Pond, Billings Lake, Maltby Lakes, Stillwater Pond, Ball Pond, Red Cedar Lake and Winchester Lake.

**Tournament angler** reports are from Amos Lake (a bit tough, 4.53 lbunker but not much else of any good size), Gardner Lake (fair to good action, but mostly 1 lb fish with a 2.30 lbunker), Lake of isles (fair action, mostly smaller fish with a 3.1 lbunker), Mashapaug Lake (good day with fish averaging 2 lbs apiece, with a 4.45 lbunker), Pachaug Pond (anglers had to work some to find fish, 5.12 lbunker), Powers Lake (slow), Bantam Lake (good fishing for a few, but slow for the rest, 4.5 lbunker), Candlewood Lake (fair to good, some largemouth still on beds, 5.86 lb, 5.75 lb, 5.01 lb, 4.7 lb, 4.15 lb, 4.13 lb, and 3.74 lbunkers), Highland Lake (good action, 3.28 lbunker), and Winchester Lake (very tough fishing).

**SMALLMOUTH BASS** are reported at Colebrook River Lake, Candlewood Lake, Highland Lake, Bantam Lake and Squantz Pond.

**Tournament angler** reports are from Mashapaug Lake (not many caught), Gardner Lake (few in the bags), Bantam Lake (fair for smallmouth), Candlewood Lake (Fair action, 5.15 lb, 4.11 lb, 3.75 lb, 3.31 lbunkers), Colebrook River Lake (good for some, tough for others), Highland Lake (some caught, with a 2.82 lbunker), Connecticut River (Enfield area – good action for smallmouth).

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

**KOKANEE** are being caught at West Hill Pond and East Twin Lake. Try fishing slow (3 colors of lead line) for these great fighters.

**WALLEYE** are being reported from Lake Saltonstall, Squantz Pond and Batterson Park Pond.

### FREE FISHING LICENSE DAYS

CAST IT FORWARD and take someone fishing on one of our two free fishing license days. The will be on Sunday **June 19, 2016** (Father's Day) and Saturday **August 13, 2016** (NCLI and CARE Saltwater fishing event at Fort Trumbull State Park). **Anyone can obtain a free one-day fishing license to fish each of these days.**

The free 1-day license for June 19, 2016 is available now through our convenient online [sportsmen licensing system](#) (now mobile friendly!) Licenses for the August 15 date will be available starting on July 27, 2016.

**CALICO BASS AND SUNFISH:** Post-spawn mortality of calico and bluegill have been reported from several waters including Cresent Lake (Southington), Mirror Lake, Candlewood Lake coves, Lake Beseck, and several other small ponds. Some level of mortality is expected as the spawning is stressful time, leaving the fish vulnerable to infection and less ability to handle rising water temperatures. Please see our [Post-Spawn](#) fact sheet on our web site.

**CATFISH** consistent action in the evening at Community Fishing Waters including; Freshwater Lake, Lake Wintergreen, Pickett's Pond, Mohegan Park Pond, Keeney Park Pond, and Center Springs Pond. Catfish Management lakes like Lower Bolton Lake, Silver Lake, and the Maltby Lakes are also yielding decent table fare. Try live shiners, chunk bait, or night crawlers.

**TROUT-LAKES & PONDS** - Trout fishing has been good, and early June is a good time of year to catch some bigger fish. Places to try include Mashapaug Lake (Kobra-112&118/flyies at 3 colors/20 feet), West Hill Pond (20-30 feet down), Colebrook Reservoir (orange/copper Flash King at 26 feet), East Twin Lakes (beads at 3-4 colors over 35-40 feet of water), Squantz Pond, Crystal Lake (target 35-40 feet, 7 colors, Kobra-218), Highland Lake (prop washing streamers - troll a streamer in the prop wash 12-15 feet behind the boat), Black Pond (Woodstock 7 fish at 2 colors), Candlewood Lake, Stillwater Pond, Beach Pond (wooly bugger), Long Pond, Cedar Lake, Lake Wononskopomuc (4-5 colors) and Black Pond (Meriden).

**TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS** - In general, conditions remain very good to excellent with clear water and stable low flow (much lower than normal). Across the board reports are good including all major rivers like the West branch Farmington River, Farmington River, Housatonic River, Blackberry River, Dickenson Creek, Eight Mile River, Hockanum River, Hop River, Jeremy River, Salmon River, Yantic River (TMA), Salmon River TMA, Crystal Lake Brook, Hammonasset River, Pequonnock River, Naugatuck River TMA, Pootatuck River, East Aspetuck River and Leadmine Brook.

**Farmington River** - Fishing has been very good and conditions for the weekend should be very good. West Branch flows are very fishable levels (currently 291 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River adding another 42 cfs) and comfortable weather in the forecast.

**Hatches/patterns** the dominant hatch is the black caddis (#18-#20) with an insect on every leaf of every tree. Others include *Vitreus* [a.k.a. pale evening dun] #14-16, from 5:00 pm to dark, Tan Caddis (#14-16) good all day, Sulfurs, (*Invaria* #14-16 hatches mid-day and *Dorothea* #16-18), Light Cahill (#12-18), March Brown nymphs (#10-14, during the day), Gray Fox (#10-14, afternoon), Blue Wing Olives (#18-24, 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.

**Housatonic River** - Fishing was good to very good last week and should be good again this weekend. Flows are steadily dropping from the rain earlier this week. Currently, a bit turbid and running at 1,150 cfs at Falls village and 1,400 cfs at Gaylordsville (normal for this time of year). Morning water temperatures middle to upper 60's°F (and should remain stable through the weekend).

**Hatches/patterns** include Sulphurs (#14-18, evening), Blue Wing Olive (#16-18, cloudy days, early morning; spinner fall in evening), 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 tributary mouths.

**REMINDER TO ANGLERS-**

**FISHING IN OR CASTING INTO PERMITTED SWIM AREAS IS PROHIBITED.**

State regulations prohibit fishing in or into a swim area that has 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.





## CONNECTICUT RIVER

Flows remain lower than normal at 9,160 cfs and water temperature cool for June at 72°F. Catches of **STRIPED BASS** at the river mouth continued to be good. Finding a school of bunker will help you get onto the jumbo bass. This year's **AMERICAN SHAD** run may almost be done. As of 6/2, 348,439 shad have been counted at the Holyoke (MA) fishway this season.

Migratory fish runs (Shad and Herring) appear to be over for the year. Lamprey and eel numbers really spiked last week probably due to the five days of 90 or above air temperatures. Commerical shad netters are starting to call it quits for 2016. **CARP** reports are steadily increasing as more anglers respond to the challenge of finding record fish. The Hartford PowerPlant area is holding good numbers of medium sized (10-15 pounders). Pre-baiting your selected site is a great way to increase catches. Boilies, pack, pop-up rigs and barbless hooks are working and allowing anglers to release their catch to get bigger. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** had been providing a good show responding to surface baits. Try jigging 'creature baits' in this low clear water.

### 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](http://www.ct.gov/deep/invasivespecies) or the Aquatic Invasive species section of the 2015 CT angler's Guide( [www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide](http://www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide)).

## NOTES & NOTICES:

**CT BIOBLITZ 2016.** From Friday, June 3 to Sunday, June 5, over 150 scientists will be scouring all types of habitat within a 4-mile radius of the 2-Rivers Magnet School in East Hartford. Fisheries sampling will be in the **mainstem CT River** and several of the tributaries like the **Hockanum River**. The public are invited to a day-long event on Saturday, June 4. For more info Google "CT BioBlitz 2016"

**BASHAN LAKE (drawdown).** Bashan Lake remains drawn down (slow refill continues – lake currently remains down approximately 4 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 will be closed on Thursday, June 9, to facilitate site study and preparation for eventual renovations. The launch will reopen on Friday, 6/10.

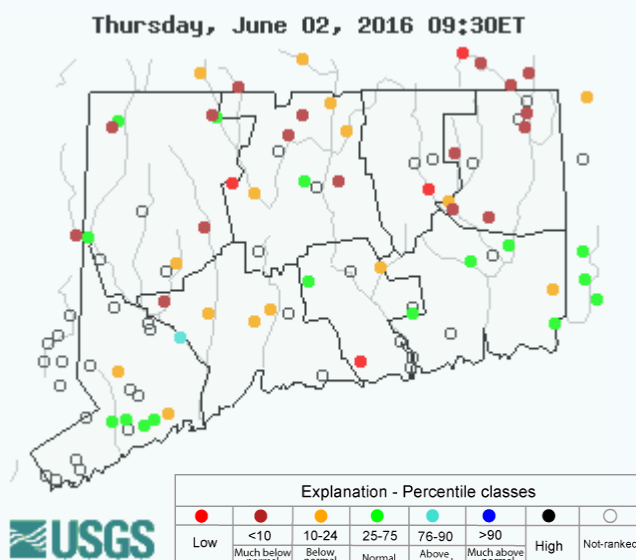
**COVENTRY LAKE (invasive species alert).** Hydrilla, a very highly invasive aquatic plant, has been found growing in Coventry Lake. All lake users should take extra care to check and clean their boats (including canoes, kayaks and rowing sculls), trailers, and fishing equipment before leaving the boat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

**QUONNIPaug LAKE (boating event).** The Guilford Public schools will be conducting a "student-built boat launchings & final exam" on Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 am to 2:00 pm. This activity will be in the area of the town beach/swim area.

## Stream flow conditions as of 6/2/2016



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 75<sup>th</sup> percentile means only ¼ of the streamflow values were above the value and thus would be considered “above normal”. Stream flow between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> are considered to be “normal flows” and those 25<sup>th</sup> or less are considered to be “below normal”.

## LAKE &amp; 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](http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/fishing/general_information/lakebathymetrymaps.pdf)

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



## FIND TROUT STOCKING MAPS ON OUR WEBSITE

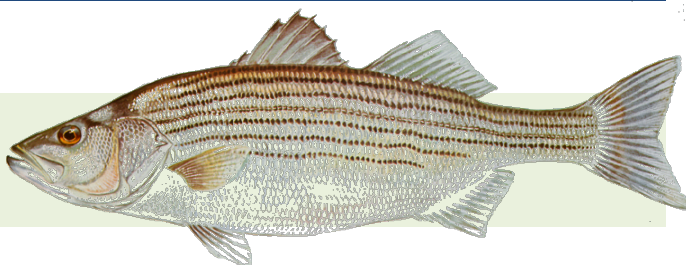
Maps of all of the state’s trout streams and rivers showing the many stocking and access points are available online at

[www.ct.gov/deep/troutstockingmaps](http://www.ct.gov/deep/troutstockingmaps).

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## MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the upper 50's to lower 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://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

[http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat\\_data/?nothumbs=1](http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1)  
<http://www.wunderground.com/MAR/AN/330.html>

**STRIPED BASS** fishing overall is good. **Dawn and dusk is prime time for large stripers on the reefs, rip areas and lower coastal tidal rivers. Live lining eels or bunker has been the ticket.** There is plenty of bunker throughout LIS including the tidal rivers to hold fish. 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.

**Please use circle hooks when fishing with bait (prevent gut hooking) and practice catch & release.**

**Anglers be advised when fishing under bridges: 33 CFR 165.153(d)(8)**

**8) Bridge foundations.** Any vessel operating beneath a bridge must make a direct, immediate and expeditious passage beneath the bridge while remaining within the navigable channel. No vessel may stop, moor, anchor or loiter beneath a bridge at any time. No vessel may approach within a 25-yard radius of any bridge foundation, support, stanchion, pier or abutment except as required for the direct, immediate and expeditious transit beneath a bridge.

**SUMMER FLOUNDER** (fluke) fishing is fair to good. Squid are throughout LIS. Mid to western LIS anglers are reporting fluke from 3 to 8 lbs (Falkner Island area). 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. The Party Boat [Lucky Lady](#) out of Clinton has been catching good numbers of impressive summer flounder around the six mile reef area. Since squid are coming in large numbers, offering a live one on the bottom (10-40 feet) would be a good move for catching that big slab "doormat" fluke and becoming the "Duke of Fluke". Try drifting with a white or pink Bucktail Jig and attach a Berkeley 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.**

**BLACK SEA BASS** fishing is improving quickly. The early season hot spot is Falkner Island and from New Haven to Darien. Fishing over any deep water structure (gnarly bottom preferred) 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 along with fluke and sea robins. 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 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>.** Berkeley Gulp (swimming mullet) on a jig along with squid with a spinner works great for these "Bucketmouths".

**SCUP** (porgy) fishing is very good around Gardiners Bay to Orient Point. Improving in Niantic bay and all points west, including Stratford Shoal. Hook up with a [Party or Charter Boat](#) and enjoy some of the best scup fishing you will ever experience. These prespawn scup are gigantic! Seriously, try fishing on a party boat and enjoy some great fishing, there are lots of scup around for all. 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.

**WEAKFISH** fishing is fair to good in New Haven Harbor by the breakwaters over to Woodmont/Milford Point.

**BLUEFISH** fishing is fair to good. Bluefish spots include the **Race, Plum Gut, Sluiceway, Gardiners Bay, Peconic Bays, and the north shore of Long Island**. Fresh bunker chunks on three way rigs or speed squidding diamond jigs work well.

**HICKORY SHAD** fishing is **good 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. Flood or Ebb tide is typically the best and lures of choice are a willow leaf (gold & silver), Kastmaster (single hook), small plastic jigs (white or chartreuse), and or shad darts in various colors.

**STRIPED SEAROBIN** fishing continues to be steady for this “hardhead fish with spines and large pectoral fins”. Also, called “**Poor-Man’s Lobster**”, these fish are very common especially when bottom fishing at many of Connecticut’s shore fishing sites. With fish measuring over 20 inches and “barking up a storm” (grunting noise they make when handling them). They love sandworms, squid and any live or dead bait. They are also very good to eat.

## **CAUGHT A TROPHY FISH - MARINE TROPHY FISH AWARD PROGRAM AFFIDAVIT**

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### **SPECIAL NOTES & REMINDERS**

- To find a saltwater shore fishing spot close to where you live, go to the following website: <http://www.lisrc.uconn.edu/coastalaccess/>.
- In addition, 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 60 of the [2015 CT Angler’s Guide](#) for CT tides.

**For Current Connecticut Recreational Fishing Regulations:** Anglers should consult the 2015 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](http://www.ct.gov/deep/fishing).

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### **DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report**



**Connecticut Department of  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**  
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Striped Bass image courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.