

CT DEEP **2016**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 9
6/9/2016



Pumpkinseed (*Lepomis gibbosus*)



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INLAND REPORT

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is reported as good and improving. Bass are in the shallows on their nests in many waters. 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 Coventry Lake (fair fishing, with a 6.39 lbunker), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (steady action, but no really big fish, 2.83 & 2.73 lbunkers), Pachaug Pond (good action, 4.69 lbunker), Quaddick Lake (good action, with a 5.23 lbunker), Rogers Lake (fair to good fishing, 3.44 lbunker), Bantam Lake (fair to good fishing, 5.2 & 4.75 lbunkers), Candlewood Lake (fair for largemouth, 4.13 lb, 4.12 lb, & 4.1 lbunkers), East Twin Lake (fair to good, 4.12 lbunker), Highland Lake (good for largemouth, 4.12 lbunker), Lake Lillinonah (fair action, 3.69 lbunker), and Lake Zoar (fair action, 4.96 lbunker).

SMALLMOUTH BASS are reported at Colebrook River Lake, Candlewood Lake, Highland Lake, Bantam Lake and Squantz Pond. **Tournament angler** reports are from Coventry Lake (a few in the bags, 2.25 lbunker), Pachaug Pond (a few caught), Bantam Lake (not many but a 3.4 lbunker), Candlewood Lake (fair to good fishing, 3.75 lbunker), Highland Lake (tough finding smallies, 3.02 lbunker), Lake Lillinonah (fair to good fishing), and Lake Zoar (fair for smallies, 3.0 lbunker). **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing is reported to be very good in Lake Lillinonah and good in Bantam Lake and Winchester Lake.

WALLEYE a couple of nice fish from Mashapaug Lake (6 and 8 pounds) and some scattered action at Lake Saltonstall, Squantz Pond and Batterson Park Pond.

CALICO BASS AND SUNFISH: Post-spawn mortality has slowed a bit from last week but some reports continue to trickle in. 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

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 one-day license for June 19, 2016 is available now through our convenient online [sportsmen licensing system](#) (now mobile friendly!) Licenses for the August 13 date will be available starting on July 27, 2016.

web site. Despite the natural mortality, fishing remains good as fish are “getting back to normal” following the spawn.

CATFISH consistent action in the evening the Connecticut River (Hartford to Haddam) and 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 and consistent catches. Try live shiners, chunk bait, or night crawlers.

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS - Trout fishing remains good and plenty of bigger fish are still around (Highland Lake, Lake Wonosopomuc, and Crystal). Other 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), Black Pond (Woodstock 7 fish at 2 colors), Candlewood Lake, Stillwater Pond, Beach Pond (wooly bugger), Long Pond, Cedar Lake, Lake, and Black Pond (Meriden). A surprise 8-10 lb Rainbow Trout was recently caught-and-released at Mansfield Hollow Reservoir.

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - In general, conditions remain very good to excellent with clear water and stable flow (near normal levels). Nice catch of a 6+ pound rainbow out of the Naugatuck River! 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 excellent. West Branch flows are very fishable levels (currently 275 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River adding another 65 cfs) and comfortable weather in the forecast.

Hatches/patterns the main activity is happening late afternoon and early evening with several different insects including black or tan caddis (#18-#20) and a variety of mid-sized mayflies. Patterns to try 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), 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 quick burst of rain earlier this week. Currently, a bit turbid and running at 1,240 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. Go under the surface with wooly buggers or a variety of flashy streamers (to get the big ‘bows interested).

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 about half the normal level for this time of year, currently at 7,700 cfs and water temperature is cool for June at 72°F. Catches of **STRIPED BASS** at the river mouth continued to be spotty but good. Finding a school of bunker will help you get onto the jumbo bass.

CARP continue to provide steady action as this fishery never disappoints. Will this be the year for the new state record fish? The Hartford PowerPlant, Middletown's Harbor Park, and the mouth of the Mattebesset River are holding some mid-size Carp. 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** fishing continues to improve on a variety of surface and plastics. Try jigging 'creature baits' in this low clear water. **Tournament anglers** found some smallmouth (including a 2.61 lbunker). **LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing was fair (2.8 lb tournament 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 2015 CT angler's Guide(www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide).

NOTES & NOTICES:

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.

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.

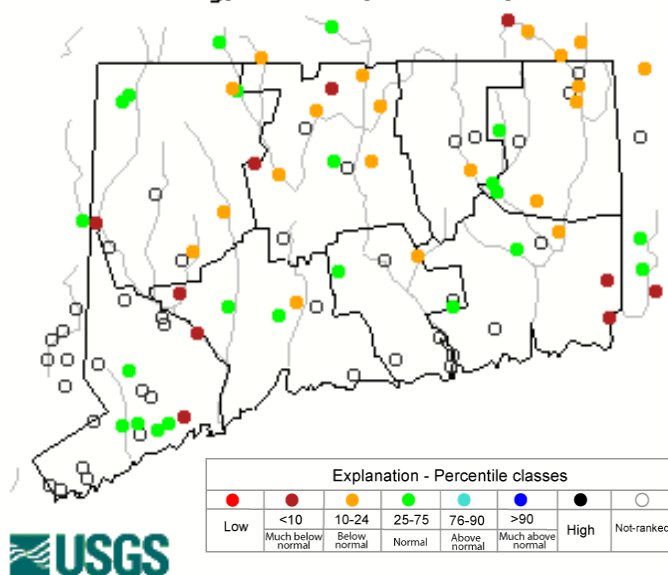
HOUSATONIC LAKE (rowing regatta). A rowing event is scheduled for **Saturday, June 11th from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm.** Boaters should use additional caution on the lake.

HOUSATONIC LAKE (fireworks display). A fireworks display is scheduled for Saturday evening, June 11th staging from Birchbank Road (Shelton).

MANSFIELD HOLLOW LAKE (vessel race). A high school hovercraft race is being held at Mansfield Hollow Lake on Saturday, June 11th (raindate: Sunday, June 12th) from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Although the race will be conducted from the state boat launch, room will be available to the general public to launch. Boaters should however use additional caution on the lake.

Stream flow conditions as of 6/9/2016

Thursday, June 09, 2016 16:30ET



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>

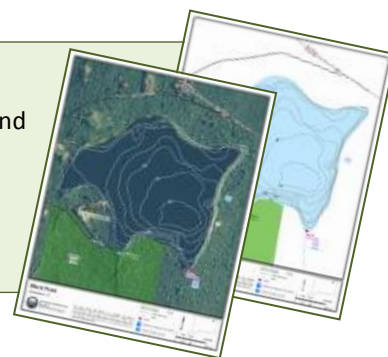
A percentile is a value on a scale of one hundred that indicates the percent of data in the data set equal to or below it. For example streamflow greater than the 75th percentile means only ¼ of the streamflow values were above the value and thus would be considered “above normal”. Stream flow between the 25th and 50th are considered to be “normal flows” and those 25th or less are considered to be “below normal”.

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.

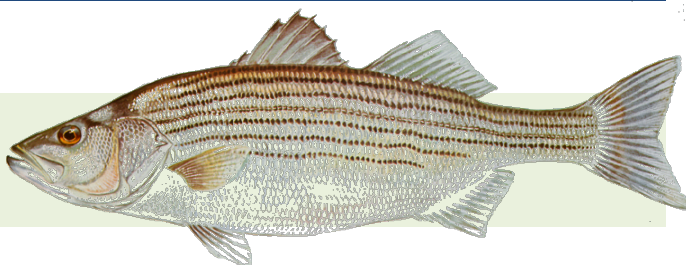


FIND TROUT STOCKING MAPS ON OUR WEBSITE

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.

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the 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://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

<http://www.wunderground.com/MAR/AN/330.html>

STRIPED BASS fishing overall is very good. WOW! What a week. I can't remember when we have seen so many big cow bass (45 – 61 inches). Jolyn Wiggins tops the charts with a 60 inch beauty of a striper from the central sound. She is to be congratulating for letting that huge striped bass go...thank you for practicing catch & release. **Dawn and dusk is prime time for large stripers on the reefs, rip areas and lower coastal tidal rivers. Live lining eels, bunker or hickory shad 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), Westbrook, 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.

BLUEFISH fishing is finally improving. 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.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is improving quickly as the weather warms. The eastern sound is starting to get very good as many summer flounder move off Montauk Point. Mid to western LIS anglers are reporting fluke from 3 to 11 lbs. (Stratford 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. 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 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) fishing is very good around Gardiners Bay. Also, improving throught Long Island Sound. **My recommendation is to hook up with a Party or Charter Boat and enjoy some of the best scup fishing you will ever experience.** These scup are very large and delicious to eat! Seriously, try fishing on a party boat and enjoy some great fishing...there are lots of scup around for all. Porgies measuring 11-18 inches ("hubcap size") have been caught! 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 hard fighting and 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 getting hot. A 25.25 inch, six pound beauty was caught on the Lucky lady this past week. The early season hot spot is Falkner Island, central sound, six mile reef 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 1st to December 31st**. Berkely Gulp (swimming mullet) on a jig along with squid with a spinner works great for these “Bucketmouths”.

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

HICKORY SHAD fishing is **good in the lower Connecticut River by the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier, Hammonasset and other shoreline locations**. Also, try the Black Hall River, Lieutenant River, Baldwin Bridge State Boat Launch, Clinton Harbor, lower Housatonic River and Fort Trumbull. 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. You will be impressed with these “high flyers”.

WHITE PERCH fishing is very good for these tasty panfish 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 a small piece of sandworm fished on the bottom are the keys to success.

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 22 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.

BLUE CRAB fishing remains slow for keepers. I expect a good year following a relatively warm winter and good survival of juvenile crabs. There are some large “jimmies” (male crabs) being captured (7 inches spike to spike). **Remember...all egg bearing females must be released with unavoidable harm. Minimum carapace length is 5 inches for a hard shell crab**. Please contact your local bait and tackle shop for most updated information (local hot spots), legal crab traps and bait to use for your fun-filled crabbing. Legal gear types include: scoop (dip) net, hand line, star crab trap, circular (topless) trap not exceeding 26 inches in diameter. Maryland Style Crab traps are prohibited. **Chicken with the skin on it (along with a long handle net) is the preferred method to capture these tasty crabs**.

NOTABLE CATCHES –

Species	Length (in.)	Weight (lbs)	Name
Clearnose Skate	51.5	17	Jennifer Zuppe
Striped Bass (C&R)	61	54	Jolyn Wiggins
Striped Bass (C&R)	47.5	39	Malcolm Hafford
Monkfish (Goosefish)	40	42	Craig Weagle
Striped Searobin	22.75	3.6	Albert Zuppe
Black Sea Bass	23	7.8	Melissa Burwell
Hogchoker	10.25	9 oz	Albert Zuppe
Northern Kingfish	19.5	2lb 9oz	Christopher Shea

SPECIAL NOTES & REMINDERS

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

79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106
www.ct.gov/deep

Striped Bass image courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.