

CT DEEP **2016**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 10
6/16/2016



Northern Pike (*Esox lucius*)



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Take someone fishing

INLAND REPORT

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is reported as fair to good for largemouth. Places to try include Lake McDonough, Bantam Lake, Lake Saltonstall, Highland Lake, Candlewood Lake, Mudge Pond, Cedar Lake, Shetucket River, Lower/Upper Moodus Reservoir, Lake Lillinonah, Winchester Lake, Rainbow Reservoir, Pachaug Pond, Quaddick Reservoir, Wood Creek Pond, Mono Pond, Congamond Lakes, Burr Pond, Lake Wononskopomuc, Hopeville Pond, Silver Lake, Batterson Park Pond, Gardner Lake, Pickerel Lake, Mashapaug Lake, Billings Lake, Maltby Lakes, Stillwater Pond, Ball Pond, Red Cedar Lake and West Hill Pond.

Tournament angler reports are from Amos Lake (fair fishing, 4.31 lb & 4.23 lb lunkers), Gardner Lake (fair action, hardly anything over 2 lbs, with a 2.21 lb lunker), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (fair to good fishing, 4.44 lb lunker), Pickerel Lake (good fishing, 2.86 lb lunker, but fish barely average a pound apiece), Bantam Lake (slow for largemouth, "likely the high pressure system had them off bite"), Candlewood Lake (fair to good for largemouth, 5.26 lb, 4.76 lb, 4.75 lb & 4.65 lb lunkers), East Twin Lake (fair to good fishing, with a **6.75 lb lunker**), Lake Lillinonah (fair to good fishing, 4.4 lb lunker), Winchester Lake (very good action, but on most sub-legal fish, tough finding "keepers", 2.38 lb lunker).

SMALLMOUTH BASS are reported as tough to get in some areas, but they are there at Mashapaug Lake, Lake McDonough, Highland Lake, Bantam Lake and Candlewood Lake.

Tournament angler reports are from Gardner Lake (very few, 1.03 lb lunker), Bantam Lake (fair to good for smallies, fish in shallow, 3.5 lb lunker and the rest averaged 2 lbs apiece), Candlewood Lake (fair to good, 3.86 lb lunker), Colebrook River Lake (good action, with a 3.95 lb lunker but most fish were around a lb each), and Lake Lillinonah (a few in the bags, 1.8 lb lunker).

THIS SUNDAY (FATHER'S DAY) IS A FREE FISHING LICENSE DAY

Remember when dad used to pack you and the fishing gear into the station wagon and head to the hills for the day to fish?

Take Dad fishing for the day. No license –No worries, this Sunday is the first of 2 free fishing license days.

Anyone can obtain a free one-day fishing license to fish each of these days.

The free 1-day license for fishing this Sunday, June 19, 2016 is now available and licenses for the August 13 date will be available starting on July 27, 2016. Free licenses are available through our convenient and mobile friendly online system at www.ct.gov/deep/sportsmenlicensing

NORTHERN PIKE fishing is reported to be good in Bantam Lake, Winchester Lake, fair at Pachaug Pond and tough at Quaddick Reservoir.

KOKANEE are being caught at East Twin Lake (trolling red beads).

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

CHANNEL CATFISH action is very good in our Community Fishing Waters, Catfish Lakes, and the Connecticut River from Hartford to Haddam.

CARP were reported from Mirror Lake, Batterson Park Pond, Squantz Pond, Lake Lillinonah and the Shetucket River.

PANFISH fishing in the shallows has been very productive. Any local pond open to fishing near you will give you some action. Use worms, grubs and any type of inexpensive fishing pole or drop line and give these easy to catch fish a go. Kids love this non-stop action and it will keep them occupied for hours. Suggested locations include Candlewood Lake, Tyler Lake, Bishop Pond, Crescent Lake (Southington), Griggs Pond, Anderson Pond, Billings Lake, Halls Pond, Silver Lake (Berlin/Meriden), Quaddick Lake, Bantam Lake, Park Pond and Dog Pond.

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS - It's big fish time, anglers can expect big trout to be caught through mid-June. Good reports from Squantz Pond, Highland Lake (4-5 colors, silver lure at 18-20 feet), East Twin Lake (rigger at 20 feet, copper/silver Mooselook, Kobra # 118; Mashapaug Lake, Crystal Lake (Kobra #2, black/white Huey, 7-8 colors), Lake Wononskopomuc Lake, Stillwater Lake, Beach Pond (#18 blue minx Huey, rigger at 20 feet), Long Pond (streamer on wire at 20 feet), West Hill Pond and Lake McDonough.

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - Conditions should be fairly good for the weekend as stream flow remain at or below normal levels (*see stream flow graphic on page 3*). Cool air temperatures, especially at night are keeping the trout spread throughout our rivers and streams. Just about every method is putting fish in the net, with good action being found on lures, flies, worms & corn/mealworm combinations. It's approaching "Major Hatch Time" with just about every type of pattern working at one time or another (hatch times fluctuate with the water temperatures).

Some good reports last week from the West Branch Farmington River, Housatonic River, Pequabuck River, Bigelow Brook, Blackledge River, Coginchaug River, Hop River, Jeremy River Roaring Brook (Glastonbury), Blackberry River, Mianus River, Hammonasset River, East Aspetuck River, Shetucket River, Leadmine Brook, Pequonnock River, Hockanum River, Tankerhoosen River and the Salmon River TMA.

Farmington River - Fishing has been very good to excellent, and conditions should be good for the weekend. West Branch flows are clear and moderate (currently 272 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River adding a meager 33 cfs). Water temperatures are in the low 60's°F.

Hatches/patterns include *Vitreus* [a.k.a. pale evening dun] #16, from 5:00pm to dark, Tan Caddis (#18-22) good all day, Sulfurs, (*Invaria* #16 hatches mid-day and *Dorothea* #16-18), Light Cahill (#12-18), March Brown nymphs (#10-12, during the day), Gray Fox (#14, afternoon), Blue Quills (#16-18), Blue Wing Olives

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).



(#18-24, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #18-22, all day; green #22-26, evening), Midges (#20-32) and Pale Evening Duns (*Epeorus vitreus* #14-16, afternoon & early evenings). March Brown, Sulphur and Rusty Spinners are falling in the evenings. Look for the *Isonychia* to start showing up very soon.

Housatonic River - Fishing was good last week and should remain constant for the foreseeable future. Flows are currently 456 cfs at Falls Village and 686 cfs at Gaylordsville). Morning water temperatures are currently around 60°F.

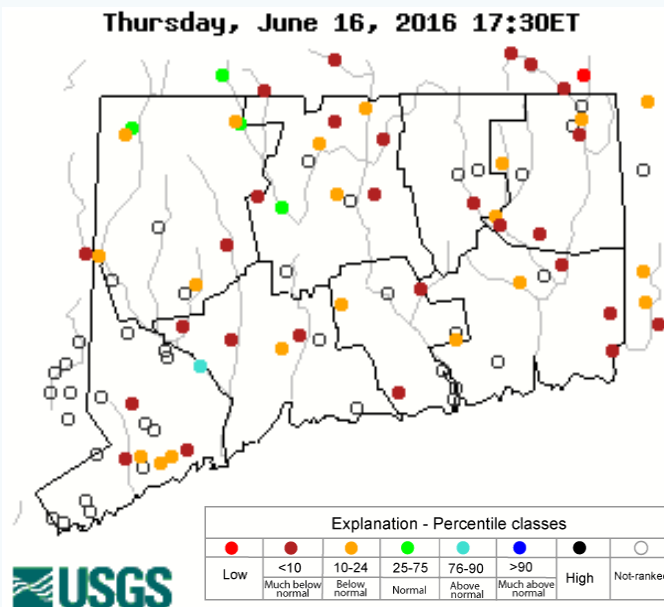
Hatches/patterns: Major insect hatches are here and are providing excellent fly fishing. Alder/Zebra Caddis (#8-10) should be beginning with any sudden warm up (should last up to 4 weeks) and will produce some great fishing. Alder flies are very active during hot days. Additional bugs include the Sulphurs (#14-18, evening), Blue Wing Olive (#16-18, cloudy days, early morning; spinner fall in evening), *Isonychia* (#10-12 late afternoon & evening, just starting), Light Cahill (#12-14, evenings), Adams (#12-16, evening), March Brown (#10-12, afternoon) and Gray Foxes (#14-16). Black Caddis, Green caddis (#16-18, early morning & evening) are on the water. Midges and early golden stoneflies (#6-10) are also being seen at the mouths of tributaries.

Anglers are reminded that the thermal refuge areas on the Housatonic, Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers are now closed to fishing (as of June 15). These areas will reopen on September 15. There is no fishing within 100 feet of signs indicating such closure at or near the mouths of tributaries to these rivers.

CONNECTICUT RIVER

Flows are fishable, but way low for mid-June (4,600 cfs) and fairly clear. A few **STRIPED BASS** have been reported from the lower river, but it's not easy. Trolling tube & worm and casting soft plastics will often work in stained water close to shore. **CARP** are coming to net in the Middletown – Haddam area. Pre-bait a site with corn/boilies and use a popup or helicopter rig will bring these power houses to you. **WHITE PERCH** are reported to be good in the lower river. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are active in the Enfield and Middletown area, but you have to work to get them to bite.

Stream flow conditions as of 6/16/2016



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".

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.

MUDGE POND (triathlon). The swim portion of a triathlon will be conducted from 8 am to 9 am on Saturday, **June 18**, in the northern end of the pond, with start and finish at the Sharon Town Beach.

LAKE ZOAR (waterski event). A water ski clinic for the disabled is scheduled for **Saturday, June 18**, in the upper end of Lake Zoar (approximately the upper first mile of the lake below the Shepaug Dam). This event run from 9 am to 4 pm, and boaters are asked to take care when passing through this area (marked by buoys) of the lake, and avoid interfering with the event.

PHOTO CONTEST: Do you have the next Angler's Guide cover shot? Email us your high quality (high resolution) photos at Deep.inland.fisheries@ct.gov and include photo contest in the subject line.

NEW! Youth Fishing Passport [Fishing Challenge Scorecard](#): Download the new scorecard for your Youth Fishing Passport Holder on the program web page at www.ct.gov/deep/yfp. Top anglers will receive a great prize pack of fishing gear.

LAKE & POND BATHYMETRIC MAPS

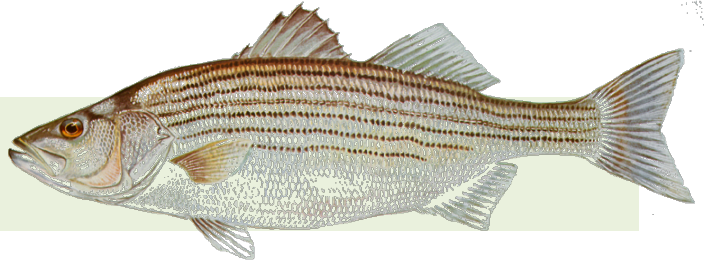
Bathymetric maps of many of Connecticut's public access lakes and ponds can be found online at:

www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/fishing/general_information/lakebathymetrymaps.pdf

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



MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) remain in the low to mid 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 is FANTASTIC. The big fish keep on rolling in so to speak. Its impressive how many large striped bass are being caught and released. **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.

STRIPED BASS ANGLERS FISHING IN RHODE ISLAND WATERS are advised that the state of Rhode Island has adopted the following regulations pertaining to striped bass. These regulations apply to all Rhode Island state lands and waters including the waters around Block Island: **"Any person recreationally harvesting a striped bass thirty-four (34) inches or larger shall at the time of harvest have the right pectoral fin removed at a point as close to the body of the fish as possible."**

BLUEFISH fishing has become more consistent with a mix bag of fish in the 3 to 9 lb range. The Race, Plum Gut, many of the major rocky reefs, rips, and shoal areas in LIS will harbor bluefish. Speed squidding diamond jigs, trolling parachute jigs or umbrella rigs, and using fresh bunker or hickory shad chunks on three-way bottom rigs have all been effective. Other bluefish spots include the Sluiceway, Gardiners Bay, Peconic Bays, and the north shore of Long Island along with the Stratford Shoal area. **My recommendation is to hook up with a [Party or Charter Boat](#) and enjoy some of the best FISHING you will ever experience.** Snappers (juvenile bluefish) have not arrived yet!

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is hit or miss for "keepers". The eastern sound is getting more fluke as they move off Montauk Point. Mid to western LIS anglers are still reporting large fluke from 3 to 9 lbs. (Stratford/New Have/Woodmont 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 in Long Island Sound. These scup are very large and delicious to eat! Seriously, try fishing for some “reef slammers” 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, Harkness Memorial 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.

BLACK SEA BASS fishing is getting hot and showing no signs of slowing down. Fishing over any deep water structure (gnarly bottom preferred) in 30 to 75 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 15 inch minimum 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 continue to impress. Good fishing in New Haven Harbor by the breakwaters over to Woodmont/Milford Point and along Stratford shoals.

STRIPED SEA ROBIN fishing continues to be steady for this “hardhead fish with spines and large pectoral fins”. These beautiful and strange looking fish are very common especially when bottom fishing at many of Connecticut’s shore fishing sites. With fish measuring over 23 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. Please be careful when handling them...be mindful of their spines located on top of their head and gill cover.

HICKORY SHAD fishing remains fair to good in the **Black Hall River, lower Connecticut River by the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier and in Clinton Harbor.** Connecticut Tarpon (Hickory shad) can be found mixed in with schoolie striped bass. Flood or the beginning of the Ebb tide is typically the 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. You will be impressed with these “high flyers”.

WHITE PERCH fishing is good for these tasty panfish related to striped bass. Perch are found in most of the tidal rivers and coves along the Connecticut shoreline. Productive 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. Another 14.5 inch 2.3 pound white perch was caught at Ferry Landing State Park in Old Lyme on a sandworm this past weekend under the railroad bridge.

BLUE CRAB are becoming active in the tidal creeks and rivers. However, fishing remains slow for keepers. Expectations are for 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)	Angler
Striped Searobin	18.5"	C&R	Jonathan Baldovin
Northern Kingfish	19.5"	2 lbs, 10 oz.	Christopher A. Shea
Tautog	30"	C&R	Dean Michael Vogel Sr.
Summer Flounder	26"	6 lbs, 12 oz.	James Birtles

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>.
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Keep a sharp eye out for a leaping sturgeon in the lower CT River...I have seen it myself. A common spring behavior for these endangered fish species (Atlantic and shortnose)...as they attempt to gulp air for their swim bladder. Anglers are incidentally snagging or catching these sturgeon while bottom fishing. Please release all sturgeons immediately without avoidable harm as their populations are slowly recovering and are at VERY low levels. They are a protected species.

For Current Connecticut Recreational Fishing Regulations: Anglers should consult the 2016 Connecticut Angler's 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.

PLEASE CALL 1.800.842.4357 TO REPORT FISHING VIOLATIONS.

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DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



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ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**
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Striped Bass images courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.