

CT DEEP FISHING REPORT NUMBER 7 5/26/2017



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

DEEP'S 2017 IN-SEASON SPRING TROUT STOCKING IS COMPLETED.

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS –517,211 trout have been stocked thus far in 2017. Normal temperatures and flows this week are keeping the trout actively feeding. Insect hatches like the Hendricksons are out on the Housatonic and Farmington rivers (flows are however on the high side at both rivers). Light Cahills, midges, ants and of course BWO's are still working. Streamers are doing better than nymphing, the usual suspects, including Black Ghost, Slim Jim, Copper Johns and Hare's Ears are working.

Farmington River –The weekend looks good for the Farmington with flows are about normal (314 CFS at Riverton plus an additional 107 CFS from the Still River). Water temperatures are on the increase now in the mid to upper 50's.

Hatches/patterns. Fish are rising with the boost in insect activity. A real diversity of hatches going on. Typical go-to flies this time of year include Blue Wing Olive, Hendrickson (now ranging from Unionville up to the upper end of the year-round catch-and-release area), Winter/Summer Caddis, Pheasant Tails, Hares Ears, Stonefly nymphs, Midge and Blue Quill. Nymphs (#18-22) are always a good go-to fly, try Bead Head, Midge Pupa, Brassie, Zebra Midge or Copper John patterns. Streamers are also a good option (White Zonkers & Buggers (#4-12) as well as Muddlers, Grey or Black Ghost).

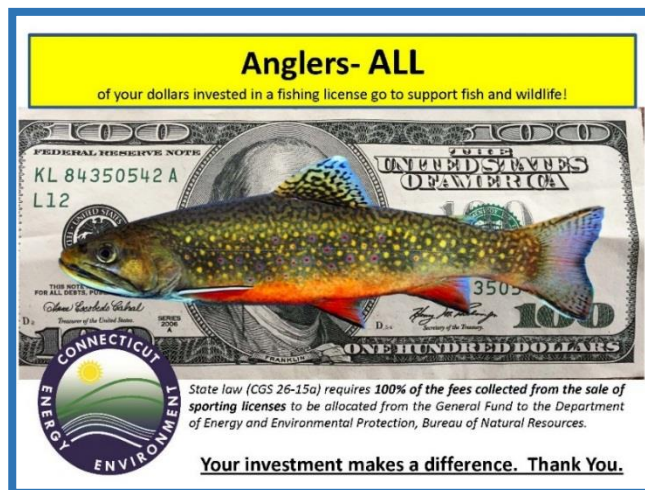


Just a few of the catches (and smiles) posted to the CTfishandwildlife Facebook page last week.

Housatonic River – Housatonic River Outfitters stocked some football-sized Rainbows this past week. Thank you for improving the fishing in the river. River flows are dropping and for the most part decent for fishing (currently 1,110 CFS at Falls Village and 1,690 CFS at Gaylordsville). 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 currently in the upper 50's °F to low 60's °F.

Hatches/patterns. Hendriksons are on the river. As well as the typical May go-to; Black Caddis (#10-12) March Brown (#10-12), Pheasant Tail (#12-18), Stoneflies (#6-10), Pheasant Tails (#14-20), and Black Stoneflies (#18-22). Nymphing (try Bead Head, Midge Pupa or Copper Johns) and streamers (such as White/Yellow Zonkers or Wooly Buggers) are good options for fishing the current flows. Smallmouth are becoming more and more active and will provide a fantastic run on the "fly".

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS – Decent action was found at Candlewood Lake (good reports from near Lattins Cove, nothing big but lots of stockie-size fish) and Saugatuck Reservoir, fair at East Twin Lake and Crystal Lake, and spotty at Highland Lake and Beach Pond. Night electrofishing surveys turned up lots of trout in both the Congamond Lake (Suffield) and Mashapaug Lake (Union).



LAKES AND PONDS STOCKING UPDATE

In **western Connecticut**; Squantz Pond

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is good, with more consistent action reported. Fish are still in the shallows on their beds in most areas, and water temperatures are warming nicely. **Tournament angler** reports are from Beseck Lake (fair to good fishing, 5.12 lb lunger), Amos Lake (fair action, but good-size fish, averaging 2.5 lbs apiece with a 4.13 lb lunger), Lake of Isles (fair action, 4.1 lb lunger but not much size otherwise), Pachaug Pond (slow to fair action, with a 3.45 lb lunger), Quaddick Lake (good fishing, with 5.20 lb and 4.26 lb lungers for one club and a 6.7 lb lunger for another club), Candlewood Lake (good, anglers are finding some 4-6 lb bass, lungers include 6.64 lb, 6.22 lb, 5.94 lb, 5.27 lb, and 4.87 lb lungers), Lake McDonough (fair to good, with a 2.64 lb lunger) and Bantam Lake (tough for many, with a 4.11 lb lunger).

SMALLMOUTH BASS. Smallmouth are providing some action, with good to very good reports from Candlewood Lake (lots of 3-5 lb smallies, tubes, Keitech swim baits and drop shots are having success at times) and fair reports from Lake McDonough and Highland Lake. **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake (slowing a bit, but still good to very good for many, 3.35 lb lunger), Lake McDonough (slow for smallies, with a 1.7 lb lunger), and Colebrook River Lake (slow to fair action).

WALLEYE & NORTHERN PIKE. Slow improvement. Action for pike should improve with thickening weedlines in Bantam and Lake Lillinonah. A few walleye reported from Batterson Park Pond and Saugatuck Reservoir.

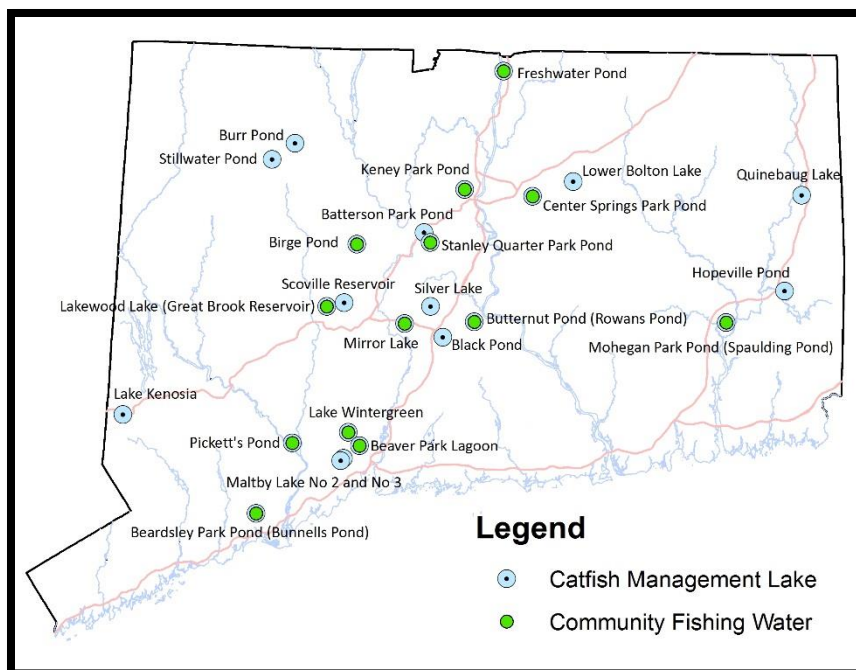
CHAIN PICKEREL. Good reports continue from just about everywhere.

COMMON CARP fishing remains good in Batterson Park Pond, Lake Zoar, Lake Lillionah, Quinebaug River and Aspinook Pond.

CHANNEL CATFISH the annual catfish stocking happened on Tuesday, May 23. Adult-sized (14-20 inches) were stocked into our Community Fishing Waters and yearling (8-10 inches) were stocked into our Catfish Management Lakes. Check out the archived Channel Cat Facebook LIVE feeds on our FB page (@ctfishandwildlife)

BLACK CRAPPIE are hitting small Rapala and jigs. Look for a “slab” at your favorite fishing hole. Some beauty crappie reported from Bantam Lake, Roseland Lake, and Candlewood Lake.

CONNECTICUT RIVER Flows have dropped (although still above typical mid-May levels) and are slowly clearing. Water temperatures remain cool. **AMERICAN SHAD** are at peak with tens of thousands waiting to move up past the Holyoke Dam. Willow leafs have been working. **STRIPED BASS** (schoolie-size and a few bigger fish) are being found throughout the river. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** are providing some action in the coves from just below Hartford to Haddam. **CHANNEL CATFISH** are providing some solid action in the Connecticut River and Salmon River cove. Cut bait or live 4-5” shiners are working. A few 10-15 pounders reported.



NOTES & NOTICES:

BRANFORD RIVER (boat launch). The Branford River state boat launch continues to be closed for renovations. Alternative nearby launch sites include the Guilford Town boat launch and the East River State boat launch, both in Guilford.

CONNECTICUT RIVER (invasive species alert). Hydrilla was recently found in the main stem Connecticut River in Glastonbury (near Glastonbury’s Riverfront Park & Boathouse). See the Coventry Lake entry below for what river users should do to prevent spread of this invasive plant to other waterbodies.

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

Coventry Lake (Wangumbaug Lake) boaters should avoid the area outlined in red to avoid fragmenting and spreading hydrilla. This is only area in the lake where hydrilla has been found.

their boats (including canoes, kayaks and rowing sculls), trailers, and fishing equipment before leaving the boat launch, or leaving the lakeshore.

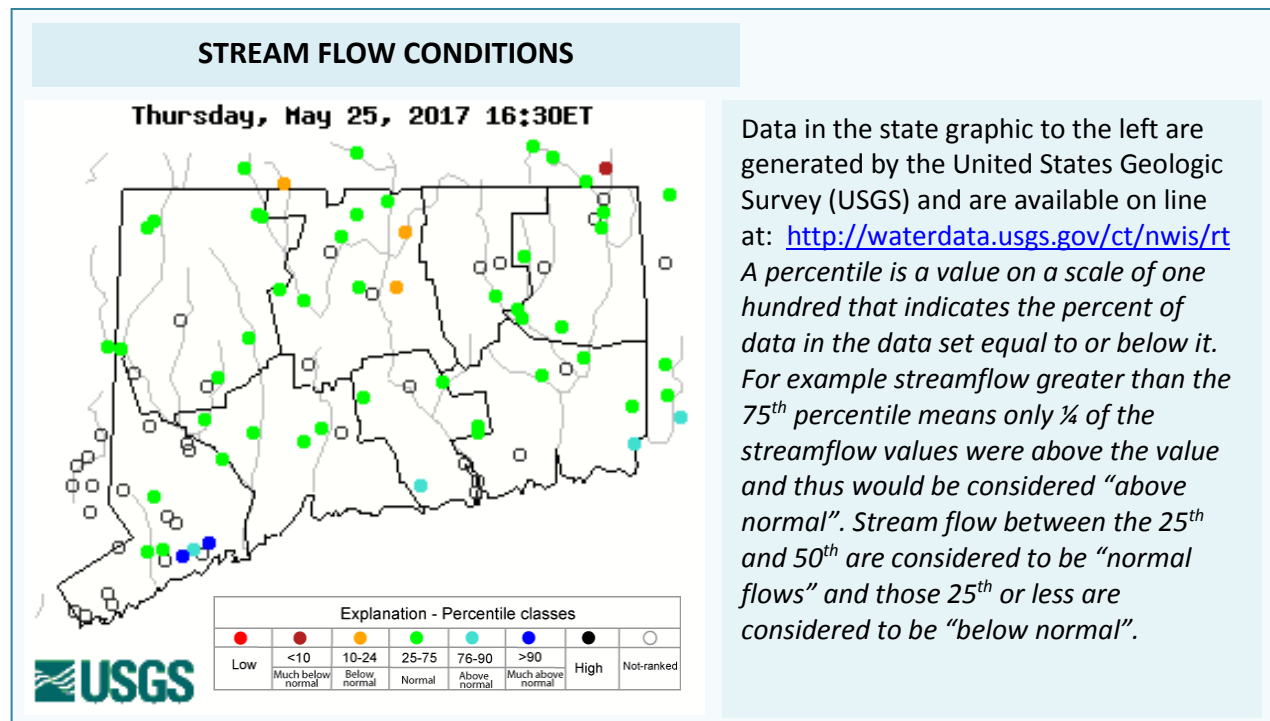


GLASGO POND (drawdown). Glasgo Pond has refilled, however the state boat launch remains closed until all work is completed.

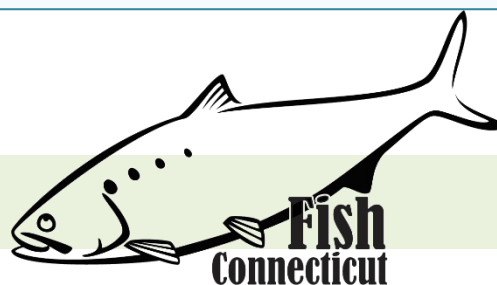
TROPHY FISH AWARD PROGRAM:

DEEP's [Trophy Fish Award Program](#) recognizes angler skill by awarding a bronze pin for your first trophy fish, a silver pin for your fifth trophy fish, and a gold pin for your tenth trophy fish. Angler of the year is awarded at our annual Trophy Fish Award Ceremony.

To see if your fish qualifies check out the criteria on page 13 of the [Angler's Guide](#). If you have caught a trophy fish be sure to fill out the affidavit (page 12 of the Angler's Guide) and submit the required photo(s) and form to us. Good luck!



MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the low to mid 50's °F to low 60's. 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>

Connecticut State Boundary Line in Long Island Sound. Anglers please note: Though Connecticut has reciprocity with neighboring states (New York, Rhode Island, Maine and Massachusetts), residents of

Connecticut are required to have a CT Resident Marine Waters or All Waters Sport Fishing License to fish in the Marine District.

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 **2017 CT Angler's Guide** for CT tide information.



STRIPED BASS fishing is excellent...the full migration is on. Its big bass time with the new moon. There have been some gigantic stripers being caught throughout Long Island Sound (every reef is holding big fish). The lower Housatonic, Connecticut River, Thames River and large bays/harbors (New Haven) are holding a lot of bunker (bait). Striper spots include Hempstead, Mamaroneck, Execution Rocks, Stepping Stone, the Weather Buoy, Can 32A, 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/Saugatuck Harbor** including the islands. Try trolling bunker spoons on the reefs or better yet toss a chunk of bunker. Sand and blood worms have been working the best for "schoolie" bass. Casting swimming lures (SP Minnow – bone & sand eel color), small jigs (Chartreuse color) with twister tails, soft baits, and Kastmasters and other metal lures will all work. The evening/night bite is fantastic with bait, including eels. The top-water fishing continues to be fantastic...Cotton Cordell pencil poppers in bone, blue back or black color.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is good overall and improving with the arrival of countless numbers of squid. As squid continue to enter Long Island Sound...fishing will only get better. Mid to western LIS anglers reported fluke from 2 to 4 lbs being common. Fluke spots include the typical locations: Smithtown Bay, Buoy #26, 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. Since squid are coming in, offering a live one on the bottom (10-40 feet) would be a good move for catching that big slab "doormat" fluke! Try drifting with a white or pink Spro Bucktail jig with 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 19 inches and the daily creel limit is 3 fish per person.** fishing season opens May 17 to September 21. Time to get the boat, and fishing gear ready for some phenomenal early season fluke fishing. [CT Bait & Tackleshop List](#)

BLACK SEA BASS fishing is pretty good in LIS. The early season hot spots are Falkner Island, the Middlegrounds, Buoy 32A, Green Ledge Lighthouse, Cockenoe Islands, Six Mile Reef and from New Haven to Woodmont. Fishing over any deep water structure in 30 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 and a spinner works great for these "Bucketmouths".

SCUP (porgy) fishing is awesome south of Gardiners Island and the other north shore bays. Scup are piled up in Gardiners Bay, Cherry Point, Napeague Bay and the Peconics (Little Peconic) for spawning. For those who want to stay close to home...Scup are slowly inhabiting all the local Long Island Sound reefs. Try sandworms or clams. Time to plan a trip on the many wonderful party/charter boats in CT. [CT Party Boat Association](#). I mean giant Porgies measuring 14-18 inches ("hubcap size") have been caught! Porgy fishing has also been reported at these shore fishing locations: Todd's Point, **Sherwood Island State Park**, 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 look for these awesome eating fish in Branford/Guilford/East Haven/West Haven/New Haven Harbor (Sandy Point) over to the Woodmont/Milford/Stratford area along with the Peconics (NY).

BLUEFISH fishing is surprisingly good and getting better each day. The Race, Millstone Outflow, Plum Gut and the north side of Long Island including Gardiners Bay and the Peconics are the early season hotspots. Most of the local Long Island Sound reefs have many harbor-sized blues cruising around them.

STRIPED SEAROBIN fishing is good in LIS for this "hardhead fish with spines and large pectoral fins". These beautiful and strange looking fish are now very common especially when bottom fishing at many of Connecticut's shore fishing sites. With many fish measuring over 20 inches, 3 pounds 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.

WINTER FLOUNDER fishing has picked up with some really nice flounder being caught (4 lbs, 19 inches). Try 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.

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. 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.

WHITE PERCH fishing is good in 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. Shrimp and small worms (small piece of sand worm) are the keys to success. Fish the coves and back bays (slack water).

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DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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