

CT DEEP **2017**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 25
9/28/2017



Green Sunfish (*Lepomis cyanellus*)



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INLAND REPORT

Fall TROUT Stocking- Trout stocking remains on hold due to the record warm temperatures we experienced early this week. We are monitoring the conditions and as soon as possible, we will be stocking. Stay up to date with our daily stocking post on [Facebook](#), our [interactive trout stocking map](#), and our [stocking report](#).

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is reported as very good. Places where the largemouth are eager to bite include East Twin Lake, Gardner Lake, Pickerel Lake, Beseck Lake, Amos Lake, Beach Pond, Highland Lake, Seymour Reservoir #4, Crystal Lake, Mudge Pond, West Side Pond, Tyler Lake, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Dog Pond, Hatch Pond, Park Pond, Lake Wononskopomuc, Lake Saltonstall, Bishop Swamp, Winchester Lake, Congamond Lakes, Quinebaug Lake, Black Pond (Meriden), Burr Pond, Griggs Pond, Anderson Pond, Billings Lake, Moodus Reservoir, Aspinook Pond, Babcock Pond, Pachaug Pond, Lake Hayward, Quonnipaug Lake, Rogers Lake and Stillwater Pond.

Tournament angler reports are from Gardner Lake (slow to fair, 4.5 lb lunker), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (fair to good for most, tough for a few, 3.82 lb lunker), Hopeville Pond (slow to fair, 2.9 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (fair, 4.33 lb lunker) and the Connecticut River (fair, larger fish caught on surface baits near structure, smaller fish in the main stem, 3.88 lb lunker).

SMALLMOUTH BASS. Catches reported from Candlewood Lake, Housatonic River (Upper), Naugatuck River, Lake McDonough, Lake Zoar and Lake Lillinonah. Housatonic River smallmouth fishing has been good.

FREE – FISHING CLASS

INTRODUCTION TO TROUT FISHING - The majority of our fall trout stocking is just around the corner, and the Fisheries Division will be offering a **FREE** Introduction to Trout Fishing class!

Classroom session on October 6th at our education center in Killingworth from 6pm to 8pm with a fishing trip to Chatfield Hollow State Park October 7th from 7am to 10am.

Certified Fishing Instructors with decades of trout catching experience will share their secrets! We will cover all the basics of trout fishing: species identification, where to catch them, how to catch them, proper equipment, baits and lures, and much more! If you have been interested in trout fishing but don't know where to start, this class is for you! Call (860) 663-1656 or email justin.wiggins@ct.gov to register.



Tournament angler reports are from Candlewood Lake (fair, 5.14 lb lb luncker), and the Connecticut River (fair, 4.43 lb luncker).

CARP are hitting in Lake Zoar, Union Pond, CT River, and West Thompson Reservoir.

NORTHERN PIKE. A few nice reports of fish from Pachaug River, Bantam Lake, Lake Lillinonah, and the CT River. The weedlines are producing.

WALLEYE. Some real decent fish from the Saugatuck Reservoir. Other waters include Mount Tom Pond, Squantz Pond, Batterson Park Pond, Beach Pond, Cedar Lake, West Thompson Lake, Gardner Lake, and Mashapaug Lake.

CATFISH. Fishing remains solid with 2-6 pounders coming out of many of our [Catfish Management Lakes](#) and several [Community Fishing Waters](#). Try cut fish (mackerel) or live shiners to entice a cat to bite.

PANFISH are still a great bet. Calico Bass should be picking up a bit. Perfect for family fun along the shoreline of a small pond. Check out the “panfish” map in our new application “[CT is Fishy](#)” to find a new place to fish close to you.

FALLFISH (DACE) lots of reports of action (while the trout stocking is on hold) from the Willimantic River, Shetucket River, Natchaug River, Lower Farmington River (Avon-Windsor), Housatonic River (Cornwall to Kent), Scantic River (Somers to East Windsor), and Yantic River. The current [state record](#) Fallfish (2.25 pounds) was taken in 2012 by Chad Tessman.

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS – Most lakes remain poor to fair. One nice 18+-inch fish from Wonoscopomuc Lake. Best bets are to hit the traditional deep cold lakes like; East Twin Lake, West Branch Reservoir, Long Pond, Crystal Lake, or Highland Lake.

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS. Conditions for trout fishing are poor with flows rapidly decreasing by the day and temperatures that have warmed more due to the record-breaking heat earlier in the week. We have quickly fallen back into a very low flow situation statewide (dark red and brown colors from gages around the state - *see stream flow graphic on page 4*). With the rush of refreshing and seasonal temperature returning as you read this, we hope conditions will improve quickly so that we may commence stocking. So far the Farmington River (Collinsville to Unionville), Housatonic TMA (Cornwall), Salmon River, Salmon River TMA, and the Moosup River TMA have been stocked. For the latest information on what has been stocked, follow our daily posts on [Facebook Page](#) or [Twitter Page](#), view our [current stocking report](#), or check out the [interactive trout stocking map](#). Flows are very fishable - *see stream flow graphic on page 3*.

Farmington River – Fishing remains very good. The West Branch flows are clear and lower than typical for late September (currently 92.6 CFS at Riverton, with the Still River at 11.5 CFS). Morning water temperatures ranging from the mid to upper 50's °F below the dam to the mid 60's °F through New Hartford (and into the upper 60's °F farther downstream). CT DEEP has been augmenting the flow in the river during the recent record breaking daily high air temperatures to keep water temperatures from getting too warm (measured at 25C in Burlington each afternoon).

Hatches/patterns shifting to the fall patterns. The Cinnamon sedges are out. Other perennial favorites include *Isonychia bicolor* (#10-14, fast water, evening), Tricos (#24), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* sps. & *Baetis* sps.;#18, 20-24, mid-late afternoon), Cahills/Summer (*Stenonema ithaca*, #12-14, evenings), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; green #22-26, evening; summer pupa #18-20 morning), Midges (#22-32, morning), Black Ants (#14-20, mid-day in fast water), Black Beetles (#14-18, mid-day), and Stone Hopper (#8-14, mid-day) are successful patterns. Try a “muddler minnow” to trigger that big ‘bow into hitting your line.

Housatonic River – Fishing has been very good. The flows are low but still perfect for that day on the river (currently 175 CFS at Falls Village and 264 CFS at Gaylordsville). Morning water temperatures are in the upper 60's °F. With the weather forecast to be more fall-like, this weekend is perfect to take some "me" time and fish the famed "Housy".

Hatches/patterns include a good diversity of insects with just about everything happening at one point in the day or another. Patterns to try include White Zonkers, Woolly Buggers (go big- larval dobsonflies can be up to 4" in length and are a favorite food item), Muddlers, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). Other insects include flying ants (#14-16, mid-day, when windy/humid, September is peak month), Fall Sulfurs (#16-18), Blue Wing Olives (#18-22), Tricos (#20-22), Leadwing Coachman (#10-12 evening, September is peak month), Sulfurs duns (#16-18, below the dam due to low temperatures, morning; afternoon to early evening for spinners), Light Cahill (#14-18, early morning & evening). Golden stonefly nymphs hatch at first light and adults egg-lay after dark.



With the upcoming forecast, more fall-like, this weekend is perfect to take some "me" time and fish the famed "Housy".

Streamer fishing and nymphing with big stoneflies is usually productive. Streamer patterns to try include White Zonkers, Woolly Buggers (#2-12), Muddlers, Lion Buggers, and Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). Light Cahill (#12-14, evening), Isonychia (#10-12), Sulfur (#16-18) and Black caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening). Don't forget poppers and streamers for some big trout as they head out from the thermal refuges.

CONNECTICUT RIVER. SMALLMOUTH BASS (some fish up to 4 lbs) are providing action in the river both above Hartford and downstream. **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing is reported as good to very good in the main stem and coves. Fish have been caught from the Hartford area downstream to Chapman Pond. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** are being caught (but you have to work for them) in the Hartford to Haddam area. **CARP** are providing action in coves and in the mainstem. (Hartford to Middletown area). **BOWFIN** can be found in backwater areas with dense weeds especially in Chapman's Cove (recent electrofishing produced several to 9 pounds).

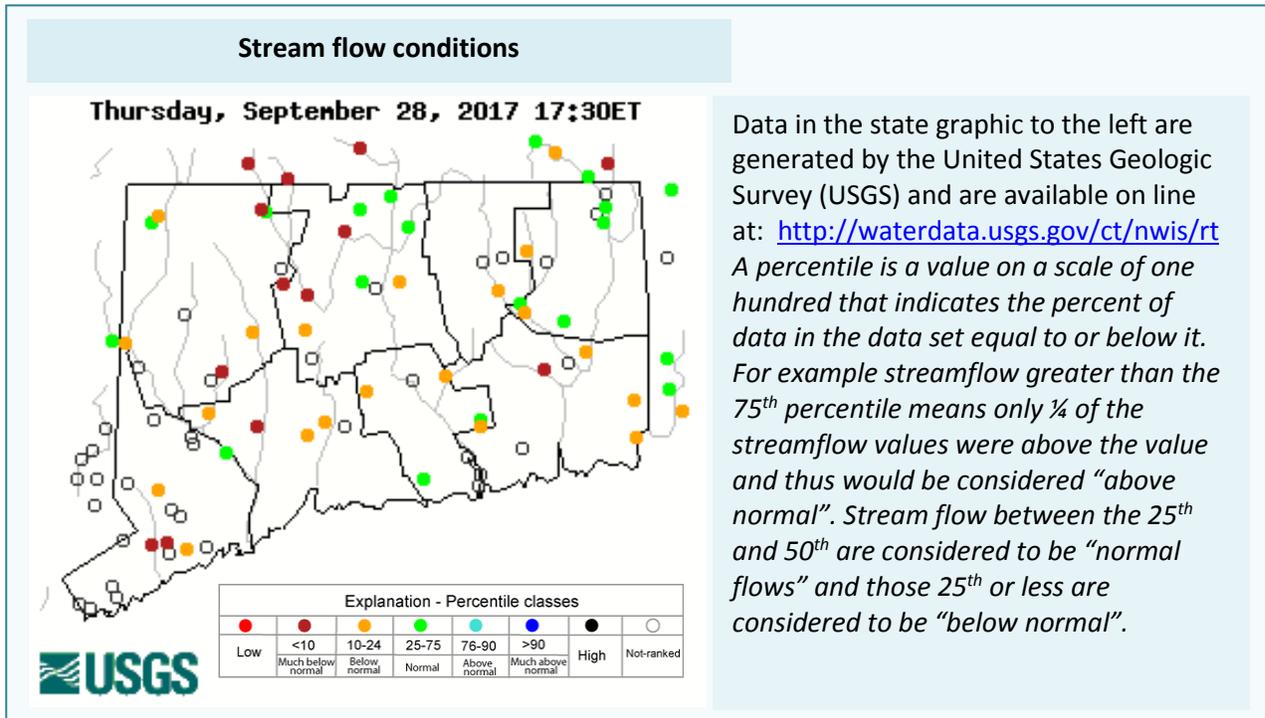
LAKE & POND BATHYMETRIC MAPS

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.



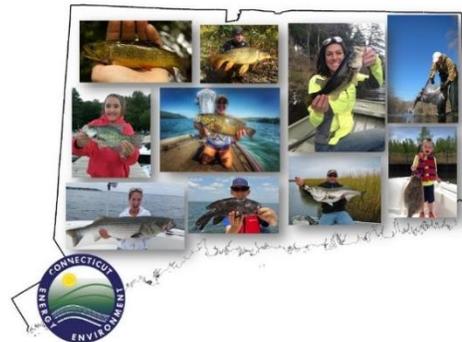


“Connecticut is Fishy!” a new interactive fishing resource for novice and expert alike. The link is on our main page at www.ct.gov/deep/fishing or hit it directly at <http://ctdeep.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=a17906f58b594e118555d48bf999b51c>

We are fortunate that within a 60 minute drive you can be fly fishing the famed Housatonic or Farmington River, catching monster pike in Bantam Lake, jumbo carp from the Connecticut River, or on the Sound fishing for tasty favorites like fluke, porgy, black sea bass, striped bass and bluefish.

This NEW interactive application has lots of great information, including maps and links, providing all you need to know about Connecticut's fisheries.

Give it a spin and let us know what you think!

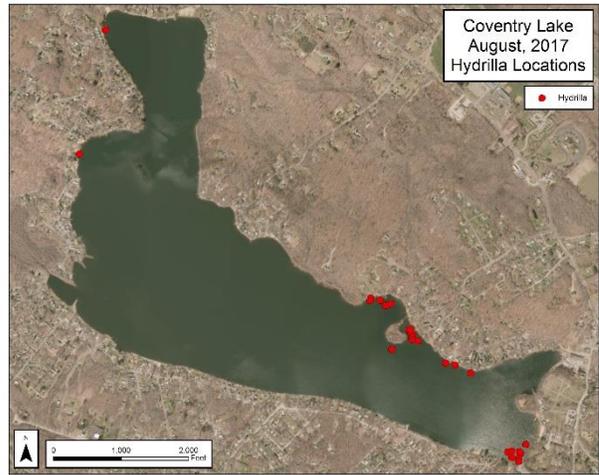


NOTES & NOTICES:

CONNECTICUT RIVER (Hartford). Riverfront Recapture will be holding the “**Head of the Riverfront**” rowing regatta on Sunday, October 1 (7 am – 5 pm) on the CT River in Hartford from Riverside Park to just upstream of the entrance to Wethersfield Cove. Boat travel through the course area will be difficult during the race events, use extra caution or avoid the area.

CONNECTICUT RIVER (invasive species alert). Last year hydrilla was found in the main stem Connecticut River in Glastonbury (near Glastonbury’s Riverfront Park & Boathouse). There are now reports of plants found at other locations along the river. 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 their boats (including canoes, kayaks and rowing sculls), trailers, and fishing equipment before leaving the boat launch, or leaving the lakeshore.



Coventry Lake (Wangumbaug Lake) boaters should avoid the areas noted with red dots to avoid fragmenting and spreading hydrilla.

WEST HILL POND (drawdown). A 5-foot drawdown is ongoing to facilitate dam maintenance.

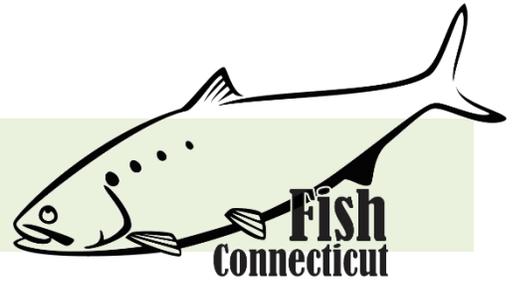
PHOTO CONTEST: Do you have the next Angler’s Guide cover shot? Email us your high quality (high resolution) photos **by November 1** to Deep.inland.fisheries@ct.gov and include [photo contest](#) in the subject line.

CT FISHIN’ TIPS is our monthly e-newsletter dedicated to providing information, tips and pointers about fishing in Connecticut. Get CT Fishin’ Tips delivered automatically to your in box by subscribing at www.ct.gov/deep/newslettersubscription

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.

For Current Connecticut Recreational Fishing Regulations: Anglers should consult the 2017 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 is on the DEEP website at: www.ct.gov/deep/fishing.

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are around 70 °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>

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 Sport Fishing License to fish in the Marine District.

WHALES have been reported in Long Island Sound (in early July, juvenile humpback whales have been spotted on the New York side of the sound), please see check [WHALE WATCHING GUIDELINES](#).

Note: All marine mammals are protected by the Federal Marine Mammal Protection Act. Following these recommended operational guidelines helps minimize chances of harassing or injuring whales and violating Federal law. Guidelines apply to all large whales from Maine through Virginia, except North Atlantic right whales. It is illegal to approach a right whale within 500 yards (1500 feet) unless granted specific exemption or authorization.

SEA TURTLES: [See a Tangled Turtle? Call the Hotline!](#) 1-860-572-5955 ext. 107. This is the time of year when leatherback, loggerhead, green, and Kemp's ridley sea turtles return to northern waters, with many sightings around Long Island Sound.

SHARK SPECIES YOU MAY ENCOUNTER IN COASTAL WATERS OF CONNECTICUT: Although you might catch Sand Tiger and Sandbar (Brown) Sharks, they are both protected prohibited species and must be released unharmed. **IF YOU DON'T KNOW, PLEASE LET IT GO!** [Coastal shark information](#).

ATLANTIC BONITO & LITTLE TUNNY fishing is very good. We have a new state record Atlantic bonito at 11 lbs 8 ozs from the Ocean Beach area. Little Tunny (False Albacore, Albies) have been reported at Jordan Cove, **Sunken Island, Middleground, Norwalk Islands, South Benson Pier, Stratford Shoal and Sasco Beach**. These lightning fast fish are so quick and schools move so fast, that it's best to grab a pair of binoculars and watch for birds above feeding on leftover bait. This week little tunny have been caught on Deadly Dicks, Sluggos (4"-7"), Castmasters, **Hogy Epoxy Jig** and Albie Snacks. Although false albacore are poor for eating - just catching one will give you such a fight you will be bragging about it for weeks. There's a good chance your local party boat has run into a few schools treating customers with a great day of fishing.

STRIPED BASS fishing remains very good. Schoolie striped bass in the 5-8 pound class with some large holdovers, are still feeding in close to shore where all the bait is. Dusk and dawn have been the most successful times to fish and poppers have been the winning ticket. Reports are streaming in from the banks of the Housatonic where anglers are getting a real workout catching and releasing striped bass. Other excellent locations this week for stripers have been **Norwalk Harbor, Seaside Park, Gulf Beach break-wall and pier, Calf Pasture Beach, Walnut Beach, Todd's Point, Cummings Beach in Stamford and Charles Island** (fishing from the sandbar is strongly discouraged as it is quite dangerous due to rip tide).

BLACK SEA BASS and SCUP fishing is excellent in the Sound. Bottom fishing still red hot in the western Sound from New Haven to Greenwich. Middleground, Norwalk Islands and Great Captains are still holding a gold mine of Black Sea Bass and Scup (Porgy). High-low rigs baited with squid and clams are your best bet. Most shore spots are housing scup although some locations more notable than others; Jennings and Sasco Beach in Fairfield, Saint Mary's by the Sea, Seaside Park, Stratford's Long and Short Beach and the Stratford Wall, Sherwood Island State Park (fish from the boulders on the Western side but be safe navigating the rocks), Calf Pasture Beach and Todd's Point in Greenwich. List of some very accessible shore fishing locations are: Calf Pasture beach, Jennings and Penfield beach, Seaside Park, (Milford), Bradley Point Park (West Haven), New Haven, **Harkness State Park**, Rocky Neck State Park, **Kimberley Reef (Guilford)**, 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". Contact your [local bait and tackle shop](#) for updated fishing information.

BLUEFISH schools are scattered but there are some real "alligators" to 16 pounds out there. Mixed in with striper schools are large bluefish schools which are popping up throughout the western Sound including Middle-ground, Norwalk Islands, Sherwood Island, Compo Beach and Silver Sands State Park. They are feeding on just about any bait or artificial lure you offer them.

HICKORY SHAD fishing is good in the **Black Hall River/Lieutenant River (out-going tide)**, Housatonic River and the lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier). Fishing remains good at Fort Trumbull, Black Hall, Clinton Harbor River systems and the lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier).

WEAKFISH fishing is good in the western Sound. Weakfish have been reported from the New York state line to New Haven. The hottest spots to catch weakfish this week include **Buoy 18, Sunken Island and Execution Rock**. Weakfish is also surprisingly good in the central Sound (Falkner Island).

BLUE CRAB fishing is very good. Many of the large Jimmies (male crabs) are now available in the lower reaches of rivers (North Cove). Incoming tide has produced better crab fishing...as the crabs migrate into the shallow water to feed. **Remember, all egg bearing females must be released without avoidable injury. Minimum carapace length is 5 inches for a hard shell crab.** 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 dip net) and a small circular crab trap is the preferred method to capture these tasty crabs.** [Blue Crab Fact Sheet](#) Angler's please also note: It is illegal to snag blue crabs.

NOTABLE CATCHES –

<i>Species</i>	<i>Length (in.)</i>	<i>Weight (lb)</i>	<i>Angler</i>
Gray Triggerfish	20"	4 lbs 8 oz	John Magaldi III

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