

CT DEEP **2017**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 29
10/26/2017



False Albacore, Little Tunny (*Euthynnus alletteratus*)



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INLAND REPORT

FISHING SEASONS. Anglers are reminded that the fishing season at several lakes and ponds scattered throughout the state closes at the end of the month (Saturday, October 31st), most notably **LAKE WONOSKOPOMUC**, **GREEN FALLS RESERVOIR** and **SHENIPSIT RESERVOIR**. Please refer to the 2017 CT Angler's Guide for additional locations.

Trout stockings continued this week (see Lakes & Ponds and Rivers & Streams sections below for locations). Stay up to date with our daily stocking post on [Facebook](#), our [interactive trout stocking map](#), and our [stocking report](#).

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS – Improving quickly with re-start of fall stocking. Here is this week's stocking, Day Pond Trout Park and Valley Falls Trout Park.

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS. Conditions for trout fishing are fair depending upon if we were able to stock. This week the Mianus River TMA, the Mill River (Fairfield) TMA were stocked and by week's end it is anticipated that the Pequonnock River, Pomperaug River, and Saugatuck River Fly area will receive trout.

Flows are variable across the State with many at levels we have not seen in quite some time. With the variation in rainfall and more rain forecast flow will be widely different, but all high, depending on the location (*see stream flow graphic on page 4*).

Farmington River – Fishing remains very good. The West Branch flows came up to near "normal" levels with the small amount of rain this week (currently 102 CFS at Riverton, with the Still River at 68 CFS). Morning water temperatures are ranging from the low 50's °F through New Hartford (and into the mid 60's °F farther downstream).

Hatches/patterns Some go-to flies include Isonychia (#12-14, parachute style), Blue Wing Olives (#18, 22-24, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; brown #16-18), Midges (#20-32, morning), and Rusty Spinner (#14-20, mornings). White Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, or Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10) are standard streamers. Bottom bouncing nymphs with Caddis pupa (#14-16), Serendipity (#14-16), Prince (#6-18) and Hare's ear (#8-20)

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ANGLER'S GUIDE
INLAND & MARINE FISHING

YOUR SOURCE
For CT Fishing Information

» New Marine Regulations for 2016
See page 58

CONNECTICUT BUREAU OF NATURAL RESOURCES
1866 - 2016

Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
www.ct.gov/deep/fishing

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works well. Good reports of the ole reliable “Mickey Finn” as the only streamer enticing the Rainbows to bite. “Mouseing” the pools after dark has been productive for “BIG” browns.

Housatonic River – Fishing has been very good. The flows have gradually increased, not much rain in the watershed this week. As such the Housatonic is a perfect choice to fish Saturday (Sunday looks really stormy). Flows are currently 440 CFS at Falls Village and 506 CFS at Gaylordsville. Morning water temperatures are in the upper 50’s °F.

Hatches/patterns include a good diversity of insects. The area between the Route 4 Bridge and Route 341 Bridge is still offering great fishing with smallmouth and fallfish eagerly hitting a variety of poppers, dry flies, nymphs, and streamers.

Patterns to try include Blue Wing Olive (#18-24, early morning; spinner fall in evening), Isonychia (#10-12 evening), Midges (#20-24) and caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening). Also try terrestrial patterns such as Black and Cinnamon Ants (#16-18, midday, when breezy) and large streamers, or nymphing the pockets, deeper riffles and pool heads.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is reported as 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, 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 No report this week

SMALLMOUTH BASS. A few beautiful smallmouth reported from Candlewood Lake, Housatonic River (upper), Naugatuck River, Lake Zoar and Lake Lillinonah. Housatonic River smallmouth fishing has been good.

Tournament angler reports No report this week

NORTHERN PIKE. A few beasts were landed in the Connecticut River near Haddam as well as several decent fish out of Lake Lillinonah.

CARP are **still** providing solid and consistent action in the Housatonic River Impoundments, West Thompson Reservoir, Batterson Park Pond, CT River/Mattabesset River, and the Quinebaug River (West Thompson and Aspinook Pond).

WALLEYE. Consistent catches of medium-sized Walleye from Squantz Pond, Batterson Park Pond, and Lake Saltonstall, and the Saugatuck Reservoir. The annual fingerling stocking was completed last Friday, October 20.

CATFISH. Fishing is very good with the warm weather keeping some of the monster cats active. Cast a line into our [Catfish Management Lakes](#) and [Community Fishing Waters](#). Try cut fish (mackerel) or live shiners to entice a cat to bite.

PANFISH are still a great bet. Calico Bass are eager to hit a variety of small jigs and live minnows. Batterson Park Pond had some decent Crappie.

CONNECTICUT RIVER. BLACK CRAPPIE action is good in the coves up and down the river. Target the backwaters with small shiners, silver grubs, or small Rapalas. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** have been reported as hit or miss in from Hartford upstream. **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, especially Salmon River

Cove and the Middletown area. **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing is reported as good in the main stem and coves, very good in the Haddam area.

Atlantic salmon fishing regulations and areas summary

- **Regulations for Atlantic salmon on the Shetucket and Naugatuck Rivers.** In the Naugatuck, Housatonic and Shetucket Rivers, from September 1 through November 30, angling for Atlantic salmon is restricted to **catch-and-release only**. From December 1, 2017, through March 31, 2018, the daily creel limit for Atlantic salmon will be one. During the open season in the rivers, the legal method for taking Atlantic salmon is limited to angling using a single fly, or an artificial lure with a single free swinging hook and no additional weight can be added to the line above the fly or lure. Also, from October 1st through March 31st, fishing for other species in the designated Atlantic Salmon “Broodstock Areas” is restricted to the gear legal for Atlantic salmon.
- On the **Shetucket River**, anglers can fish for salmon downstream from the Scotland Dam (Windham) to the Water Street Bridge in Norwich (the first bridge upstream of Norwich Harbor). The salmon are stocked into one designated Atlantic Salmon “Broodstock Area”, from the Scotland Dam to the Occum Dam.
- Anglers are allowed to fish for salmon in the **Naugatuck River** from the confluence of the East and West Branches (Torrington) downstream to the Housatonic River (Derby). Anglers may also fish for Atlantic salmon in the Housatonic River downstream of Derby Dam. The salmon are typically stocked into two designated Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas on the Naugatuck River, the “Campville Section” of the upper Naugatuck River from Route 118 downstream to the Thomaston Flood Control Dam (Litchfield-Thomaston) and the “Beacon Falls Section” of the lower Naugatuck, from Prospect Street (Naugatuck) downstream to Pines Bridge Road (Route 42 bridge, Beacon Falls). From October 1st through March 31st, fishing for other species in these designated Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas is restricted to the gear legal for Atlantic salmon.
- The regulations for Atlantic salmon released into lakes and ponds are different from the regulations for salmon on the Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers. **In each lake, the regulations for methods, seasons and minimum lengths for salmon will be the same as for trout in that specific water body but the daily creel limit will be one salmon per day.** (Please refer to the 2017 CT Angler’s Guide for trout regulations).

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.

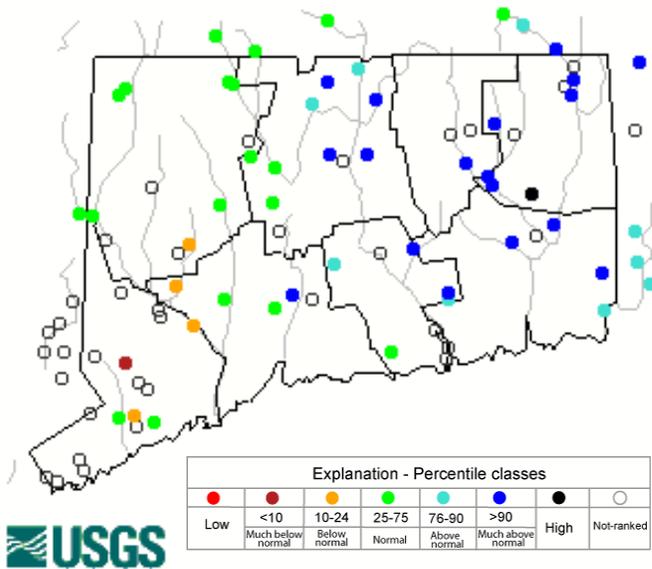
This NEW interactive application has lots of great information, including maps and links, providing all you need to know about Connecticut's fisheries.

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



Stream flow conditions

Thursday, October 26, 2017 15:30ET



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”.

NOTES & NOTICES:

CANDLEWOOD LAKE (boat launches). Boaters using the Lattins Cove launch should take extra care. The launch ramp is damaged, with the bottom of the ramp broken up and a large drop off. Plans for repairs are in process and a sign is being posted to mark the end of the ramp surface. **Backing down beyond that sign is not recommended at this time.** The lake level is also down close to the minimum “summer” level, at which launching of trailered boats (especially larger boats) becomes more difficult (but usually still doable) at Lattins Cove. The Squantz Cove state launch is fully functional.

CANDLEWOOD LAKE (safety buoy removals). The Candlewood Lake Authority has removed the hazard, navigation and speed buoys for the winter. Boaters, especially those unfamiliar with the lake should use extra caution out on the lake.

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 including Wethersfield and Crow Point coves and at a site in Enfield.** 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.

PACHAUG POND (drawdown). A 3.5-foot drawdown to facilitate dam maintenance began on Tuesday, October 10.

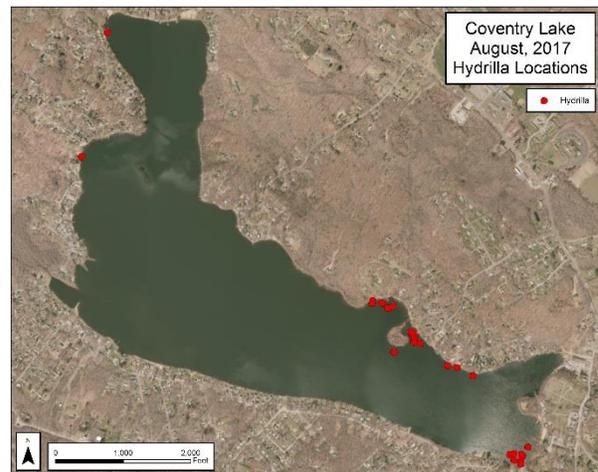
QUADDICK LAKE (drawdown, launch access). The winter drawdown has begun. Also note that the park gates will be closed for the season to vehicular access on October 30.

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

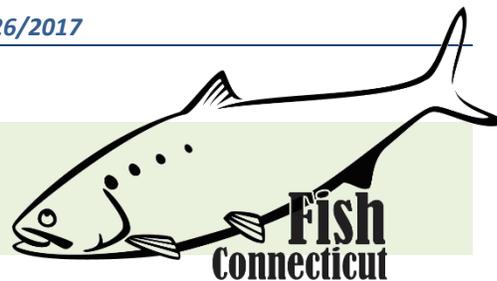
UPCOMING DRAWDOWNS. In western CT, **Lake Zoar** is scheduled for a drawdown from this Friday night, October 27, to November 5, (launching of trailered boats from the state boat launch may be difficult). **Lake Lillinonah** is scheduled for a drawdown from November 6 to November 15, and the winter drawdown of **Highland Lake** is scheduled to start in early November. In eastern CT, winter drawdowns of **Ashland Pond, Beach Pond, Middle & Lower Bolton Lakes, Gardner Lake, Hopeville Pond, Mashapaug Lake** and **Beseck Lake** are scheduled to begin in early November

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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.



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



MARINE FISHING REPORT

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

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.

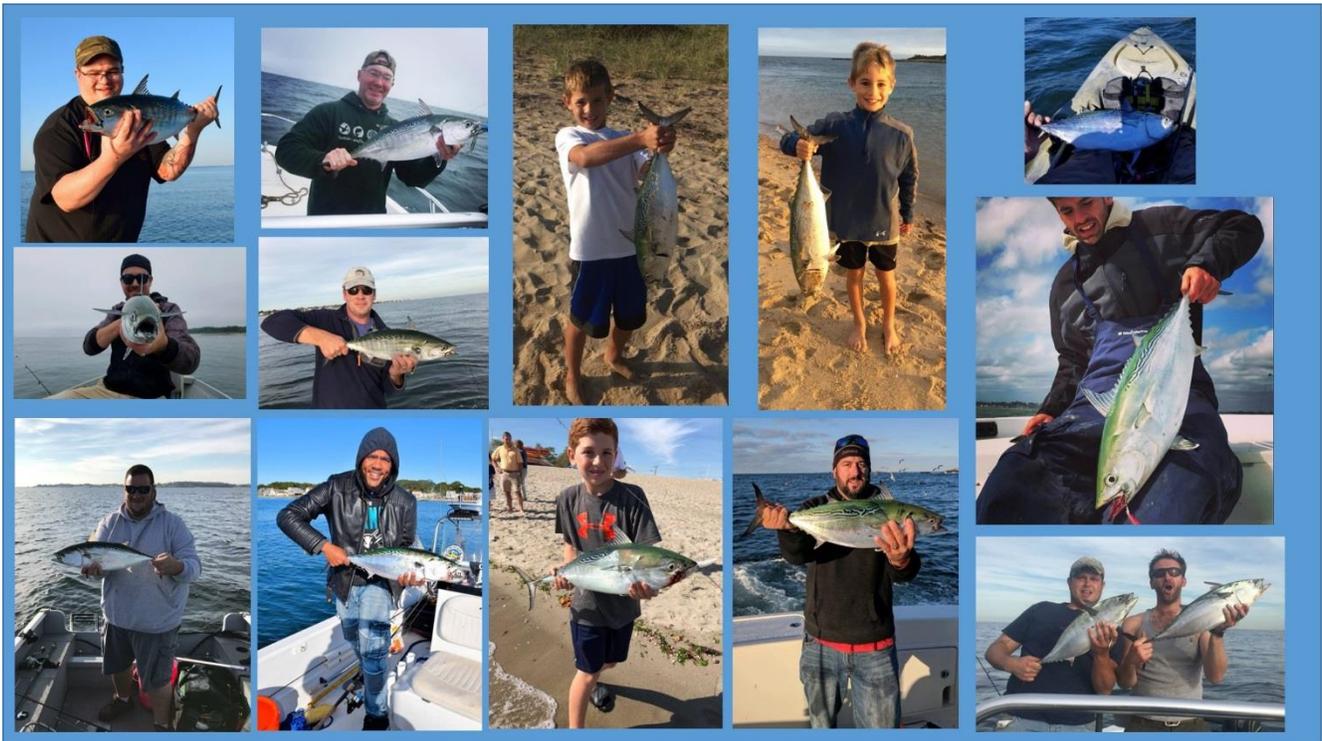
SEA TURTLES: [See a Tangled Turtle? Call the Hotline!](#) 1-860-572-5955 ext. 107. This is the time of year when leatherback, loggerhead, green, and Kemp's ridley sea turtles return to northern waters, with many sightings around Long Island Sound.

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](#).

TAUTOG fishing is good. Unseasonably warm waters had not quite triggered tautog's famed appetite for Asian shore, green nor hermit crabs. Anglers have noted plenty of shorts with few keeper sized fish. Several of Connecticut's outstanding and knowledgeable bait and tackle shops weighed in Blackfish this week from 7 to 14.25 pounds. A 10.25 Lb. weight was certified at a New London shop. In fact, a 12-pounder reportedly caught from shore was phoned in, but could not be verified. At the start of the run its best to fish for togs in shallow water (10-30 feet) but as the water temps cool togs will move into deeper water. Shore anglers are still catching togs with the recommended jig set-up with a 1/4 to one ounce weight and 30-40 pound braided line. Some anglers are catching blackfish with worms but it's an arduous process weeding out the scup from competing for the worms. Boaters are having success just south of **Two Tree Island**, at the three breakwaters to New Haven Harbor entrance, and in rocky reefs, drop-offs, old wrecks and rock outcroppings. You'll want to anchor once you find a good tautog site, and you'll know a good site because togs will hit within 10-minutes. If you don't get a hit within 10-minutes it's time to move on. It's wise to invest in a reef or grapnel anchor. As pointed out by a tackle shop located in Waterford, it's very tempting to join a large party of boats all targeting Blackfish in the same area. It must be a red hot tautog spot, right? Wrong! The largest Togs will be caught in short time, and once all of the legal-sized togs are caught - they're gone. Time to move on....togs won't repopulate that same reef or structure until next spring. Togs are territorial and new fish won't move in to that specific spot. If you're catching a ton of shorts, those are fish that have been caught and released at the

site, but the big ones on the structure are now gone. So it's best to venture out on your own and to stay away from the pack. As of October 27, tautogs are still inhabiting **Cockenoe Island** as well, the south side of **Sheffield Island**, **Bartlett's' Reef**, **Six-Mile Reef**, **Darien's Fish Island**, **Greens Ledge** and **Peck's Ledge Lighthouses**. Or you can simply patronize your [local bait and tackle shop](#) where they are fully stocked. I would also highly recommend planning a trip on a [party/charter boat](#) trip to fish for tautog.

ATLANTIC BONITO & LITTLE TUNNY fishing is very good. False albacore (little tunny) fishing is still ON FIRE. The bite is off the hook! These little tunas are so powerful and fast that they have been a favorite targeted species this fall - and they seem to love Connecticut with no sign of departure. Swedish Pimples (in purple) is the new hot lure this week. They are also snatching up Deadly Dicks, Albie Snacks, Epoxy Lures and Sluggos. The schools do not like to linger in one spot as they constantly chase bait, but they are being caught consistently at **Ocean Beach**, **Waterford Beach**, **mouth of the Thames River**, **Compo Beach**, **Norwalk Islands**, **Penfield Reef**, **the West end of the Sluiceway and Plum Gut**, **off New Haven Harbor** and **Sandy Point Beach**, **Harkness Memorial State Park** and **off of Saybrook Point**. Fishermen in their kayaks seem to be doing the best. Watch for diving birds and try to get a feel of which direction the false albacore are moving. If you fish for them long enough you start to get a 7th sense of where they will be headed. There's a good chance your local [party/charter boat](#) has run into a few schools treating customers with a great day of fishing.



STRIPED BASS and **BLUEFISH** fishing is still great. Boaters are still getting their keep between **Great Gull Island** and **Plum Island**. Live-lining and using fresh bait is working well in the shallows at the **Sluiceway** which is located west of **Orient Point**, **Long Island**. Two anglers this week alone caught 25 bluefish on Diamond Jigs at the west end of the Sluiceway by Plum Gut. Striped bass holdovers and schoolies are getting a strong hold in our rivers and estuaries and settling in for the winter. They are pushing up small bait in very close to shore, and the Stripers are also hitting metals; spoons, castmasters, top-water plugs, rattle-traps, pencil poppers, jigging spoons and crank bates. **Mouth of the Thames River** and its banks, **Connecticut River**, **Norwalk** and **Mianus Rivers** and the **Housatonic (Housy)** are all hot spots this week. Anglers at **CT DEEP Marine Fisheries**

headquarters had a field day last weekend at the fishing pier. Bluefish are still chomping on everything and schools are scattered around the sound. Shore anglers are bending rods off **Pier Tree Point Beach in Darien, off Calf Pasture Beach Pier and sandbar. Silver Sands, Sherwood Island, Hammonasset, Rocky Neck and Fort Trumbull State Parks** are all seeing their fair share of bluefish. **Walnut Beach, Todd's Point, Cummings Park, Seaside Park, Fort Nathan Hale, and Compo Beach** are all attracting bluefish.

BLACK SEA BASS and SCUP fishing is still phenomenal. Scup and black sea bass fishing still very strong. Now that black sea bass fishing has reopened in Rhode Island as of October 22, more boaters are traveling back to **Block Island Sound**. The Porgy hangouts include areas such as **Southwest Reef off of Westbrook as well as Green can "C" near Stratford Shoal Lighthouse, Short and Long Beach in Stratford, the Stratford Wall, Calf Pasture Pier, Pleasure Island Family Pier, Todd's Point, Six-mile Reef, Two Trees Island, Fort Trumbull State Park Pier, Harkness Memorial State Park, Sherwood Island State Park, Silver Sands State Park, Bonds Dock, South Benson/Ash Creek, Saint Marys by the Sea, New London's Waterfront Park, Southport Harbor, the Wall at Stratford, buoy 32-A, Greens Ledge Lighthouse** and a plethora of other sites are still holding scup with some black sea bass mixed in. A high-low rig tipped with squid and/or clams will do the trick. If you're fishing **Fishers Island** you may have to compete with the large number of **Seals** that have moved in. 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.

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).

NOTABLE CATCHES –

| Species | Length (in.) | Weight (lb) | Angler |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Atlantic Bonito | 25" | 6 lbs 12 oz | James Sponzo |

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.

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**Connecticut Department of
Energy & Environmental Protection**
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