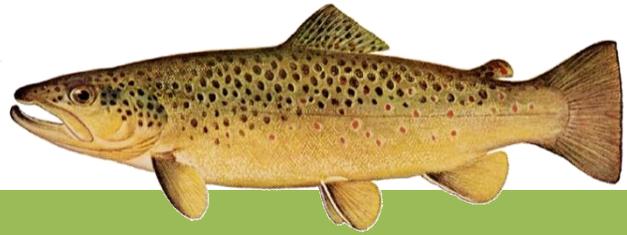


CT DEEP **2018**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 1
4/26/2018



Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta*)



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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.

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Take someone fishing

INLAND REPORT

OPENING DAY – We had a short blast of warm air temperatures that gave anglers a comfortable Opening Day, however, water temperatures were very cold, possibly contributing to difficult catching for many. Fisheries staff were out at eight of the twelve Trout Parks were stocked on Opening Day and the many kids present enjoyed helping us stock. Catch percentage was from 60 to 80% at a number of the Trout Parks including Stratton Brook, Black Rock, Kent Falls, Chatfield Hollow, Valley Falls Park, Southford Falls, and Great Hollow. Many other locations, both river and stream as well as lake and pond did not give up their recently stocked trout so easily.

Over 300,000 trout were stocked before Opening Day into nearly 100 lakes and ponds and over 120 rivers and streams located throughout Connecticut. DEEP's in-season stockings are now underway with over 220,000 additional trout scheduled to be stocked between Opening Day and the end of May.

Get the latest on our Trout Stocking through

- Daily Facebook Posts (@[CTFISHANDWILDLIFE](https://www.facebook.com/CTFISHANDWILDLIFE))
- Current Stocking Report (on our [webpage](#))
- [Interactive Trout Stocking Map](#)
- See last year's [stocking numbers](#)



Connecticut's Trout & Salmon Stamp: Connecticut has implemented a Trout and Salmon Stamp. 100% of the revenue from your investment comes to the DEEP Bureau of Natural Resources for Fisheries programs.

The Trout and Salmon Stamp is \$5 for anyone age 18 or older, including those 65 or older, and \$3 for CT residents age 16-17.

The Stamp is required for the harvest (keeping) of trout or salmon.

The Stamp is required to FISH in one of these places:

- A Trout Park
- A Trout Management Area (River or stream not a Trout Management Lake)
- A Wild Trout Management Area Class 1,2 or 3
- A Broodstock Atlantic Salmon Area

Please take a look at our [FAQ page](#) for more details.

Questions about the Trout and Salmon Stamp may be emailed to deep.inland.fisheries@ct.gov or by call us at 860-424-3474

New and Improved. You Asked, We Obligated. In response to your suggestions on how to improve our Weekly Fishing Report, this year we are incorporating more of "your" feedback. As such, there will be a new information, beginning on the next page, that will present feedback from anglers hitting the water.

If you would like to contribute to our report, please email mike.beauchene@ct.gov. Each week you will be emailed a link to a short online survey about your fishing experiences.

pick up with the weather. Seems to be more bigger fish for the angler this year. I am going out this afternoon after the rain with some natural garden worms for a fresh fish fry. The ospreys and herons are all back now and chowing down.

Weather patterns certainly seems to be throwing off the bite at times.

With all the rain we had this past week, it made fishing a little more difficult on the Housatonic river (in Kent/Gaylordsville) due to high and fast water flow. Fishing on Twin Lake for Bass did not produce this week. Fished Jerk Baits, Jigs, Lipless Crank Baits and Hair Jigs.

FROM FISHERIES

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - Conditions should be good for trout fishing in most areas this weekend. Currently, flows are higher than normal in eastern CT due to the heavy rain earlier this week (*see stream flow graphic on page 5*) and at or around typical spring levels in the rest of the state, generally comfortable weather (but with a few showers) is forecast, and there are plenty of recently stocked trout waiting for anglers. As water temperatures warm, fishing should improve from Opening Day's slow start.

Farmington River - Opening Day trout fishing was mostly fair. West Branch flows have improved since last week, now clear, and just somewhat on the high side, currently 341 CFS at Riverton plus an additional 274 CFS from the Still River. Conditions should be fair for the upcoming weekend with comfortable weather forecast and moderately high flows (note that there may be an additional reduction in flows through the weekend). Anglers will have to work some for their fish.

Typical mid-April hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive, Hendrickson (will appear mid-April when it warms up a bit), Winter/Summer Caddis, 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, Mickey Finn, Grey or Black Ghost).

Housatonic River - Conditions for the weekend will be fairly good. The TMA section was stocked on 4/26 and the fish should be willing to bite. Comfortable weather is forecast, flows are a bit high but very fishable. currently 1,770 CFS at Falls Village and 2,710 CFS at Gaylordsville. Morning water temperatures are currently in the low-mid 40's °F.

Hatches/patterns. Typical patterns for mid-April include March Brown (#10-12), Pheasant Tail (#12-18), Stoneflies (#6-10), Pheasant Tails (#14-20), and Black Stoneflies (#18-22). Look for Hendriksons soon.



INTERACTIVE TROUT STOCKING MAP

Anglers can find more information on trout stocking online. A list of the waters that were dropped from this year's stocking schedule is on our webpage at: www.ct.gov/deep/fishing, along with an interactive trout stocking map (www.ct.gov/deep/troutstockingmap) that anglers should find very useful for planning their next outing. The new application (mobile friendly) provides the number of days since the last stocking at each of our stocked waters enabling anglers to search for their favorite waterbody or by that have been recently stocked.

Nymphing (try Bead Head, Midge Pupa or Copper Johns) and streamers (such as White/Yellow Zonkers or Woolly Buggers) are good options.

Stocking update for the week of 4/23-4/27. Note that other stockings can be found in our [current stocking report](#) or by using the [interactive trout stocking map](#).

RIVERS & STREAMS- In eastern Connecticut; Indiantown Brook, Hunts Brook, the Moosup River (including the TMA), the Coginchaug River and the Salmon River ((including the TMA). Shetucket River, Yantic River (Open), Bigelow Brook, Beaver Brook, Farm River (upper and lower), Branford River, Hammonasset River, Natchaug River, Eight Mile River and the Jeremy River.

In western Connecticut; Leadmine Brook, Muddy River, the Farmington River TMA (year-round catch-and-release area only) and the Farmington River TMA (the West Branch Farmington River from the Goodwin Dam down to the upper boundary of the year-round catch-and-release area), and the Housatonic River TMA. (TMA = Trout management area).

LAKES & PONDS - The weather was nearly ideal for an Opening Day morning. However, the fish were not cooperative in most places. Most have let us know that the catching was terrible, leaving many to question our stocking. The fish are there, they just have to cooperate. For example, one angler called to let us know that Mashapaug Lake didn't give up a fish, while at Bigelow Hollow Pond anglers were doing great. Stocked nearly the same amount and time, not sure the difference in catch rate. More recently, fishing has picked up in some places including Crystal Lake, Highland Lake (at about 10 ft) and West Hill Pond (lots being caught near the surface).

Lakes and ponds stocking update for the week of 4/23-4/27:

In **eastern Connecticut**; Black Pond (Woodstock), Broad Brook Mill Pond, Somersville Mill Pond, Freshwater Pond, Cedar Lake, Bashan Lake, Uncas Lake, Higganum Reservoir and Hanover Reservoir.

In **western Connecticut**; Wononskopmuc Lake.

TROUT PARKS: The Day Pond, Southford Falls, Stratton Brook, Wharton Brook, Wolfe Park (Great Hollow Pond), Valley Falls Park Pond, Mohegan Park, Schreeder Pond, Chatfield Hollow Trout Parks were stocked this week.

COMMUNITY FISHING WATERS: Keney Park Pond was stocked this week.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is generally slow in many areas, but action should begin to pick up as water temperatures warm. Targeting dark bottom warmer back water coves is suggested for some action. Some big fish have been found (see tournament reports for 8.5 lb and 6.7 lb bass catches)..

Tournament angler Largemouth Bass reports are from Amos Lake (slow, 2.83 lb lunker), Mansfield Hollow (slow fishing for most, but several found the spot, lunker was a 6.69 lb beauty caught by Kyle Smith), Pachaug Pond (fair, 3.88 lb lunker), Pattagansett Lake (tough day, 2.8 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (good for some, tough for many, 3.74 lb lunker), Silver Lake (slow for a kayak club), Lake Lillinonah



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 2018 CT angler's Guide(www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide).

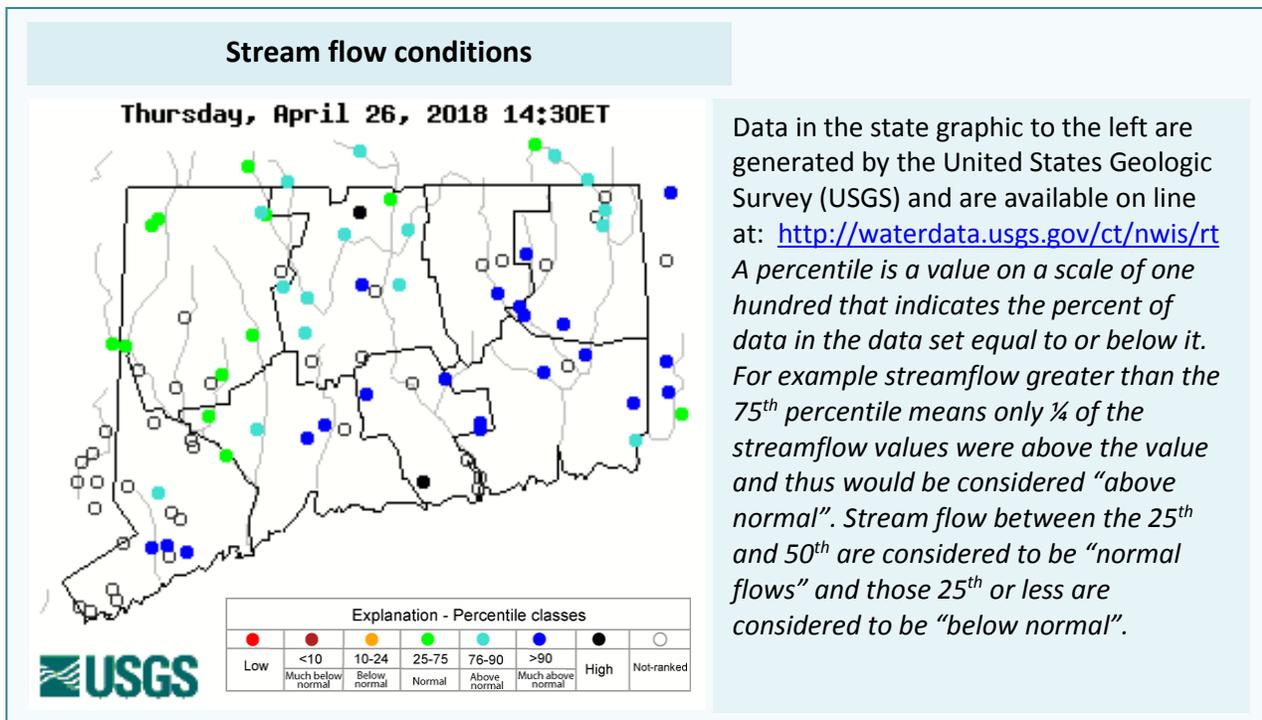
(tough, 2.71 lb & 1.66 lb lunkers), and Lake Zoar (slow, 2.5 lb lunker). Catch of the month so far is an 8.5 lb largemouth caught by Chris Bieler fishing the Reynolds tournament on Candlewoo.

SMALLMOUTH BASS. Smallmouth are being caught at Candlewood Lake. Also some good reports from Rainbow Reservoir. Even for smallies, water temps need to warm some. **Tournament angler** reports are from from Candlewood Lake (good for some, fair for many, 5.6 lb, 4.5 lb lunkers), Lake Lillinonah (fair to good, 4.76 lb & 3.91 lb lunkers), and Lake Zoar (slow, 1.82 lb lunker).

CONNECTICUT RIVER The Connecticut River is still muddy, and cold with lots of logs and debris floating down but it is actually below average for flow—at 33,000 CFS. Water temperature at Haddam on Sunday at 9 C (48 F), which is supposed to be too cold for shad but the next day the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service reported catching a few shad in the Mattabesset River and that some anglers were catching shad in the lower Farmington River.

Not much action at Rainbow yet but StanChem is passing a few fish, including one sea-run trout. Not much other than a few suckers seen in the lower river tributaries, although we have more reports of Alewife below the Rt. 151 bridge on the Salmon River. Rowan reports the stripers he is seeing are too small to eat the adult Alewives. The suckers are moving up at Moulson Pond and Leesville fishways.

BOWFIN in the 5 pound range and 20 inches were reported in the side channels and coves.



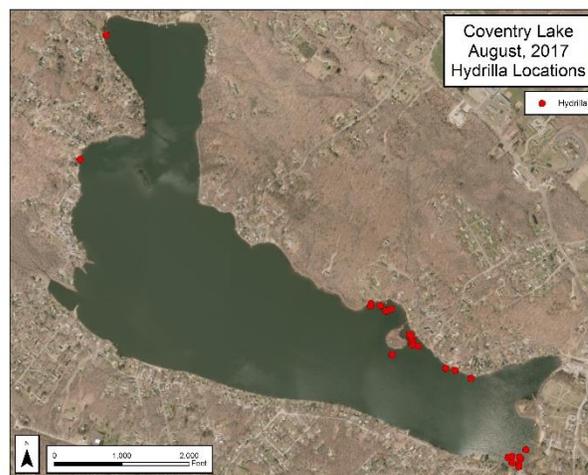
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NOTES & NOTICES:

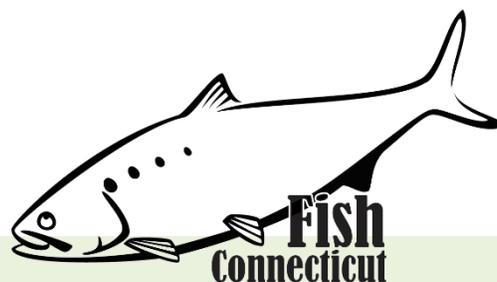
DRAWDOWN UPDATES. Pachaug Pond is currently drawn down approximately 2 feet to facilitate dam repairs.

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.



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) in the upper 40'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, although 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.

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 [2018 CT Angler's Guide](#) for CT tide information.

FROM THE ANGLERS; Tony Agostine and Wayne G. Barber let us know that fishing Albino color #91 Zoom Super Flukes in the Housatonic worked well for some Striped Bass.

Specific comments:

- I fished at West Haven and Milford the Bass bite there is just getting started. Fishing should improve this week as the weather and the water temps rise.
 - River Herring were here but light. The Osprey's were here re-building their nests from the real windy coastal storms this winter and spring and to me that's a real good sign with just a little 4 degree's warmer water and it will all turn on quickly. The cell phone and kayak reports on my Facebook are a real big help this year. I am planning a short trip up to the Thames River, which I am getting steady reports of a lot of new fish with lice present.
-

STRIPED BASS fishing is good to excellent for “schoolies” in most of the tidal rivers along the Connecticut shoreline. There are also some keepers in the mix as well (47 inch striped bass from the lower CT and Housatonic Rivers). Striper spots include the 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), the Sound School Fishing Pier, Housatonic River and Norwalk Harbor including the islands. Sand and blood worms have been working the best, especially in turbid waters around the high tide. Casting swimming lures, small jigs (Chartreuse color) with twister tails, soft baits, and Kastmasters and other metal lures will also work. Fishing should get better as we approach the magical 55°F mark! The top-water fishing has been fantastic...go out enjoy some of the best fishing in New England.

WINTER FLOUNDER fishing remains slow but improving in 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.

WHITE PERCH fishing is good to excellent 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. Shrimp and small worms are the key to success.

SCUP OPENS MAY 1 – SUMMER FLOUNDER MAY 4: Looks to be a fantastic opener.

WEAKFISH have also arrived in Long Island Sound! The Race, Plum Gut and the north side of Long Island including Gardiners Bay and the Peconics are early weakfish spots. Look for weakfish in Guilford/New Haven Harbor over to the Milford/Stratford area.

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 can all be accessed on the DEEP website at: www.ct.gov/deep/fishing.

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



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ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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