

**CT DEEP 2018
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 4
5/18/2018**



Striped Bass (*Morone saxatilis*)



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

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - Conditions for trout fishing should be fair as the forecast is for cool temperatures and rain. Most river and stream flows are on a steep decline following the deluge on Tuesday afternoon (*see stream flow graphic on page 5*), there are plenty of stocked trout waiting for anglers.

Reports from anglers indicated the fish were becoming more active and the spring insect activity is increasing by the day- it looks like we will have to wait for another stretch of warm temperatures, which should put spring hatches into a frenzy.

Fly fishing has been best with streamers and nymphs, but the Hendricksons, Blue-Wing Olive, and a variety of Duns are perfect on a sunny afternoon.

Get the latest on our Trout Stocking through

- Daily Facebook Posts ([@CTFISHANDWILDLIFE](#))
- Current Stocking Report (on our [webpage](#))
- [Interactive Trout Stocking Map](#)
- See last year's [stocking numbers](#)

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, which will provide 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.



Thank you to the following for adding to our Fishing Report this Week: **Inland Report - Dick Sears, James Powell, Ralph Ruiz, Jerry Martin, Kenny Ludwig, Rene Boislard, Patrick Sullivan, Jim, Robert Phelan, Steve H., Paul Hyatt, Jim Cannon, Harold Coates, Justin Coleman, Anonymous. Marine Report – Theodore G Frase III, Brian Parkinson.**

On average, these folks fished 1-5 times spending an average of 6-10 hours on the water. Many were wading or shore fishing, most using lures. Most were shore-based.

Notable Catches Reported: Many Rainbow Trout including an 8 pounder Naugatuck River, 19" and 22" from the Farmington River. A giant pike on a brown woolly bugger and 4 weight, 2 pound Tiger Trout, lots of trout, 1.5 pound catfish.

<i>Species</i>	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>
Trout	7	4	2	1	1
Bass	1	5	0	3	1
Pike	3	0	0	1	0
Walleye	0	0	0	0	1
Channel Catfish	0	0	0	0	1
Panfish	1	2	3	1	1
Common Carp	1	0	0	0	0

CTfishandwildlife Facebook Catches of the Week:



A fat cat from the lower Housatonic, big ole 'bow from the Naugatuck, a wild brookie, and happy wife (Gary Tetrault) with a nice Largemouth Bass.

What was HOT! Mepps/Rooster Tail at ¼ oz, stonefly nymph, mop flies, hendrickson's and Blue winged olives, zoom finesse worm, black and blue Z-man chatter bait, live shiners, creek chub striper strike, senko, gold rapala, green and silver 1/8 kastmaster spoon, ned rig, woolly buggers and muddler minnow.

What was NOT! Topwater, crantbaits, swim baits, poppers.

Good or better places to fish included: Lake Lillinonah, East Asptetuck River, Lake Saltonstall, Squantz Pond, West Hill Lake, Congamond Lakes, Pasture Pond, Naugatuck River, Salmon Brook (East Granby), Housatonic River, Blackberry River, Stratton Brook Park

Fair or worse places to fish included: Bashan Lake, Muddy Brook, Still River (Eastford), Mohegan Park Pond.

Some key hatches last week: Hendrickson's and Blue Winged Olives, Green Caddis

Friendly Angler Advice (unedited):

Bass are on beds

bass started to move onto beds and cruising shallows hard to catch

Continued success with heavy nymph rigs on the Housatonic, which is still running pretty high for the wading angler. Be sure to include a green caddis of some kind.

ct. river is warming up, more species of fish are biting

Fished the Thames river from ed Norwich harbor down to Gales Ferry. Fish stopped biting around 9 AM.

For carp always chum---bread balls, dough balls, boiled potatoe chunks, canned corn, the same as the bait you should use.

I'd never been to Lake Saltonstall before, but I fished from one of the rental boats for about 3 hours in the morning and came up with 13-1 for my best five, with several other keepers. The bass were in transition, with some coming on a finesse worm in 1-3 feet of water around reeds and under branches, and others coming on a chatterbait over grass in 5-7 feet. Seems like the prespawn is really moving along now, so the fishing should be pretty good in the coming weeks.

Must have stocked, because I caught over 30 trout again. Also caught 10 bass. Most were under 14". As temperatures increase, the bass fishing gets better. Temperature was now up to 55.

FROM FISHERIES

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS – As mentioned on page 1, conditions should be fair for trout fishing in most areas this weekend. Fishing has improved greatly from April's slow start.

Farmington River - West Branch flows are moderately high but clear, currently 177 CFS at Riverton plus an additional 345 CFS from the Still River. Conditions should be fair to good for the upcoming weekend with cool and wet conditions predicted.

Hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive, Hendrickson, 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 fair. The rain early in the week has boosted flow well above normal and it will take some time to drop, currently 1,610 CFS at Falls Village and 2,560 CFS at Gaylordsville. Morning water temperatures are currently in the low-mid 50's °F.

Hatches/patterns. Typical patterns 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. Nymphing (try Bead Head, Midge Pupa or Copper johns) and streamers (such as White/Yellow Zonkers or Wooly Buggers) are good options.

RIVERS & STREAMS- Stocking update for the week of 5/14-5/18. Note that other stockings can be found in our [current stocking report](#) or by using the [interactive trout stocking map](#).

- **In eastern Connecticut;** Hammonasset River and the TMA, Hockanum River (above and below the TMA), Hop River, Latimer Brook, Jeremy River, Lower Blackledge River, Mount Misery Brook, Myron Kinnie Brook, Pachaug River, Skungamug River, Shunock Brook, Susquetonscut Brook, and Whitford Brook, Willimantic River (above and below the TMA).
- **In western Connecticut;** Bantam River (inlet and outlet), Butternut Brook, Coginchaug River, Farmington River TMA (Goodwin Dam down to West Branch TMA and Lower Collinsville to RT 177), Farmington River (Route 177 to Route 4 Farmington), Hall Meadow Brook, Naugatuck River (East and West Branches).

LAKES & PONDS – With more reasonable air temperatures, the water temperatures are slowly rising and so will fish activity. Some report that the fishing has picked up, especially in the shallows.

Lakes and ponds stocking update for the week of 5/14-5/18:

- **In eastern Connecticut;** Rogers Lake and Wyassup Lake, Millers Pond.
- **In western Connecticut;** East Twin Lake, West Hill Pond and Squantz Pond, Stillwater Pond.

TROUT PARKS: Great Hollow Pond

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing has been picking up and many have seen bass moving to or on their beds. **Tournament angler** no report this week.

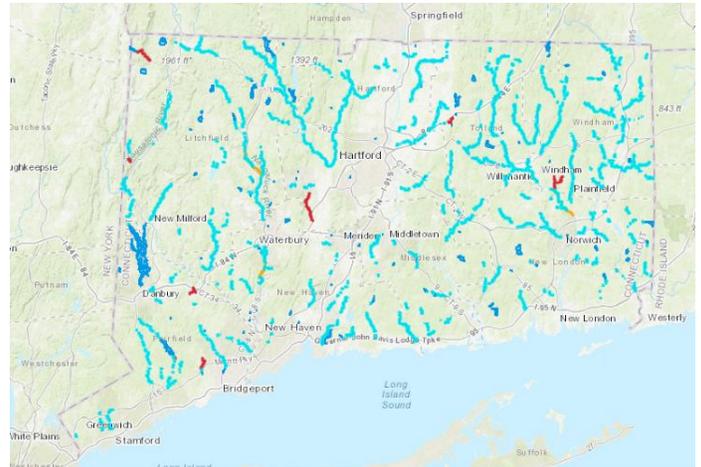
SMALLMOUTH BASS. Smallmouth are being caught at Candlewood Lake. Also some good reports from Lake Zoar and the upper CT River. **Tournament angler** no report this week.

WALLEYE & NORTHERN PIKE. Not many reports coming in as of yet. Those in the know are more than likely doing well.

CHAIN PICKEREL. Good reports from just about everywhere.

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

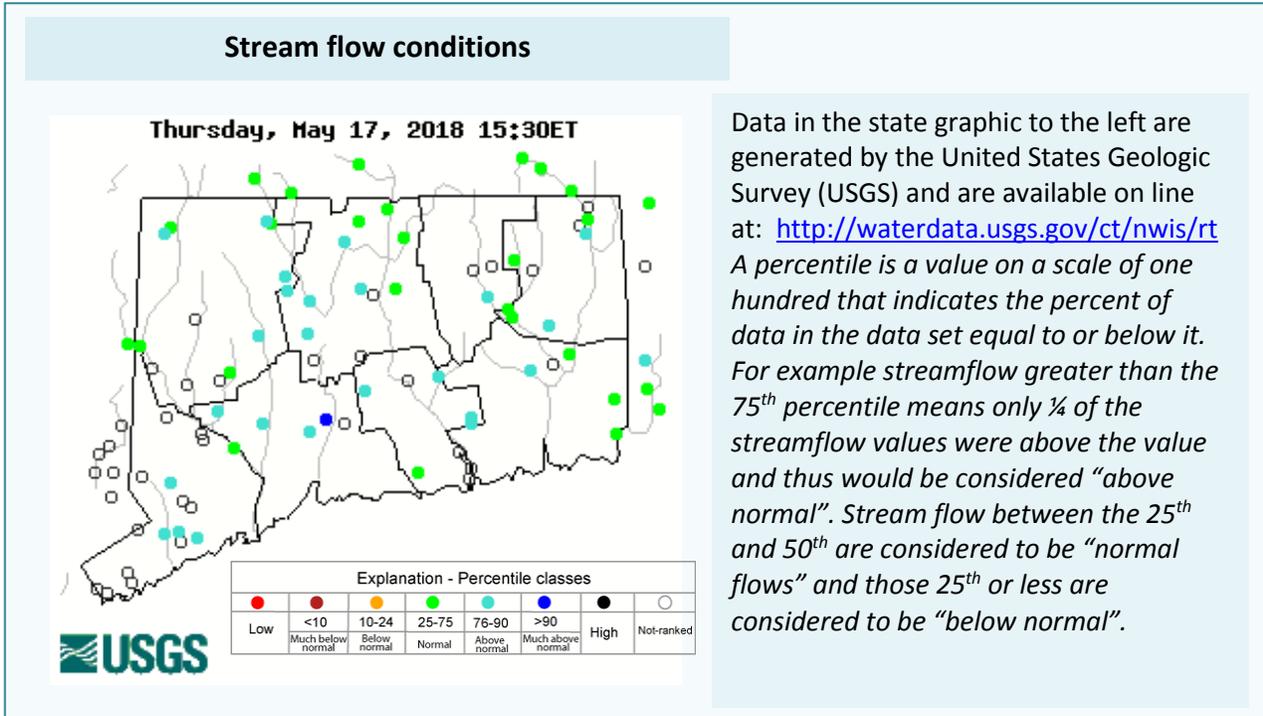
BLACK CRAPPIE are becoming more aggressive hitting small Rapala and small jigs. Look for a “slab” at your favorite fishing hole. Some really nice crappie are reported from Candlewood Lake



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.

CONNECTICUT RIVER. Flows have dropped a ton! Current flow is 17,100 CFS and clear and cool. With the drop in flow has come a drop in the backwaters and coves. There will be a big pulse of water coming down the major tributaries, which will make flow, clarity, and floating debris highly variable. **AMERICAN SHAD** can be found throughout the river with variable action reported. Willow leafs have been working. Some **STRIPED BASS** (schoolie-size and a few bigger fish) are being found throughout the river, but best action is in the lower portions. White Slugo (9 inches) were providing solid topwater action during rough surface conditions near the mouth. **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.



NOTES & NOTICES:

! ATTENTION !

There is extensive storm damage to a number of Connecticut State Parks and Forests throughout the most affected areas of the state.

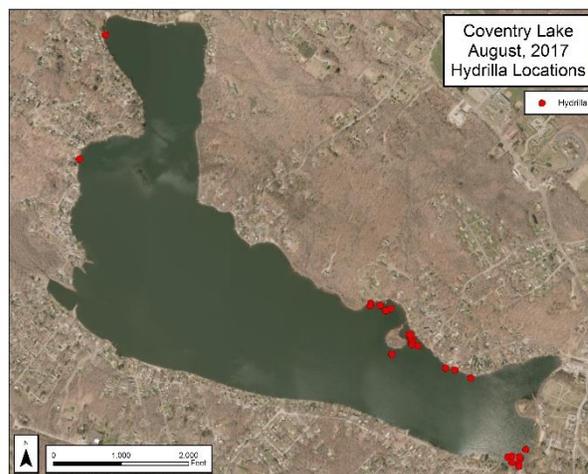
Those Parks will remain closed until an assessment can be made of damage. We strongly urge the public to stay out of these parks and any other area with obvious tree damage until this assessment and hazard mitigation can take place. Additional parks may be added to this list as assessments continue.

Those Parks include Sleeping Giant State Park in Hamden, Chatfield Hollow State Park in Killingworth, Kettletown State Park in Southbury, Southford Falls State Park in Oxford, Squantz Pond State Park in New Fairfield, Putnam Memorial State Park in Redding, Wharton Brook State Park in Wallingford

DRAWDOWN UPDATES. Pachaug Pond remains drawn down approximately 2 feet to facilitate dam repairs. Launching of trailered boats may be difficult.

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 50'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.

STRIPED BASS fishing is improving and the bass are getting larger, much larger, especially during big moon tides. A few have had hitchhikers in the form of sea lice, so you can be sure they are part of the yearly migration - which is good news for those anglers targeting trophy-sized stripers. In the Western Sound you'll want to dunk fresh Atlantic Menhaden (Bunker) in 50' plus water depth. Plugging has been especially good along the Norwalk Islands; specifically Cockenoe Island which has produced keepers this week. They are also favoring Yozuri Darts at night, with many reports of 40-lb fish. Schoolie stripers have been venturing out of the rivers and are being caught with Cotton Cordell Pencil Poppers (1-ounce in bone color), Super Strike Poppers and SP Minnows on the top-water. One can still catch-n-release plenty of juvenile stripers in the rivers from Greenwich to Stonington - enough to make your arm sore. In the rivers...soft plastics in light colors by boat are working best as well as trolling umbrella rigs...and from shore sand worms seem to be the hot ticket. Check out your local bait and tackle shop for bait. Striped bass are being caught from piers along the Connecticut coast, including the new, fabulously designed, Fort Nathan Hale Pier. In fact, at Fort Nathan anglers are not just catching 38" plus stripers, they're also catching keeper scup, in ranges of 13" - 16". Other striper spots include the Pawcatuck River, Mystic River, Thames River, Niantic River, lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier and Dock & Dine), Black Hall River, New Haven Harbor (Nathan Hale Fishing Pier, 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 incoming tide. Casting swimming lures, small jigs (Chartreuse color) with twister tails, soft baits, and Kastmasters and other metal lures will also work.



SCUP (porgy) fishing is very good by Orient Point and the north shore bays. Much better in Gardiners Bay and the Peconics (Little Peconic Bay is very good). The largest Scup we've heard this month was a 19" porgy caught in Peconic Bay, Long Island. In the bay fishers are frequently catching 13" - 17" Scup. If you don't have a fish-finder, just pull into Peconic Bay and look for 20-25 boats all fishing in a close circle. Scup are so hungry this time of year they are eating almost everything but are especially fond of clams and squid. Time to plan a trip on the many party/charter boats in CT. [CT Party Boat Association](#). Scup fishing around the Norwalk Islands has also produced fish as large as 17 1/2 inches and 3-lb. (hubcap size).

Porgy fishing has also been reported at these shore fishing locations: **Fort Nathan Hale Fishing Pier**, 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.

WINTER FLOUNDER are still being caught in sizes up to 3-pounds. Fishing is 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** (Cockenoe) and the channels in Norwalk Harbor.

WHITE PERCH fishing is good in tidal rivers and coves along Connecticut's 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.**

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is good overall and quickly improving. Spearing (silversides) schools have been spotted out in the Sound along with Bunker schools but mostly in the Western Sound. And sand eels have now reached Seaside Park in Bridgeport. So summer flounder (fluke) are being caught along the shoreline from Bluff Point to Fairfield's Penfield Reef. Try Bucktail Jigs tipped with clam or squid. As squid enter Long Island Sound...fishing will only get better. Mid to western LIS anglers reported fluke from 3 to 7 lbs being common. Fluke spots include the typical locations: 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 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 19 inches and the daily creel limit is 4 fish per person.** Time to get the boat, and fishing gear ready for some phenomenal early season fluke fishing. [CT Bait & Tackleshop List](#)

WEAKFISH fishing in the Milford area has been very good. The weakfish have arrived - especially at Charles Island, West Haven Sand Bar and Pennfield Reef in Fairfield. Also a school of weakfish was spotted this week at the mouth of Blackrock Harbor. Small lures like Super Spook Lures or Talking Poppers have been effective. Look for these awesome eating fish in Guilford/New Haven Harbor over to the Milford/Stratford area along with the Peconics (NY) and South of Plum Island on sandy bottom.

BLACK SEA BASS fishing opens May 19. Fishing should be awesome for these "bucketmouths".

BLUEFISH with the new arrival of spearing (silversides), bunker and sand eels, we are hearing our first reports of Bluefish. As you know, Bluefish will devour almost anything. Bluefish are around the Norwalk Islands up to 30" and they are entering Long Island Sound from Block Island Sound as well. Reports are also coming in from Seaside Park and the Milford beaches of meal sized bluefish catches. The Race, Millstone Outflow, Plum Gut and the north side of Long Island including Gardiners Bay and the Peconics are the early season hotspots.

For Current Connecticut Recreational Fishing Regulations: Anglers should consult the 2018 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.

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DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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www.ct.gov/deep