

CT DEEP **2018**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 6
6/1/2018



Smallmouth Bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*)



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INLAND REPORT

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is generally fair to good, have to look everywhere, with some post-spawn bass and some fish still on beds, Reports are from Candlewood Lake, East Twin Lake, Lake Lillinonah, Lake McDonough, Mudge Pond, Pachaug Pond and Quaddick Lake.

Tournament angler Amos Lake (good for a few, tough for most, 4.1 lb lunker), Gardner Lake (slow to fair for most, 3.97 lb and 3.00 lb lunkers), Hopeville Pond (fair to good, 4.19 lb lunker), Long Pond (very tough to catch bass, 2.81 lb lunker), Pachaug Pond (good fishing for most, 4.69 lb lunker, no prevailing patterns, some fish shallow, some deeper, some on beds, lots of aggressive cailcos in the way), Pattagansett Lake (fair, 4.11 lb lunker), Quaddick Lake (good, many full bags with a 5.36 lb lunker), Rogers Lake (half did well and half couldn't find a fish, 4.55 lb and 4.39 lb lunkers), Candlewood Lake (fair to good, 5.14 lb and 4.97 lb lunkers), Lake Lillinonah (fair, 3.87 lb lunker) and Lake Zoar (fair, 3.8 lb lunker).

SMALLMOUTH BASS. Smallmouth are providing some action, with fair to good reports continuing from Candlewood Lake, Lake Lillinonah and Lake McDonough. **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake (fair to good, 3.68 lb and 3.62 lb lunkers), Gardner Lake (a few), Lake Lillinonah (fair to good action, 3.87 lb and 3.49 lb lunkers), Lake Zoar (so-so action).

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS –The weather continues to be fairly good for keeping trout active and healthy (meaning cool). Fish are not temperature stressed. flows have generally dropped below typical early June levels (*see stream flow graphic on page 5*) but there are a number of opportunities for rain in the forecast for next week. Reports of good catches are coming in statewide, including the East Aspetuck River, Naugatuck River TMA, Farmington River TMA and the Housatonic River. Insect hatches are here and there with caddis now the “go to” fly. There are just a few Hendricksons on the Housatonic and Farmington rivers. Late spring patterns like Light Cahills, midges, ants and of course BWO's are working. Nymphing, especially caddis emergers and the usual suspects, Black Ghost, Slim Jim, Copper Johns and Hare's Ears are working.

FREE FISHING LICENSE DAYS

CAST IT FORWARD and take someone fishing on one of our two free fishing license days. These will be on Sunday **June 17, 2018** (Father's Day) and Saturday **August 11, 2018** (NCLI and CARE Saltwater fishing event at Fort Trumbull State Park). **Anyone can obtain a free one-day fishing license to fish each of these days.**

The free 1-day license for June 17, 2018 is available through our mobile friendly online [sportsmen licensing system](#). Free Licenses for the August 11 date will be available starting on July 21, 2018.

Farmington River –The weekend looks good for the Farmington with comfortable flows (316 CFS at Riverton plus an additional 50 CFS from the Still River). Water temperatures are now in the mid to upper 50's. Good reports throughout the river with trout very active and willing to feed.

Hatches/patterns. Fish are rising with the boost in insect activity. Typical go-to flies this time of year include the Black Caddis and Blue Wing Olive. Others include Vitreus [a.k.a. pale evening dun] #14-16, from 5:00 pm to dark, Tan Caddis (#14-16) good all day, Sulfurs, (Invaria #14-16 hatches mid-day and Dorothea #16-18), Light Cahill (#12-18), March Brown nymphs (#10-14, during the day), Gray Fox (#10-14, afternoon), Blue Wing Olives (#18-24, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; green #22-26, evening), Midges (#20-32) and Pale Evening Duns (*Epeorus vitreus* #14-16, afternoon & early evenings). March Brown, Sulphur & Rusty Spinners are falling in the evenings.

Housatonic River – Flows are on the low side for late May/early June and very fishable (currently 509 CFS at Falls Village and 855 CFS at Gaylordsville). With rain in the forecast at times for the next 5-6 days, flows may increase some. 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.

Hatches/patterns. Like the Farmington, Black Caddis (#10-12) March Brown (#10-12), Sulphurs (#14-18, evening), Blue Wing Olive (#16-18, cloudy days, early morning; spinner fall in evening), Cahill (#14, evenings), Adams (#12-16, evening), March Brown (#10-12, afternoon) and Gray Foxes (#14-16). Green caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening) are on the water. Streamers (such as White/Yellow Zonkers or Wooly Buggers) are good options for fishing the current flows.

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS – Decent action was found at Crystal Lake (good action at 20 ft, trolling at 2.3 mph), West Hill Pond (some good night action at 30 ft). Trout also being reported at Chatfield Hollow, Black Rock and Valley Falls.

CATFISH (CHANNEL AND WHITE) are doing very well. Quality fish are available and being caught using chunk bait, live minnows, and even some soft plastics. Check out a Community Fishing Water for your chance to land a 14-20 inch Channel Cat. NOTE: some places have experienced higher than normal post stocking mortality with several dozen dead fish being reported (Mirror Lake, Mohegan Park Pond, Burr Pond, Pickett's Pond and Batterson Park Pond). We believe the mortality is a result of transportation stress.

CHAIN PICKEREL. Still very active and hitting top water along the weed lines in many areas.

COMMON CARP. Good reports from Batterson Park Pond, Candlewood Lake and Lake Zoar.

BLACK CRAPPIE are becoming more aggressive, hitting small Rapala and small jigs with good reports throughout the state. Look for a "slab" at your favorite fishing hole.

CONNECTICUT RIVER Flows are now way below early June levels (7,150 CFS) and water temperatures are moderate for this time of year. **AMERICAN SHAD** are winding down in the lower river, look up river for action. Willow leaves 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. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are being found in the Windsor/Enfield area. **CHANNEL CATFISH/WHITE CATFISH** are providing solid action in the Connecticut River in Kenney Cove, the Haddam Meadows area, and Salmon River Cove. **COMMON CARP** are picking up from Middletown downstream to Salmon River Cove.

INLAND REPORT (Reported by You).

Thank you to the following for adding to our Fishing Report this Week: **Inland Report - Bill Iovanna, Bob Blanchard, Brian L., C. Moorehead, Ed R., Ed Torres, George Kozieradzki, Greg McCormack, Hugh S Fagan, James Swiateck Jr., John, Kenny Ludwig, Kevin M., Mark, Patrick Sullivan, Rene Boislard, Ryan Lemieux, Steve Bonacci, Victor Howell, Wayne G. Barber, Anonymous.**

Marine Report- Tom Danilowicz, Paul Hyatt, Jeff R, David Lafreniere, Bryan Clark.

On average, these folks fished 1-5 times last week spending an average of 5-20 hours on the water. Most were using lures.

Notable Catches Reported: 22 Inch Walleye, 4-6 pound Largemouth Bass, 12 3-4 pound Smallmouth Bass, lots of nice size Rainbows, 4.8 and 5.8 pound Rainbows from Salmon River, 4.5 and 5 pound Browns.

How Did They Rate the Fishing?

<i>Species</i>	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>
Trout	7	3	1	2	2
Bass	2	9	2	3	4
Pike	0	0	0	0	0
Walleye	0	1	0	0	0
Channel Catfish	0	0	0	0	0
Panfish	3	2	0	2	1
Common Carp	0	0	0	0	0

What was HOT! Rooster tail, worms, Yellow Spoon, Gold Spoon, White buzzbait, 3 inch grubs, Egg sucking leech, yellow/black stonefly pattern, pink millipede #10, Green Pumpkin 5 inch Senko Wrom, muddler minnow, wacky rigged worms, dark colored rubber worms at 5 inches.

What was NOT! Top water, night crawlers, rattle traps, spinners, woolly buggers, white wulff.

Good or better places to fish included: Natchaug River, Skungamaug River, Farmington River, Housatonic River, Blackberry River, Shenipsit Lake, Hockanum River, Bashan Lake, Pattagansett Lake, Highland Lake, Pickerel Lake

Fair or worse places to fish included: Salmon River, Eastern CT, Peck Pond, Dooley's Pond, Saugatuck River, Salmon River

Some key hatches last week: Yellow Mayflies, Caddis, Blue Winged Olives, Cahills starting, March Browns, None

Friendly Angler Advice (unedited):

Advise the use of two poles. One with live bait and the other with the lure(s) of your choice.
Bass off the beds after the cold weather. Had to go deeper weedlines.
Brown trout now 20-25 ft down on down riggers. 5 colors on lead core
Ever since Dooley's Pond was drawn down the fishing has been terrible.
Find the deep holes and change bait or lures often.
Housatonic TMA water temps are on the high side. I think we'll be targeting smallmouth earlier than usual this year.
Picked up 4 trout in under an hour at dusk. I didn't have any crawlers so I used 2 different spoons and a gold phoebe. It was interesting that I would catch one quickly, then nothing until I changed lures. Same thing, quick strike then nothing. Changed lures again, same result. Got one then nothing. The phoebe got attention with two nice trout and a chaser. Find the deep pools, they are in there.
Remember, the post-spawn period is much longer than the pre-spawn and spawning periods, so learning how to fish this time of year will ensure you're catching fish even up into the dog days of summer. Just because the bass have quit spawning doesn't mean they've quit being bass, so some of the tactics for spawning bass will still work. One of my favorite spawning baits is also very effective during post spawn. One of my favorites is a Gary Yamoto 5 inch Senko in green pumpkin, one of the most productive bass baits ever made. After the spawn, I'll also use a Carolina rig the Black Zoom Lizard and fish it for post-spawning bass in areas where I expect to find the fish coming off their beds.
Repeatedly getting hit with 12" LMB. Can't seem to find the larger ones.
The shallower lakes and ponds are warming up. The bass seem to be in spawn to post spawn patterns. The deeper lakes are still slow and with the rain last weekend early week fishing may be tough again early. Haven't had much luck at night but again the water temps are not quite there yet.
Unfortunately I spent as much time picking up litter and fishing line from the banks of the river as I did fishing. PLEASE carry out what you carry in and leave the area cleaner than you found it .

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!

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact us at (860) 418-5910 or deep.accommodations@ct.gov if you have a disability and need a communication aid or service; have limited proficiency in English and may need information in another language; or if you wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint.

NOTES & NOTICES:

STORM DAMAGE UPDATE. Due to storm damage, the following Connecticut State Parks remain closed:

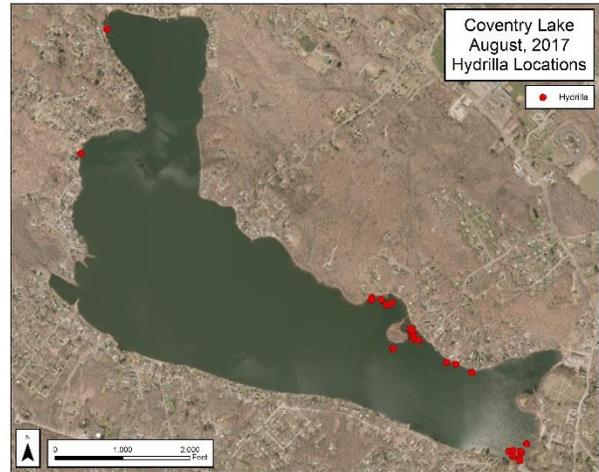
- **Sleeping Giant**, Hamden. This closure includes the Sleeping Giant TMA on the Mill River (Hamden).
- **Wharton Brook**, Wallingford. This closure includes the Wharton Brook Trout Park.

Note that both Squantz Pond State Park and the Squantz Cove boat launch are open to full use.

DRAWDOWN UPDATES. Temporary dam repairs have been completed at **Pachaug Pond** and the lake continues to refill.

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.

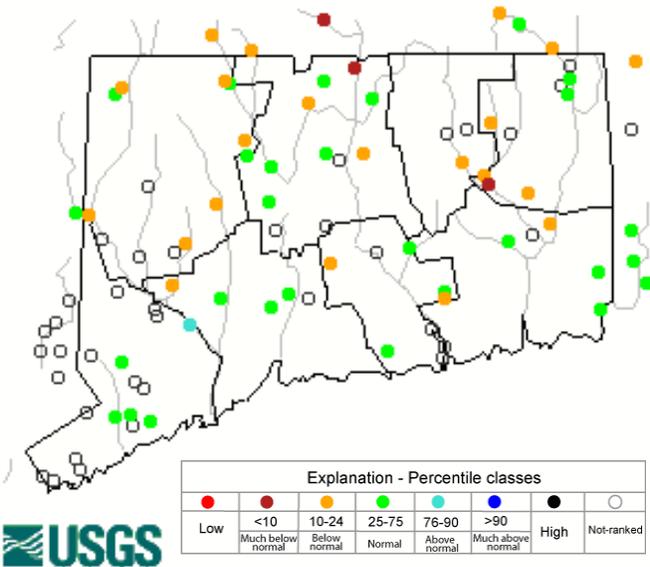
COVENTRY LAKE (invasive species alert). Hydrilla, a very highly invasive aquatic plant, has been found growing in Coventry Lake. All lake users should take extra care to check and clean their boats (including canoes, kayaks and rowing sculls), trailers, and fishing equipment before leaving the boat launch, or leaving the lakeshore.



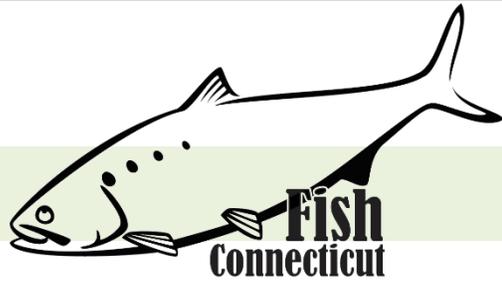
Coventry Lake (Wangumbaug Lake) boaters should avoid the areas noted with red dots to avoid fragmenting and spreading hydrilla.

STREAM FLOW CONDITIONS

Friday, June 01, 2018 14:30ET



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”.



MARINE FISHING REPORT

Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are around 60 °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 or All Waters Sport Fishing License to fish in the Marine District.

FROM THE ANGLERS: Bucktail on bottom with big gulp – chartreuse and a teaser rig with squid and speering, sandworms, and Silver Willow leaf produced fish. Not much action with squid strips or pencil poppers from shore.

Notable catches were a few keeper Striped Bass and many short Fluke (hoping for bigones soon), and a 14" White Perch.

STRIPED BASS fishing is good. Striped Bass are at The **Race** this week as well as **Cherry Harbor** and the **Connecticut River**. Like the CT River the Housatonic is still holding a large number of Schoolie Stripers with some larger Bass in the mix. From shore Sand Worms are working best at **Enhanced Opportunity Shore Locations like Fort Nathan Hale Pier in West Haven, Seaside Park, Blackrock Harbor and most beaches and piers from New Haven to Greenwich**. Bass have been moving out of the rivers and following the shoreline in shallow water. They are also hitting Cotton Cordell's, soft plastic swimming lures, mojo rigs with big lead heads and Shad bodies as well as Bunker chunks.

Other 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. Check out your local bait and tackle shop for bait.

Please use circle hooks when fishing with bait to prevent gut hooking and practice catch & release.

SCUP (porgy) action is hot in Little Peconic Bay and Cherry Harbor with the average size porgy measuring 12". A number of Anglers are catching hubcaps from 17" - 19," and they are reaching their state regulation limit of 30 in a short amount of time. Clams strips are working best on a high-low rig, but we've found the most productive method this month is to keep the bait 1 or 2 feet off the bottom of the water column aka bay floor. Scup (porgys) are also starting to arrive in New London County although reports are infrequent. Your best bet is dunking clams at **Fort Trumbull State Park Pier**. But you'll have to have some patience until the water warms

up, so expect to only catch a handful over a couple hours. **Avery Point** Fishers have had better luck catching Scup. They are also dunking Clam strips on high-low rigs. However, Scup have arrived in big numbers in the Western Sound from New Haven to Greenwich. Specifically locations holding Scup; the brand new Fort Nathan Hale Pier in West Haven, which is so productive that Anglers are reaching their limit of 30 in just a few hours. Other successful Western spots this week include; Milford's Gulf Beach boulders and Walnut Beach, Seaside Park in Bridgeport and Pleasure Beach Family Pier, Silver Sands Beach in Milford (while you're there check out the amazing upgrades Governor Malloy has begun - it's going to be a stunningly beautiful park), Charles Island, the Wall in the Lordship section of Stratford, Long Beach and Short Beach also in Stratford, Seaside Park Fishers are also reeling them in from the rocks and especially from Fayerweather Island at Seaside Parks Western end, as well as Saint Mary's by the Sea in the Blackrock section of Bridgeport, Fairfield's South Benson Pier and the adjoining Ash Creek, Pennfield Lighthouse in Fairfield and Sherwood Island State Park (fish from the large boulders on the Western side), Compo Beach's jetties, Calf Pasture Beach rocks and pier, Ballast Reef and Greens Ledge Lighthouse off the Rowayton section of Norwalk, Cove Beach rocks and Cummings Beach Pier in Stamford, Todd's Point in Greenwich and Captains Island in Greenwich. Fret not Eastern CT Fishers - Scup are headed your way in good numbers.

Time to plan a trip on a party/charter boat 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, Calf Pasture beach Pier, **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. Scup are being caught on high-low rigs. Although they have been preferring clams this month, try to offer them some squid as well. Porgy fishing has also been reported at this shore fishing location: **Fort Nathan Hale Fishing Pier**,

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is good overall. The bite is getting better and doormat Fluke are being caught in Peconic Bay. Try dunking a high-low rig tipped with squid and clams, which provides them a broader menu to choose from. More Searobins are being kept this year than ever and anglers are sharing recipes while fishing. But the belly of a Searobin is like Prime Rib to a Summer Flounder (Fluke), so keep that in mind. Fluke are also fond of Silversides. If you're not a bait lover...bucktails work well on Fluke as well as Berkeley Gulps. Summer Flounder are being caught from the Housatonic to the West Haven Sand Bar mostly, and fishing at first light is very effective.

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 4 fish per person.** Time to get the boat, and fishing gear ready for some phenomenal early season fluke fishing. [CT Bait & Tackle Shop 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. **Minimum size is 15 inches and the daily creel limit is 5 fish per person.**

BLUEFISH are mixed in with Striped Bass and the majority of the fish have been about 20". The **Bridgeport Discharge, Western Long Island Sound Weather Buoy, Little Peconic Bay and Seaside Park** have been hot spots this week along with **Norwalk Harbor**. "Blues" will eat anything that smells like fish and almost any lure will work. However, they are not hitting surface plugs hard just yet so dunk an Atlantic Menhaden (Bunker chunk) down along the bottom.

WEAKFISH fishing has slowed down slightly but using any lure that looks like a Shrimp is working well. But you want to use a light lure so you'll have to come up with a rig heavy enough to cast. The past two-years there's been an increase in Weakfish but those that target Weakfish do not like to call in with reports. Weakfish fishers are a special breed that are tight lipped about their fishing methods and especially successful locations. The last set of good tides is coming to an end for now and some weakfish are starting to move out, but it's important to fish with the right moon, tide and light. Another productive location has been **Stratford's Long Beach** as well as **Charles Island, the Norwalk Islands and Milford Beaches**.

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. Please be careful when handling them...be mindful of their spines located on top of their head and gill cover. They are also very good to eat.

HICKORY SHAD fishing is good 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 and American shad. 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.

Need a fishing spot you've never been to? Want to know details about the site like coordinates? Are there nearby restaurants, is there an adequate amount of parking spaces and more? Just visit the site below, click guest and then on the next screen select the state of Connecticut;

<https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/msd/html/siteRegister.jsp>

IMPORTANT NOTE to ANGLERS: there are many reports of **leaping sturgeon** in the lower CT River (Essex to the Old Saybrook). A common spring behavior for these **endangered fish species (Atlantic and shortnose)** as they attempt to gulp air for their primitive swim bladder. Anglers are incidentally snagging or catching these sturgeon while bottom fishing. Please release all sturgeon without avoidable harm as their populations are slowly recovering and are at VERY low levels. They are a protected species. Thank you.

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.

PLEASE CALL 1.800.842.4357 TO REPORT FISHING VIOLATIONS.

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



**Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

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www.ct.gov/deep