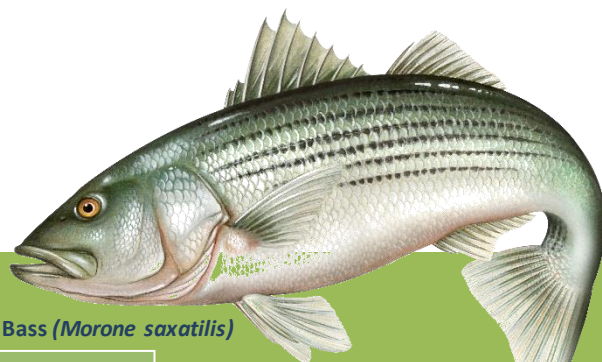


# CT DEEP 2018 FISHING REPORT NUMBER 11 7/5/2018



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](https://www.facebook.com/CTFishandWildlife).

Striped Bass (*Morone saxatilis*)



**SHARE THE EXPERIENCE**  
Take someone fishing

## INLAND REPORT

*Providers of some of the information below included **Bob's Place** (Dayville), **Candlewood Lake Bait & Tackle**, **Captain Morgan's Bait & Tackle**, **JT's Fly shop**, **Yankee Outdoors** and **CTFisherman.com**, and a number of bass fishing clubs & organizations.*

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** Fishing has been slow to fair daytime and much better early mornings, nights and evenings in many areas. Places to try include Black Pond (Meriden), Candlewood Lake, East Twin Lake, Lake Wononskopomuc, Pachaug Pond, Ball Pond, Highland Lake, Quaddick Lake and Mudge Pond. Good reports from a number of eastern CT lakes and ponds including Amos Lake, Avery Pond, Gardner Lake, Glasgo Pond, Lake of Isles, Messerschmidt Pond, Pachaug Pond, Lake Quonnipaug and Lake Saltonstall, but little action was reported from Mashapaug Lake, Pattagansett Lake and Powers Lake. In the west Candlewood Lake bass are in the weeds (dusk through dawn is the time to fish, try black spinner baits and Jig & Pigs at night) and anglers are also finding bass at Lake Kenosia.

**Tournament angler** reports are from Pachaug Pond (fair to good for most, with a **6.13 lb lunker**), Highland Lake (fair, 3.06 lb lunker) and the CT river (very tough for largemouth for a club launching from Riverside Park).

**SMALLMOUTH BASS.** Lake and pond smallmouth action is generally slow, but some fish are being caught. At Candlewood Lake fish are still shallow, and anglers targeting the humps have been disappointed while those looking shallow have found more action. Some fish are also being found at Lake Lillinonah and Highland Lake. The heat wave has warmed up smallie action on the Housatonic River and there's good action reported from both the Quinebaug and Shetucket rivers. **Tournament angler** reports are from the CT River (some smallie action in the Hartford to Windsor area, 2.38 lb lunker), Highland Lake (tough) and Pachaug Pond (the usual "a few fish in the bag").

### Hartford Has It



**Sergio Rodriguez** with a 30+ inch Striped Bass caught in the Connecticut River in Hartford. In addition to this great fish, the CT River in Hartford can produce memorable catches of Pike, Channel Catfish, White Catfish, Common Carp, Largemouth Bass, Calico Bass, and American Eel.

**TROUT - RIVERS & STREAMS** – Conditions for trout fishing are fair. Water levels have improved greatly and are currently around typical early July levels in most places (see stream flow graphic on page 6) but with the heat wave, water temperatures are getting to be (if not already) too warm in most waters. **NOTE key thermal refuges are posted to protect the fish through our hot summer water temperatures. Please do not disturb the fish from these areas it could me life or death.**

Very good reports from the Farmington River (West Branch and mainstem) – especially in faster riffles, the Salmon River still has some great fish, and the action was good on the Housatonic River. Other areas, such as the Hammonasset River and Shetucket River have slowed.

**Farmington River – The upper section of the Farmington River TMA from Hogback Dam (Goodwin Dam) to the old bridge abutments (upper boundary for the year-round catch-and-release area) was stocked with 1,800 Brown Trout (12+ inch fish) on July 3.** The weekend looks great for the Farmington with flows currently 255 CFS at Riverton plus 24 CFS from the Still River. Water temperatures range from i the upper 50's °F to the mid-60's °F as you move further downstream.

**Rock Snot is “blooming”.** *Cymbella janischii* is a close relative of *Didymo* and has been introduced to the West Branch Farmington River (first noticed in 2011). *C. janischii* is native to the Pacific Northwest and not naturally found on the Eastern seaboard.

Currently this type of “Rock Snot” is very abundant and should continue to grow through July. The primary area of the river is from New Hartford upstream to Riverton. Note: *Didymo* is still present primarily in the West Branch above the Still River in Riverton. To help prevent the spread to other rivers and streams, all anglers should take extra

care to clean and dry waders that have been in contact with rock snot. We recommend having a pair just for use only in the Farmington River.

**Hatches/patterns.** With the prolonged heat and humidity ants are the word – try black, cinnamon and flying ant patterns (especially in afternoons). Others for this time of year include include *Isonychia* (#10-12), *Vitreus* (#16-18, from 5:00 pm to dark, Riverton area), *Tan Caddis* (#16-18, good all day), *Sulfurs*, (*Invaria* #16-18, hatches mid-day and *Dorothea* #16-18) *Light Cahill* (#10-14), *March Brown* nymphs (#10-12), *Gray Fox* (#14, afternoon), *Blue Wing Olives* (#18-24, mid-late afternoon), *Caddis* (tan #14-18, all day; green #22-26, evening), *Midges* (#20-32), *Blue Quill* (#16-18) and *Pale Evening Duns* (*Epeorus vitreus* #16-18, afternoon and early evenings).

**Housatonic River** – Flows continue the steady drop and are currently at typical levels for the first week of July. They are 371 CFS at Falls Village but only 557 CFS at Gaylordsville. Morning water temperatures are currently in the low 60's °F. Smallmouth and Fallfish are great options when trout are not willing to bite. Both types of

**Thermal Refuges are Critical to Keep Trout Cool**

**NO  
FISHING**

WITHIN 100 FEET OF THIS SIGN

JUNE 15- SEPTEMBER 15

See Connecticut Angler's Guide for more information.



Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Natural Resources - Fisheries Division  
www.ct.gov/deep/fishing

To Report Fishing Violations  
Call: 1-800-642-4357

**Anglers are reminded that the thermal refuge areas on the Housatonic, Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers are now closed to fishing (as of June 15). These areas will reopen on September 15. There is no fishing within 100 feet of signs indicating such closure at or near the mouths of tributaries to these rivers.**

fish are plentiful in the river and super fun on light gear. The other hot species in the Housatonic (especially above the Falls), Pike and Common Carp – are very active and are patrolling the shallows. Very much worth the time and effort.

**Hatches/patterns.** Just about all patterns working – with Alder Flies (Actually a type of Caddisfly) are the go to fly with good all along the river, Sulphurs (#14-18, evening), Blue Wing Olive (#16-18, cloudy days, early morning; spinner fall in evening), Isonychia (#10-12 late afternoon & evening, just starting), Light Cahill (#12-14, evenings), Adams (#12-16, evening), March Brown (#10-12, afternoon) and Gray Foxes (#14-16). Black Caddis, and Green caddis (#16-18, early morning & evening). Streamers (such as White/Yellow Zonkers or Wooly Buggers) are good options when the fish are not taking from the surface.

**TROUT-LAKES & PONDS** – Some good catches of “football browns” out of Squantz Pond last week. Places to try this week include East Twin Lake, Saugatuck Reservoir, West Branch Reservoir, Crystal Lake, Highland Lake and Mount Tom Pond. Anglers are finding some trout at Ball Pond. West Hill pond easreported as slow last week, and a number of the trout lakes in eastern CT were also slow. Fish will be deeper now, seek them out below the thermocline.

**CATFISH (CHANNEL AND WHITE).** Fair to good fishing reported from a number of waters. The more productive areas including the CT River in the evening, Stillwater Pond, Freshwater Pond, Mohegan Park Pond and Lake Wintergreen. “Stinky Cheese” is a good offering.

**CHAIN PICKEREL.** Still active in many of the coves and weedlines of our ponds.

**COMMON CARP.** Good action in all locations. Lake Zoar, the upper Housatonic River, Batterson Park Pond, Aspinook Pond and West Thompson Reservoir are good carp waters.

**WALLEYE.** Fishing has been generally so-so, but several boats have managed to land limits at Squantz Pond (try late evening with alewives). Nighttime is the right time at Mount Tom Pond and Coventry Lake. Mashapaug Lake has been slow.

**NORTHERN PIKE.** Some nice fish reported from Hopeville Pond and Ashland Lake. Some action also at Mansfield Hollow Lake and Lake Lillinonah. Some catches also reported from Mansfield Hollow Lake, Lake Lillinonah, the Housatonic River in Sharon (above Falls) and in Kent (above Bulls Bridge) and the Connecticut River.

**PANFISH.** Perfect time of year to go to your favorite pond and load up on bluegill and perch. While you are at it, bring the family. Panfish are the gateway to all other species. In the east Calico Bass are still providing some action at Long Pond, Avery Pond and Pachaug Pond

**CONNECTICUT RIVER** Flows are now at normal levels (8,440 CFS) and getting your boat around should be better. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** are providing action in the coves from just below Hartford to Haddam.

**SMALLMOUTH BASS** continue to keep anglers interested in the Windsor-Enfield area. **CHANNEL CATFISH/WHITE CATFISH** are picking up and providing some 4-6 pound fish throughout the Connecticut River from below Hartford to Haddam. **COMMON CARP** are still providing some good action from Middletown downstream to Salmon River Cove. **STRIPED BASS** some still around with the 30” fish caught in Hartford last week. **BOWFIN** (not snakeheads) catches are consistent in the murky backwaters.

#### 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](http://www.ct.gov/deep/invasivespecies) or the Aquatic Invasive species section of the 2018 CT angler’s Guide( [www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide](http://www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide)).



## INLAND REPORT (Reported by You).

Thank you to the following for adding to our Fishing Report this Week. **INLAND REPORT:** Rene Boislard, Mark Fiorentino, Steven Rozanski, Dave Bozzuto, Ray Brousseau, Aedan MacDonald, Jim Cannon, Victor Howell, Anonymous

**MARINE REPORT:** Tom Danilowicz, Erik Granfors, Don P. Frank Milano, Anonymous

**Notable Catches Reported:** Good numbers of 3+ pound largemouth bass, decent sizes trout, many trophy (9+ inch) sunfish, 20 to 22 inch Walleye.

### 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	4	1	0	0	0
Bass	0	4	0	0	0
Pike	0	0	0	0	0
Walleye	1	0	0	0	0
Channel Catfish	0	0	0	0	0
Panfish	3	1	0	0	0
Common Carp	0	0	0	0	0

**What was HOT!** Subsurface lures, Senko Worms, Michigan stinger (green), Sulfurs size 18

**What was NOT!** Crankbaits, spinners, elk hair caddis.

**Good or better places to fish included:** Moodus Reservoir, Congamond Lakes, Highland Lake, Farmington River TMA, Sawmill Pond, Housatonic River, Twin Lakes, Fall Mountain Pond.

**Fair or worse places to fish included:** N/A

**Some key hatches last week:** Sulphurs, Blue Wing Olive, March Brown, Caddis

### Friendly Angler Advice (unedited):

The water is getting extremely warm ( 80 degrees). Fish are beginning to be lethargic and stay buried in heavy cover. Heavy jigs and punching is required. Need heavy tackle to get them out.
LMB in 6-10 feet of water at Congamond.
I fished Sunday evening 7-1. Sporadic rises from when i first got there at around 6pm until about 8:30, then the activity picked up.. Left at 9:15 in the dark and the hatch had slowed, but still going. The message is don't leave early.
Fish along Lilly pads with a 12" leader, a small bobber, a night crawler, and a small hook. Effective for bass and sunfish. Many keeping size bass have been coming out around 4:00- 6:00 and hang out in the shallows, generally around weeds.

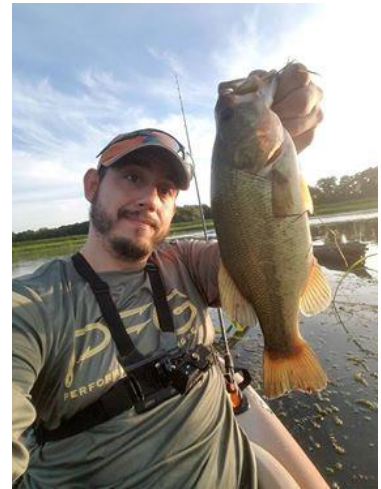


## TROPHY FISH AWARD PROGRAM:

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](#) (or print page 12 of the Angler's Guide) and submit the required photo(s) and form to us. Good luck!

## FACEBOOK FISH OF THE WEEK:



**Angler's Guide Cover Contest** We are fishing for your great Angler's Guide cover shot. If you have a high-resolution picture that represents fishing in Connecticut, email your entry to [deep.inland.fisheries@ct.gov](mailto:deep.inland.fisheries@ct.gov) ATTN: cover shot. All details about the contest, including the entry form are [online](#).

## NOTES & NOTICES:

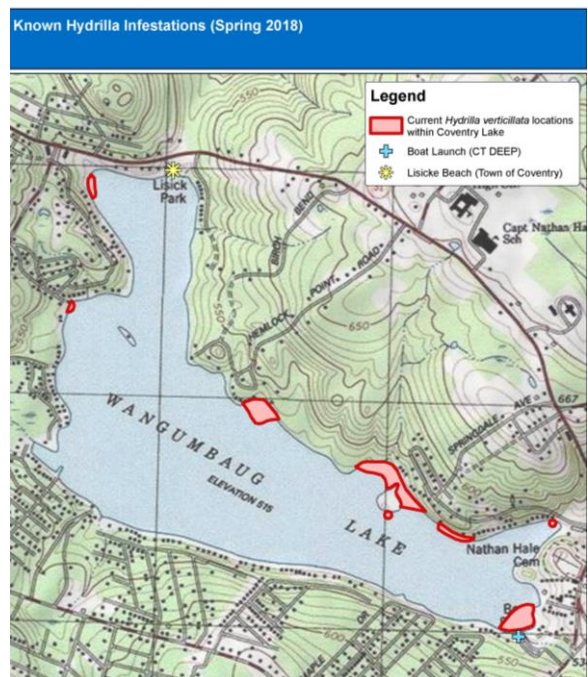
**STORM DAMAGE UPDATE.** Due to storm damage, the following Connecticut State Parks remain closed:

- **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.

**CENTER SPRING POND (Manchester - dredging).** A dredging project is ongoing at Center Spring Pond. Hydraulic dredging will be used so there'll be no drawdown but access to a portion of the park may be limited.

**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.

*Known locations of hydrilla at Coventry Lake (Wangumbaug Lake). Boaters should avoid these areas noted with red to avoid fragmenting and spreading hydrilla.*



**CONNECTICUT RIVER (invasive species alert).** In 2016 hydrilla was found in the main stem Connecticut River in Glastonbury (near Glastonbury's Riverfront Park & Boathouse). **Last year hydrilla was 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.

**WEST BRANCH FARMINGTON RIVER (invasive species alert).** *Cymbella janischii* is a close relative of *Didymo* and has been introduced to the West Branch Farmington River (first noticed in 2011). *C. janischii* is native to the Pacific Northwest and not naturally found on the Eastern seaboard. Currently this type of "Rock Snot" is very abundant and should continue to grow through July. The primary area of the river is from New Hartford upstream to Riverton. Note: *Didymo* is still present primarily in the West Branch above the Still River in Riverton. To help prevent the spread to other rivers and streams, all anglers should take extra care to clean and dry waders that have been in contact with rock snot. We recommend having a pair just for use only in the Farmington River.

#### REMINDER TO ANGLERS-

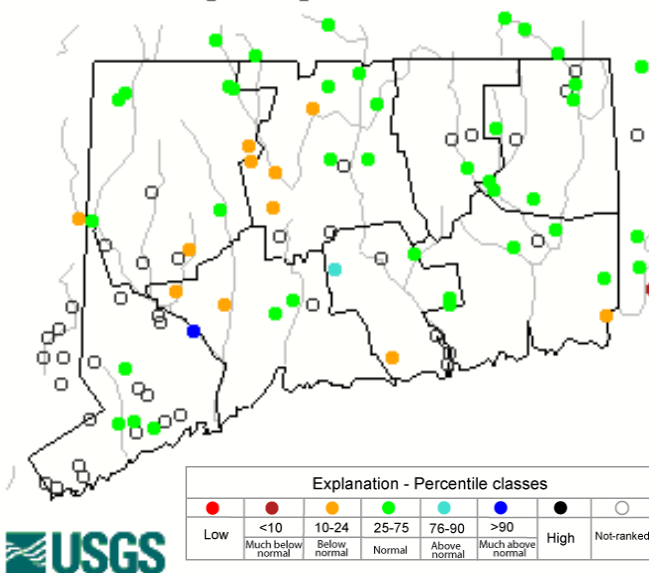
**FISHING IN OR CASTING INTO PERMITTED SWIM AREAS IS PROHIBITED.**

State regulations prohibit fishing in or into a swim area that has been permitted by DEEP. Additionally, vessels cannot be operated within a permitted swim area, and there's a 100 foot "no-wake" zone around the perimeter. Swim areas that have been permitted by DEEP will be marked by white buoys with orange markings, and there should be a permit number posted on the buoys. They may or may not have small orange barrier floats to further demarcate the area. Should questions arise concerning the validity of the swim area (*no permit numbers or the area appears to have been changed/enlarged or keeps moving*), please contact DEEP's Boating Division at 860-434-8638.



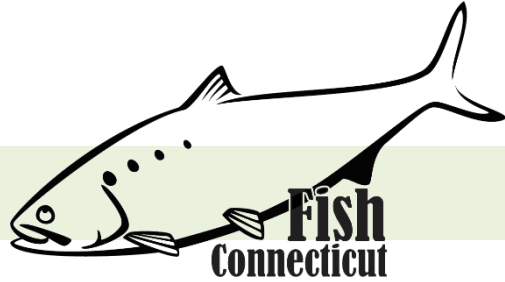
#### STREAM FLOW CONDITIONS

Thursday, July 05, 2018 18:30ET



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 75<sup>th</sup> percentile means only ¼ of the streamflow values were above the value and thus would be considered "above normal". Stream flow between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> are considered to be "normal flows" and those 25<sup>th</sup> or less are considered to be "below normal".

## MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the upper 60's °F to 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://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

[http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat\\_data/?nothumbs=1](http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1)  
<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.

**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.

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**From the Anglers: Tom Danilowicz, Erik Granfors, Don P. Frank Milano, Anonymous.**

- Mixed reviews this week with some folks not finding the fish (saying the fishing has slowed considerably) and others doing quite well, including a pool winning 24-inch fluke on the Hellcat. Some notable catches were a 47" Dogfish, lots of short fluke, 3 Striped Bass in the 25-30 pound range and lots of Sea Bass (mostly small but one 10 pounder).
  - Things that were working included traditional natural baits, bucktails tipped with "gulp", fresh bunker heads, jigs, and squid skirt and strip.
- 

**STRIPED BASS** fishing remains good coming off the full moon. Striped bass fishing is on the east side is rock solid at **The Race and Plum Gut** in 40' – 60' of water. The largest bass this week have been reeled in using Buck tails as well as live-lining Atlantic menhaden (bunker) and American eels. Chumming with menhaden strips is expediting the catch. The great majority of big hits has been happening at night and early dawn. On the west side **Middleground, Charles Island, Stratford Shoals, Norwalk Islands, the North side of 28-C, 11-B, off Todd's Point, Captain's Island and off Rye, New York's Playland** has been fantastic. Like the east side, the west side night bite has been most successful for CT Trophy Fish Award sized bass. From Greenwich to Stonington there are schoolies, and those juveniles are still slamming soft plastic lures in chartreuse, pink, clear and light gray. But you don't need a boat to catch a trophy Striper, as many of the **CT Enhanced Shore Opportunity** sites are creating big smiles and tired arms. Specifically, **Calf Pasture Beach Pier and sandbar, Fayerweather Island and Seaside Park, Bond's Dock, Silver Sands Beach, Gulf Beach Pier and Gulf Beach jetty, New Haven's Fort Nathan Hale Pier and Sandy Point (West Haven Sandbar)** have been fantastic. Not to be missed; Avery Point, Fort Trumbull State Pier, CT DEEP Marine Fisheries pier, the old Dock & Dine and Branford Point have been



terrific. Dawn and dusk is prime time for large stripers on the reefs, rip areas and lower coastal tidal rivers. Live lining eels, bunker or hickory shad has been the ticket. Qualify for the [CT Trophy Fish Award Program](#). Please use circle hooks when fishing with bait (prevent gut hooking) and practice catch & release.

**BLACK SEA BASS** fishing is on fire throughout Long Island Sound. **Middleground, #23 and #24 in New York on the west side in 60' – 100' of water, Six-Mile Reef, Stratford Shoals Green can "C," and Norwalk Islands** are fulfilling anglers daily limit (5) in short time. Clams and squid strips tipped on a high-low rig are a necessity to catch black sea bass. Sea bass are often schooling with Scup, so if you catch one of the species, you'll likely catch the other. Fishing over any deep water structure (gnarly bottom preferred) in 30 to 110 ft around slack tide will produce some trophy-sized "humpbacks". Fish shallower and you will catch some keeper-sized sea bass along with fluke, sea robins and smooth dogfish (aka sand sharks). It's important to continue to move from structure to structure to find these beautiful and awesome eating fish. Remember, **CT black sea bass regulations are as follows...15 inch min. length, 5 fish daily limit from May 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>**. Berkely Gulp (swimming mullet), on a jig along with squid with a spinner works great for these "Bucketmouths".

**SCUP** (porgy) fishing is even hotter than black sea bass this week, with limits (30) being reached rapidly. Scup are gobbling up sand worms, clams and squid on a high-low rig are your winning baits. Scup are attracted to any rock pile or wreck but the hubcap sized CT Trophy Award Program sized fish are waiting for you in deeper waters. CT's Enhanced Opportunity Shore Fishing sites are housing A LOT of scup. Calf Pasture Beach Pier, Saint Mary's by the Sea, Pleasure Beach Family Pier, the Stratford Wall, Silver Sands State Park, Short Beach and Fort Nathan Hale's brand new pier have proven quite rewarding. Also, Fort Trumbull State Park, Avery Point, Branford Point, Walnut Beach, and West Haven Beach piers have been providing fishers with a beautiful dinner this week. By boat Middleground, Six-Mile Reef and Greens Ledge Lighthouse, as well as Rowayton's Ballast Reef are hot. Back to shore, Greenwich Town Pier (pier is closed but you can catch your limit via parking lot), Cove Island and Cummings Beach Pier are excellent spots this week. Locate your favorite [Enhanced Shore Fishing Opportunities](#) for these hard fighting and 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. Time to plan a trip on a party/charter boat in CT. [CT Party Boat Association](#).

**SUMMER FLOUNDER** (fluke) fishing is fair in Long Island Sound. Better around Block Island Sound and off Montauk. Not everyone is hitting their daily limit, but there are some real doormats weighing in this Independence Day week. Many are over 24" and we had a 11.6 pounder weighed in this week in Waterford – AND, this big doormat was caught in shallow water. At the Middleground there are a lot of smaller brethren mixed in with some arm benders. The 13.2 pound, 32 inch fluke was also landed with a bucktail in the central sound. **Jennings Beach, Cockonoe Island, Six-Mile Reef and Charles Island** are good bets this week to haul in keeper 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 some nice fluke. **Minimum size is 19 inches and the daily creel limit is 4 fish per person.** [CT Bait & Tackle Shop List](#)

**BLUEFISH** fishing is very good. Bluefish (Blues) are sporadic and there are more on the western side of Long Island Sound than the east side. Look for the birds, then look for the menhaden school, then cast just outside the school and you may catch an "Alligator-sized" Bluefish. Juvenile bluefish, also known as Harbor Blues and Taylor Blues have been migrating north and are getting hooked at shore spots from **Todd's Point in Greenwich to Sandy Point Audubon Beach**. Most are getting hooked with 1/2oz. to 1oz. Castmasters, on HOTTER DAYS at dawn. My recommendation is to hook up with a [Party or Charter Boat](#) and enjoy some of the best FISHING you will ever experience. Harbor Blues (15 - 24 inches) are also very common in lower estuaries. Snappers (juvenile bluefish) have not arrived yet!



**BLACKFISH (TAUTOG)** fishing season is open in Connecticut waters. **The daily creel limit is 2 fish per person and the minimum size is 16 inches.** Tautog love eating crabs...try green, Asian and hermit crabs for bait. Look for tautog in shallow water as they begin spawning over shellfish beds. Other prime locations include: pilings with mussel beds and rock (reef) piles (5 to 30 ft).

**WEAKFISH** fishing is good with 20-34 inch size fish being caught in the east and central sound. Western sound catches are improving as the population rebounds from low abundance. Many are caught while anglers bottom fish for fluke. Good fishing in Niantic, New Haven Harbor by the breakwaters over to Woodmont/Milford Point and along Stratford shoals to Darien. One of the best eating saltwater fish you will ever catch. Weakfish is fairly good from shore at Eatons Neck, NY and at the Rye, NY Playland Pier. They've also been reeled in at West Havens Sandy Point and Sandy Point Audubon Society.

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

**HICKORY SHAD** fishing is ok in the **Black Hall River, Four Mile, Lieutenant and Branford River, lower Connecticut River by the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier and in Clinton Harbor.** These incredible hard fighting fish are on the move...moving up and down river systems. Connecticut Tarpon (Hickory shad) can be found mixed in with schoolie striped bass and harbor bluefish. Flood or the beginning of the ebb tide is typically the best time and lure choices are a willow leaf (silver or copper), kastmaster (single hook), small plastic jigs (white, red or chartreuse), and or shad darts in various colors. You will be impressed with these "high flyers". It's great shore fishing and you get to meet a lot of anglers and trade fishing stories ("secrets").

**WHITE PERCH** fishing remains good. Spend some time relaxing in any coastal estuary with a little piece of bait (shrimp/sandworm), enjoying some jumbo white perch. Wow, they are good eating. Perch are found in estuaries, tidal rivers and coves along the Connecticut shoreline. Productive spots include the Pawcatuck River (Stanton Weir Pit/Point), Mystic River, upper Thames River and Niantic River, lower Connecticut River (**DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier**), Black Hall River, Lieutenant River, North/South Cove and Hamburg Cove. Grass shrimp and or a small piece of sandworm fished on the bottom are the keys to success.

**MACKERAL** the Mack Attack is on the east side of the sound, half way between Long Island and the Connecticut side. Sabiki Rigs have been excellent attracters.

**BLUE CRAB** are in the molting phase (sally crab) and becoming more active in the tidal creeks and rivers as the water warms up. **There appears to be a lot of smaller crabs out there...a good sign for a great year of crabbing.** With a little time...there should be beaucoup blue crabs of legal size to catch. Please release sub-legal crabs with care. Also, please remember it's mating season for the crabs and release all egg-bearing females (sooks or lemon bellies). There are some large "jimmies" (male crabs) being captured (8.0 inches spike to spike) along with some impressive sooks. **Remember, all egg bearing females must be released without avoidable injury, and the minimum carapace length is 5 inches for a hard shell crab.** Please contact your local bait and tackle shop for most updated information (local hot spots), legal crab traps and bait to use for your fun-filled crabbing. 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 net) and a small circular crab trap is the preferred method to capture these tasty crabs.** [Blue Crab Fact Sheet](#)

**NOTABLE CATCHES –**

<i>Species</i>	<i>Length (in.)</i>	<i>Weight (lbs)</i>	<i>Angler</i>
Spiny Dogfish	57 ¾"	22 lbs 11 oz.	Jennifer Zuppe
Summer Flounder	30"	12 lbs 6 oz.	Metages Ivy
Summer Flounder	25 1/2"	6 lbs 3 oz.	Alex Erdmann
Black Sea Bass	24"	C&R	Evan Kamoen
Scup	17"	2lbs 10 oz.	Xavier St. Cyr

**IMPORTANT NOTES to ANGLERS:**

There are still reports of **leaping sturgeon** in the lower CT River (Essex to the Old Saybrook) plus a number of fish present in the Enfield/Windsor. These are **endangered fish species (Atlantic and shortnose)**. 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.

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

***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>

**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](http://www.ct.gov/deep/fishing).

**PLEASE CALL 1.800.842.4357 TO REPORT FISHING VIOLATIONS.**

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**DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report**

**Connecticut Department of  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

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