

**CT DEEP** **2018**  
**FISHING REPORT NUMBER 14**  
**7/26/2018**



Scup or Porgy (*Stenotomus chrysops*)



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

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Take someone fishing

## INLAND REPORT

*Providers of some of the information below included **Bob's Place, Candlewood Bait & Tackle, Captain Morgan's Bait & Tackle, J.T.'s Fly Shop, The Fish Connection, CTFisherman.com**, and a number of bass fishing clubs & organizations.*

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** Fishing has been fair to good with evenings/nights best. Topwaters and drop-shots are workings at many. Reports from Amos Lake, Pachaug Pond, Candlewood Lake (bass are being found in or just outside weeds, flipping or drop-shots along outside edges, catches include a 5.5 LB bass), East Twin Lake, West Hill Pond, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir and Mudge Pond. Other places to try include Congamond Lakes, Lake Wononskopomuc, Quaddick Lake, Highland Lake, Winchester Lake, and Lake Saltonstall. Some good action in the southeast is also being found in smaller waters such as Mohegan Park Pond and the Fort Shantok Pond (good places to get kids interested, both bass and bluegills provide action).

**Tournament angler** reports are from Aspinook Pond (fair to good, 5.78 lbunker), Glasgo Pond (slow, with a 2.10 lbunker), Lake of Isles (slow to fair, no size with a 1.85 lbunker for one club, a bit better with a 5.07 lbunker for another tourney), Mansfield Hollow reservoir (fair for most in one club, good for many in a second club, 4.40 lb and 4.37 lb lunkers but not a lot else of good size), Pachaug Pond (good fishing for an afternoon/evening tourney, with a 5.72 lbunker and an average weight per fish of 2.2 lbs), Rogers Lake (fair to good, 3.50 lbunker), Bantam Lake (fair to good for most, with a 5 lbunker and an average weight over 2 lbs apiece), Candlewood Lake (good for a few, tough for many, 3.63 lbunker), Lake Lillinonah ("slower than usual for most..." but with a 5.43 lbunker and an average fish weight of 2.3 lbs apiece), Silver Lake (fair to good evenings, 4.01 and 3.0 lb lunkers), Lake Zoar (fair for most, good for some, 2.90 lbunker) and the Connecticut River (fair to good, 4.69 lb, 4.34 lb and 3.97 lb lunkers).

**SMALLMOUTH BASS.** Fishing remains slow in many lakes and ponds, but action is being found with the best reports from Candlewood Lake (still look outside weed edges or for fish along some, but not all humps, try drop shots & deep water Carolina rigs around humps with fish, catches include a 4.5 lb smallie), Lake Lillinonah and Lake Zoar. Fishing for river smallmouth was very good in the Housatonic River (try flyfishing with a popper), and good in the Shetucket River and Quinebaug River. **Tournament angler** reports are from Pachaug

## **August 11, 2018 IS A FREE FISHING LICENSE DAY**

The second 2018 (and final) Free Fishing License Day is Saturday, **August 11, 2018** (and also the day of the NCLI/DEEP CARE program Saltwater fishing event at Fort Trumbull State Park – see page 8 for more information on this event). **Anyone can obtain a free one-day fishing license to fish this day.**

**The free 1-day license** can be obtained through our mobile friendly site at [www.ct.gov/deep/sportsmenlicensing](http://www.ct.gov/deep/sportsmenlicensing) and at the same vendors ([Designated vendor \(tackle shop\)](#), Town Halls and DEEP offices where other licenses are available ([DEEP Offices](#)).

Pond (a few caught, 2.46 lb lunger), Bantam Lake (some in the bags), Candlewood Lake (hard finding many smallies for one club), Lake Lillinonah Lake Zoar (fair to good, 4.01 lb lunger) and the Connecticut River (a few smallmouth for clubs out of Haddam Meadows/Salmon River launches, with a 2.21 lb lunger).

**TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS** – Conditions for trout fishing are poor to fair in most of the stocked rivers and streams. Water levels went WAY up in some areas thanks to the soggy conditions all week (see stream flow graphic on page 5) but are beginning to drop some. Best bets include seeking out smaller streams and our Wild Trout Management Areas (tend to have good cold flow year round). The West Branch and mainstem Farmington has been productive, also some fish were being found in the Housatonic River and Salmon River.

**Farmington River.** The upcoming weekend looks a bit more challenging for the West Branch and main stem Farmington with flows somewhat on the high side, currently 298 CFS at Riverton plus 399 CFS from the Still River. Flows should continue to drop towards more comfortable levels through the weekend. Late July brings a variety of insect life in and on the river. Water temperatures range from the upper 50's °F to the mid-60's °F as you move further downstream.

**Hatches/patterns.** As far as insects go be ready for just about anything. Reliable dry patterns this time of year are black, cinnamon and flying ant patterns (especially in afternoons). Others for this time of year 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). Muddler minnow and flashy streamers are a good bet to bounce along the bottom, especially in these higher than normal flows.

**Housatonic River** – Flows have leveled off after a steep rise fed by the off and on tropical showers this week, but will be challenging for wading at 1,160 CFS at Falls Village and 1,440 CFS at Gaylordsville. Morning water temperatures are currently in the upper 60's °F. With some more rain possible before the weekend, flows may again increase. Anglers can call the FirstLight Power Resources flow line at **1-888-417-4837** for updated river information or check the USGS website at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/current/?type=flow> for up to date real time streamflow data from a number of USGS gauging stations including two on the upper Housatonic River.

Smallmouth and Fallfish are great options now that many trout have moved into the thermal refuges. Both types of fish are plentiful in the river and super fun on light gear. We suggest diversifying a bit and going for Pike and Common Carp – both are very active and are patrolling the shallows. Super large fish that you will never forget.



**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.** Just about all patterns working go with terrestrial patterns near overhanging vegetation – with Alder Flies (Actually a type of Caddisfly) are the go to fly with good results 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.

**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.**

**TROUT-LAKES & PONDS** – Summer trout fishing is slow at many locations, but deeper cooler lakes are providing some action (especially mornings) reported from Crystal Lake, West Hill Pond, East Twin Lake and Highland Lake.

**KOKANEE.** Fair to good action trolling in the morning continues at East Twin.

**CATFISH (CHANNEL AND WHITE).** Please take our [Catfish Survey](#). Through the survey, we are looking to hear where you fish and what you typically catch. This week, reports of nice sized fish coming from our Catfish Management Lakes (18-24 inches). The fish are active and ready for you. The more productive areas include the CT River in the evening, Stillwater Pond, Birge Pond, Mohegan Park Pond, and Lower Bolton Lake. “Chicken Liver” continues to be a good offering.

**CHAIN PICKEREL** continue to be active.

**COMMON CARP.** Moderate to Good action in all locations. Lake Zoar, the upper Housatonic River, Batterson Park Pond, Aspinook Pond and West Thompson Reservoir are good carp waters. Bait your area in advance to bring in plenty of hungry carp.

**WALLEYE.** Fishing has been generally so-so at best, but anglers are finding some fish (try late evening with alewives). Some 3-5 lb walleyes are being found at Lake Saltonstall. Nighttime is the right time at Mount Tom Pond and Squantz Pond. Coventry Lake and Mashapaug Lake have been slow.

**NORTHERN PIKE.** Some catches reported from Hopeville Pond, Ashland Pond, Lake Zoar and Lake Lillinonah. Also try for pike in the upper Housatonic River near the small impoundments (Bulls Bridge through Falls Village).

#### 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.



#### 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)).



**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. Fly fishing with small poppers will provide some great catches.

**CONNECTICUT RIVER** Flows are well above typical late July levels north of Hartford due to runoff (currently 24,000 CFS at Thompsonville). **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 (small grey grubs). **CHANNEL CATFISH/WHITE CATFISH** have been e picking up and provided some 4-6 pound fish throughout the Connecticut River from below Hartford to Haddam (chunk bait). **COMMON CARP** were providing some steady action from Middletown (around the Mattabessett River) downstream to Salmon River Cove. Large fantails are in the mix.

## INLAND REPORT (Reported by You).

Thank you to the following for adding to our Fishing Report this Week. **INLAND REPORT:** Rene Boislard, Kenny Ludwig, Paul Hyatt, Peter Sard, John Bullard, Hugh S Fagan, Tom Parris, Billy Hunt, Bob Swanson, and anonymous.

**MARINE REPORT:** Brian, Gerald Martin, Paul Hyatt, Greg Kirkman, Dan, Frank Milano, anonymous.

**Notable Catches Reported:** 19 and 22 inch Smallmouth, 20" Channel Cat, 4 pound Pickerel, Nice Cats, 4 pound LMB, 2 pound LMB

### 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	0	0	0	0	1
Bass	3	4	0	0	5
Pike	0	2	0	0	1
Walleye	0	0	0	0	1
Channel Catfish	2	0	0	0	0
Panfish	2	3	1	0	0
Common Carp	0	0	1	0	0

**What was HOT!** Gold Rapala, Bass Popper, Squid, Floating lures, night crawlers, soft plastics

**What was NOT!** Swim baits, gulp worms, silver minnows, white shad

**Good or better places to fish included:** Moodus Reservoir, Housatonic river, Ct River, Pickerel Lakes, Stillwater Pond, Amos Lake, Mashapaug Lake, Silver Lake, Avery Pond, Coventry Lake, Horse Pond

**Fair or worse places to fish included:** Norwich Pond, Mashapaug Lake, Connecticut River



**NOTES & NOTICES:**

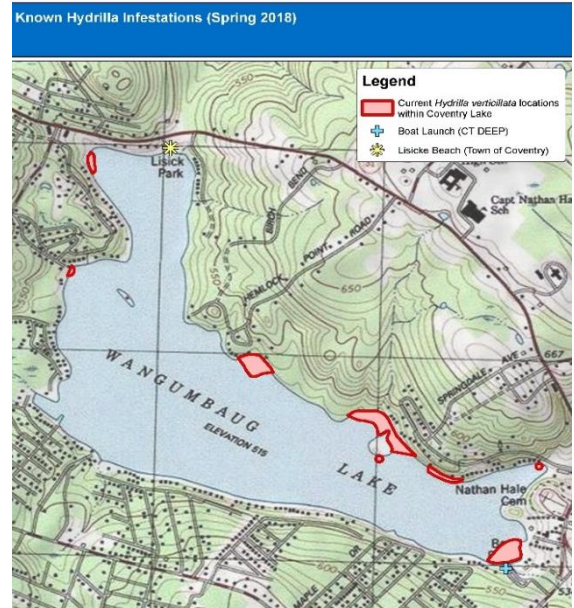
**STORM DAMAGE UPDATE.** Due to damage from storms in May, Sleeping Giant (including the Sleeping Giant TMA) and Wharton Brook (including the Wharton Brook Trout Park) state parks remain closed.

**CENTER SPRING POND (Manchester - dredging).** A dredging project is ongoing at Center Spring Pond. Hydraulic dredging will be used so there will 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.

**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.

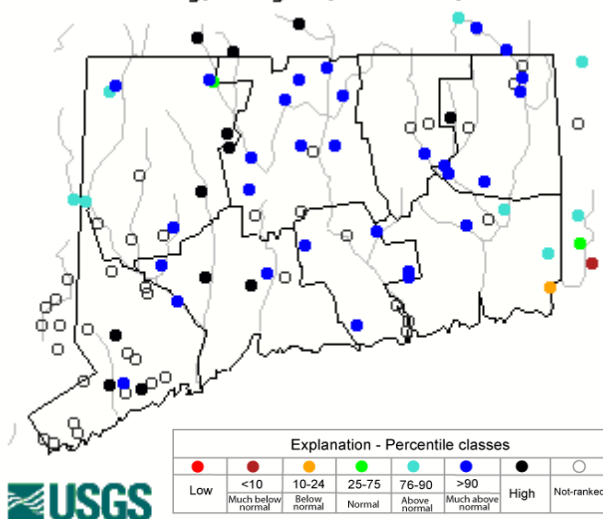
**WEST BRANCH FARMINGTON RIVER (invasive species alert).** *Cymbella janischii* is a close relative of *Didymo* and has been introduced to the West Branch Farmington River (first noticed in 2011). *C. janischii* is native to the Pacific Northwest and not naturally found on the Eastern seaboard. Currently 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.



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

**STREAM FLOW CONDITIONS**

Thursday, July 26, 2018 19:30ET



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".

### 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.

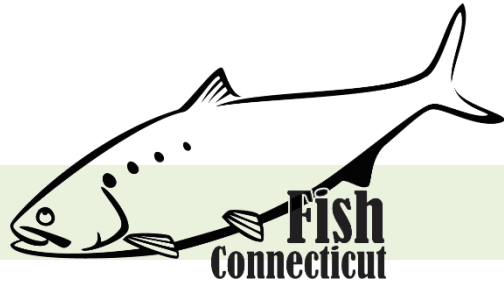
To see if your fish qualifies check out the criteria on page 13 of the [Angler's Guide](#). If you have caught a trophy fish be sure to fill out the [affidavit](#) (or print page 12 of the Angler's Guide) and submit the required photo(s) and form to us. Good luck!

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**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 [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](#).

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## MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the 70'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://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.

**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.

**SEE A TANGLED TURTLE? CALL THE HOTLINE! 1-860-572-5955 ext. 107.** This is the time of year when leatherback, loggerhead, green, and Kemp's ridley sea turtles return to northern waters, with many sightings around Long Island Sound.

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## From the Anglers:

**Brian, Gerald Martin, Paul Hyatt, Greg Kirkman, Dan, Frank Milano, anonymous.**

Good catches this week with folks getting onto some great fish. Some of the best catches included 41.25 and 39.8 pound striped bass, catching porgy doubles (mouth of the Thames), 7.25 inch Jimmie Blue Crab, 12 Blue Crabs in Lyme.

Things that were working included surface plugs as well as traditional natural baits, squid, bunker, live eels, and chicken wings.

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**STRIPED BASS** fishing is good with the approaching “thunder” full moon, especially at night and during the weekday when there is less boat traffic. The bass have set up on reefs, in typical fashion for this time of the year. **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 to land a “cow” bass.** Striper areas include the Watch Hill reefs, lower Thames River, the Race, **Plum Gut**, Pigeon Rip, outer Bartlett Reef, Black Point, **Hatchett Reef**, lower Connecticut River (Great Island), **Long Sand Shoal**, Cornfield Point, Southwest Reef (outer), Westbrook, **Sixmile Reef**, Falkner Island area, the reefs off Branford, New Haven Harbor (including Sandy Point), Charles Island area, lower Housatonic River, **buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point**, Stratford Shoal/**Middle Ground**, Bridgeport Harbor, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands, and Cable and Anchor Reef. **Night fishing is good at the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier and Harkness Memorial Park. 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](#).

**BLACK SEA BASS** fishing is now steadily improving again as they feed heavily after the spawn. The Charles Island area along with Stratford Shoal (11B) has been producing. Deeper you fish the bigger the sea bass. Fish shallower and you will catch some keeper-sized sea bass along with summer flounder, a lot of sea robins and smooth dogfish (aka sandsharks). **CT black sea bass regulations are as follows...15 inch min. length, 5 fish daily limit from May 19th to December 31<sup>st</sup>.** Berkely Gulp (swimming mullet), on a jig along with squid with a spinner works great for these “Bucketmouths”. Clams and sandworms also work well.

**SCUP** (porgy) fishing is very good in Long Island Sound. Any spot with hard bottom (structure) is worth fishing on. The mouth of the Housatonic River to Charles Island and also along Morningside (Milford) is fantastic. Fishing from shore try Stratford Seawall at high tide. **Rocky Neck State Park**, Harkness Memorial State Park, **Meigs Point Hammonasset**, Sherwood Island State Park and **Fort Trumbull State Park**. 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.

**WEAKFISH** fishing has surprised many anglers...good catches of “squeteague” are occurring while anglers bottom fish for fluke and sea bass. Good fishing in Niantic (Black Point), 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 and it’s also the state fish of Delaware.

**BLUEFISH** fishing is very good and the summer bite is on. Find the birds and the countless pods of juvenile and adult menhaden found throughout the Sound and its game on. The time is now to plan a “deep sea” fishing trip with a party charter boat and fish for those “alligator” sized blues. **The Race, Plum Gut, many of the major rocky reefs, rips, and shoal areas in LIS** are the best bets at this time. Diamond jigs, trolling parachute jigs or umbrella rigs, and using fresh bunker or hickory shad chunks on three-way bottom rigs have all been effective. Other bluefish spots include the Sluiceway, Gardiners Bay, Peconic Bays, and the north shore of Long Island along with the Stratford Shoal Housatonic River area. My recommendation is to hook up with a [Party or Charter Boat](#) and enjoy some of the best FISHING you will ever experience. There is no harder fighting fish in the sea. “Snappers” (juvenile bluefish) and “Harbor Blues” (16 - 22 inches) are also very

common along all shore locations. These under sized bluefish provide great sport for shore anglers. Try the lower reaches of tidal rivers and estuaries...you will be glad you did as these predators push the bait up rivers.

**HICKORY SHAD** fishing is good once again. They are back as one angler remarked. Try the **Black Hall River, Lieutenant and Branford River, lower Connecticut River by the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier and in Clinton Harbor**. 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".

**STRIPED SEAROBIN** fishing is amazingly very good throughout LIS for this "hardhead fish with spines and large pectoral fins". There is no shortage of robins as boat or shore anglers are enjoying some family fishing fun. 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.

**BLACKFISH (TAUTOG)** fishing has slowed as the water temps get above 72F and they are spawning. However, shore anglers continue to score on large "taug". Find a rock pile or piling close to casting distance and hang on. **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 finish spawning over shellfish beds, pilings with mussel beds and rock (reef) piles (8 to 30 ft).

**WHITE PERCH** fishing remains good for those dedicated and patient anglers. Spend some time relaxing in any coastal estuary with a little piece of bait (shrimp/sandworm) on a small hook, enjoying some jumbo white perch on the flood tide. Wow, they are good eating. Perch are found in shallow water at any estuary, tidal river and cove along Connecticut's 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.

**BLUE CRAB** fishing is good. Crabs are done with the first shed and are continuing to mate. With some patience...you can catch a lot of blue crabs of all sizes. **Please remember it's mating season for the crabs and release all egg-bearing females (sooks or lemon bellies)**. Crabbers note that if you release the female...more males will venture into the area and improve your overall crab catches. There are some large "jimmies" (male crabs) being captured (8.5/8" spike to spike) along with some impressive sooks (females up to 7.25 inches carapace width). **Remember...all egg bearing females must be released without avoidable injury. Minimum carapace length is 5 inches for a hard shell crab. Blue crab fishermen please release all diamondback terrapins' caught in your traps. The turtles must be released without injury or unavoidable harm.** These turtles are also feeding and laying eggs along CT's coast. 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](#). *Angler's please also note: It's illegal to snag blue crabs.*

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



## NOTABLE CATCHES –

Species	Length (in.)	Weight (lbs)	Angler
Summer Flounder	31"	10 lbs 1 oz.	Kellie Magyari
Summer Flounder	27"	8 lbs 3 oz.	Matt Atkins
Summer Flounder	28"	9 lbs 7 oz.	Alex Erdmann
Summer Flounder	27"	7 lbs 8 oz.	Alex Erdmann
Summer Flounder	26.25"	7 lbs 3 oz.	Alex Erdmann
Summer Flounder	26"	6 lbs 14 oz.	Alex Erdmann
Winter Flounder	18.25"	3 lbs 5 oz.	Ed Kasper
Smooth Dogfish	48"	13 lbs 13 oz.	Ryan John Alves

**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 is 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.**



No Child Left Inside®  
in partnership with CARE presents  
Saltwater Fishing Day  
Saturday, August 11, 2018

10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Fort Trumbull State Park  
New London, Connecticut

FREE!  
No registration required.  
Participants 16 years and older must have fishing license.  
Free 1-day license available at [www.ct.gov/deep/fishing](http://www.ct.gov/deep/fishing)  
Fishing, crabbing, fish activities, fish catching tactics, and more!  
Fishing rods, tackle and bait available to borrow.

For more information:  
CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection  
(860) 424-3917  
[Kristen.Bellantuono@ct.gov](mailto:Kristen.Bellantuono@ct.gov)  
or visit [www.NoChildLeftInside.org](http://www.NoChildLeftInside.org)




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## DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



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