

CT DEEP **2018**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 22
9/20/2018



White Perch (*Morone americana*)
New state record-see page 4



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.

SHARE THE EXPERIENCE
Take someone fishing

INLAND REPORT

*Providers of some of the information below included **Bob's Place, JT's Fly Shop, Yankee Outdoors, CTFisherman.com**, and a number of bass fishing clubs & organizations.*

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing May be starting to pick up some. Places to try include Black Pond (Meriden), Pachaug Pond, Candlewood Lake, Quonnipaug Lake, East Twin Lake, Mudge Pond, Quaddick Lake, Mansfield hollow Reservoir, Bills Lake, Lake Hayward, Hopeville Pond, Moodus Reservoir, Highland Lake, Crystal Lake, Stillwater Pond, Winchester Lake and Pataconk Lake.

Tournament angler reports are from Bashan Lake (fair, 2.56 lb lunger), Mansfield Hollow reservoir (slow to fair, 3.23 lb lunger), Pachaug Pond (fair to good, not much size), Rogers Lake (slow, 3.70 lb lunger), Bantam Lake (good for a couple, slow for the rest, 4.80 lb lunger), Candlewood Lake (fair to good, 5.95 lb lunger), Highland Lake (fair, 3.47 lb lunger), Lake Lillinonah (slow to fair, 5.5 lb lunger), Wononskopomuc Lake (fair at best for two clubs, 4.75 lb and 4.72 lb lunkers), Lake Zoar (tough, 2.83 lb lunger) and the Connecticut River (fair at best for a club out of Salmon river, with a 2.14 lb lunger).

SMALLMOUTH BASS. Fair to good reports from Candlewood Lake (still go deep) and Lake Lillinonah. Other places to try include Colebrook Reservoir and Lake Zoar. For river smallmouth, fishing on the upper Housatonic River was good but current high flows will dampen the action (and also cooler temperatures). Once flows

recede try the Quinebaug River and Shetucket River. **Tournament angler** are from Bantam Lake (a few in the bags, 3.84 lb lunger), Candlewood Lake (fair to good, 4.75 lb lunger), Lake Lillinonah (fair to good, 3.8 lb lunger), Pachaug Pond (a few in the bags with a 2.11 lb lunger) and Lake Zoar (slow to fair).

THIS SATURDAY

Discover Outdoor Connecticut and Join the Force for the Resource

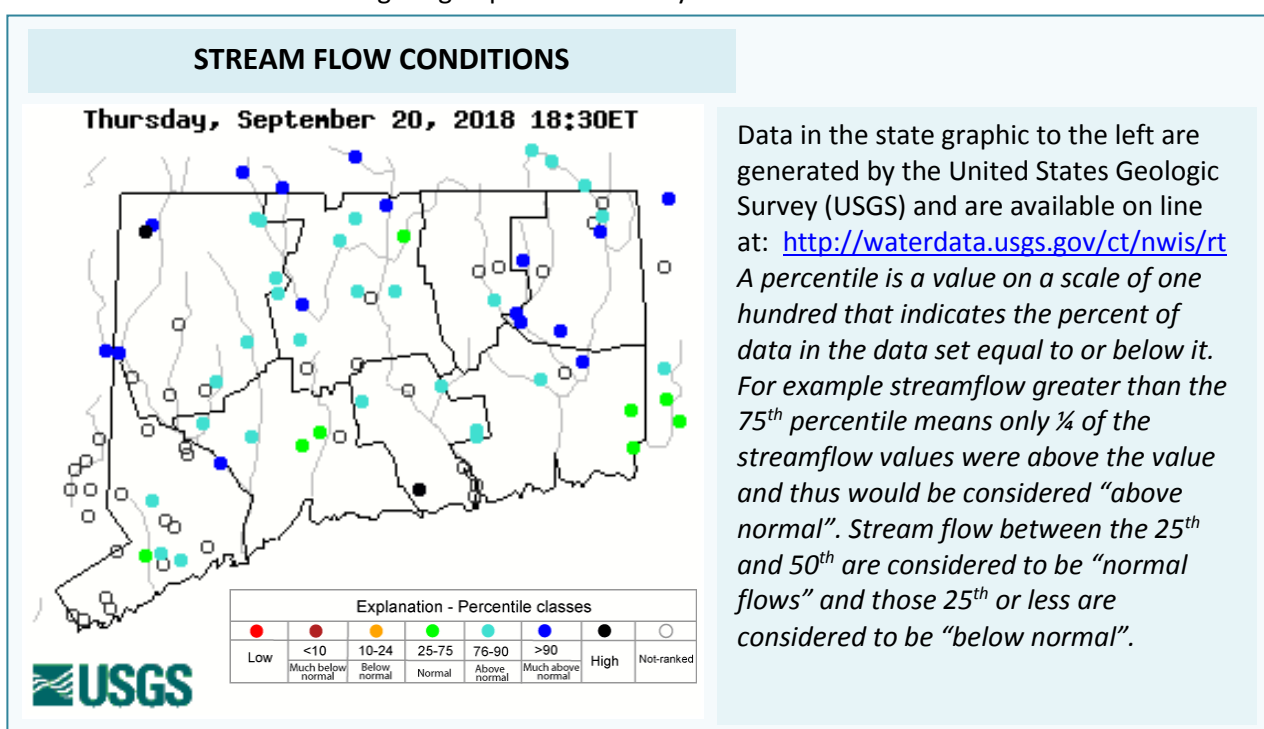
A [FREE event](#)
sponsored by
DEEP's Bureau
of Natural
Resources on
**Saturday,
September 22,
2018 from 10:00
am to 4:00 pm
at Franklin
Swamp Wildlife
Management
Area (391 Route
32, North
Franklin).**



This fun-filled event explores Connecticut's fish and wildlife resources and legacy of outdoor traditions, with live animals, demonstrations, archery, fish casting, fly tying, shooting clays, kid's activities, outdoor skills, a photo contest, and more. Bring a picnic lunch and stay for a few hours or the whole day!

TROUT- Stocking Update- Fall stocking is on hold- too much water and too warm (temperatures were measured at several waters slated to be stocked and were in excess of 20°C (68°F), which is marginal for stocking and could be stressful for trout. Cooler temperatures are forecast and flows should continue to drop, so stay tuned and we'll resume stocking as soon as conditions show improvement. Last week the Farmington River was stocked by the DEEP fisheries (Collinsville to Route 4 (Farmington) and in the Garden Plots) with a total of 1,700 Brown Trout (12+ inch fish). Additionally, the upper river (Goodwin Dam to Riverton) was stocked by the Metropolitan District Commission with 1,700 Rainbow Trout also measuring 12+ inches.

RIVERS & STREAMS – Conditions for trout fishing continue to be challenging, with flows in many areas throughout the state at high, difficult to fish levels (see stream flow graphic below). The weekend is forecast to be cool and dry, so conditions should improve. Remember that the smaller streams and tributaries will generally drop the quickest. As water quality and temperature conditions warrant we will be stocking various Trout Management Areas around the state. Please note that we will not be able to stock the Mill River TMA in Hamden this fall due to the lingering impacts of the May storms.



Farmington River. The upcoming weekend looks fair to good for the West Branch and main stem Farmington with clearing, moderate flows. Currently the river is at 240 CFS at Riverton plus 166 CFS from the Still River (which continues to drop). Water temperatures range from the mid 50's °F to the mid 60's.

Hatches/patterns. Higher than typical flows have hampered any large scale hatching activity. During the daylight hours, nymphing has been good as well as the typical ant patterns (while it has remained humid). Others for this time of year include Tricos (*Tricorythodes* #22-24 in the morning; started in the mid-section of the river), *Ephemerella needhami* (#22-26, early morning), Leadwing Coachman (*Isonychia bicolor*, #12-14, fast water, afternoon/evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* sps. & *Baetis* sps.; #18, 22-24, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #16-20, all day; green #22-26, evening; summer pupa #18-20 morning), Cahills/Summer (*Stenonema ithaca*, #12-14, early morning), Midges (#22-28, morning), Black Ants (#12-18, midday in fast water), Black Beetles (#16-18, midday), Flying Ants (#18-22, midday, when windy/humid), Stone Hopper (#8-12, mid-day).

Housatonic River – We are working to get the fall stocking of Brown Trout into the Housatonic as soon as conditions allow (hoping flows will drop below 2,000 at Falls Village by Monday). Flows in the Housatonic are tough for most fishing and although beginning to slowly drop, it's likely that they will remain that way into early next week. Currently flows are 3,070 CFS at Falls Village and 3,850 CFS at Gaylordsville. Water temperatures are currently in the low 60's °F. Fingers crossed for better conditions early next week.

Hatches/patterns. Patterns to try include Fall Sulfurs (#16-18), Blue Wing Olives (#18-22), Tricos (#20-22), Leadwing Coachman (#10-12 evening, September is peak month), Sulfurs duns (#16-18, below the dam due to low temperatures, morning; afternoon to early evening for spinners), Light Cahill (#14-18, early morning & evening). Golden stonefly nymphs hatch at first light and adults egg-lay after dark.

Streamer fishing and nymphing with big stoneflies is usually productive. White Zonkers, Woolly Buggers (go big- larval dobsonflies can be up to 4" in length and are a favorite food item), Muddlers, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). Other insects include flying ants (#14-16, mid-day, when windy/humid, September is peak month).

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS. As conditions warrant we will soon begin stocking trout parks and Trout Management Lakes (water is still too warm). Stay tuned to our Facebook Page, the current stocking report, interactive stocking map, and this weekly report. *We will not be stocking Valley Falls Park Pond (due to a drawdown for dam repairs) and Wharton Brook Pond (still closed from storm damage) this fall.*

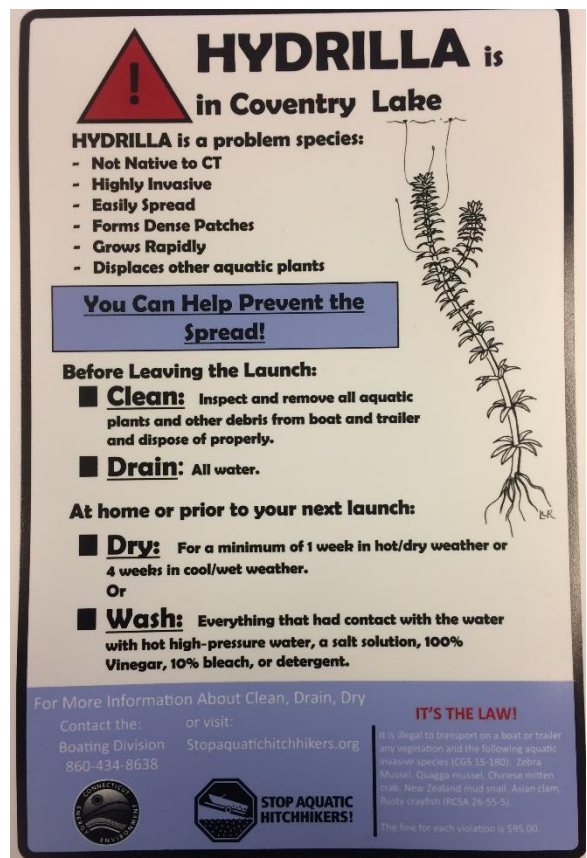
Reports of 4-5 pounders from Crystal Lake. Other good options include West Hill Pond, East Twin Lake, Colebrook River Lake and Highland Lake.

KOKANEE. The fish should be transitioning to spawning mode shortly, so time is getting short to fish for Kokanee (they do not feed very much once they undergo their morphological and physiological changes).

CATFISH (CHANNEL AND WHITE). Please take our [Catfish Survey](#). Several Catfish Management Lakes that are worth a try include Silver Lake, Wauregan Reservoir, Lake Kenosia, Mohegan Park Pond, Burr Pond, Butternut Park Pond, Birge Pond, and the Maltby Lakes.

CHAIN PICKEREL Not many reports, look for activity to increase a bit as we transition into fall.

COMMON CARP. Activity is picking up; September and October typically prove to be great times to fish for these huge fish. Try south of Middletown in the CT River and the coves. Other carp favorites are Lake Zoar, the upper Housatonic River, Batterson Park Pond, Aspinook Pond and West Thompson Reservoir. Pre-Bait your area to bring in plenty of hungry carp.



One of the newly installed signs to alert anyone using Coventry Lake (and a similar sign for the Connecticut River) about the presence of the highly invasive plant, Hydrilla.

WALLEYE. Slow fishing now but cooler nights should bring the Walleye up into the shallows, especially along steep drops offs. Nighttime is best now, places to try include Coventry Lake, Squantz Pond, Mount Tom Pond, Lake Zoar, Mashapaug Lake, Lake Saltonstall (some 2-4 lb fish are being caught morning and evening, deep diving lures working) Cedar Lake, and Beach Pond.

NORTHERN PIKE. Pachaug Pond, which has great pike but very little fishing pressure for pike in the summer (also try the downstream lakes – Hopeville, Ashland), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Winchester Lake, Bantam Lake, and the CT River. Bass anglers are also reporting hooking into some good sized pike at Lake Lillinonah and Lake Zoar.

PANFISH. Perch, sunfish, and Crappie (in Candlewood) are doing well in most places. Good waters include Burr Pond, Still Water Pond, Green Fall Reservoir, Mashapaug Lake, and Day Pond.

CONNECTICUT RIVER Flows are dropping quickly but are still high in the upper reaches (currently 18,600 CFS at Thompsonville). These higher flows are making access challenging, look for fish to take advantage of the access to cover and vegetation along the shoreline.

LARGEMOUTH BASS remains on and off, with the side channels and coves providing better action. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** fishing in the Windsor-Enfield remains tough as the flows will force the fish to hold tight to structure. Look for some action along the mainstem from Middletown to Haddam. **CHANNEL CATFISH/WHITE CATFISH** are still hitting, staff favorites are 3" sections of eel. Better success by fishing the deep holes by day and flats by night. **COMMON CARP** were providing some steady action, especially in the Haddam/East Haddam area. The 2018 CT Carp Open Tournament is coming up in mid- October.

NEW STATE RECORD WHITE PERCH

3 pounds 1 Ounce

Please join us as we congratulate Jacob Niemczyk (13) for breaking the 1996 record for a White Perch. Jacob landed his 3 pound 1 ounce fish in Crystal Lake, Ellington, a place he fishes often with his family.



NOTES & NOTICES:

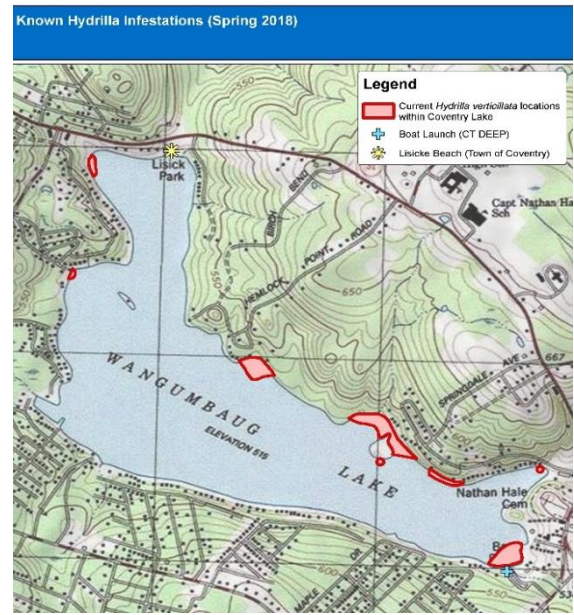
STORM DAMAGE UPDATE. Due to damage from storms in May, Sleeping Giant (including the Sleeping Giant TMA) and Wharton Brook (including the Wharton Brook Trout Park) state parks remain closed.

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.

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 on the next page for what river users should do to prevent spread of this invasive plant to other waterbodies.

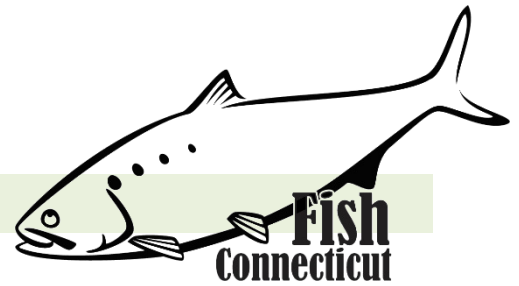
COVENTRY LAKE (invasive species alert). Hydrilla, a very highly invasive aquatic plant, has been found growing in Coventry Lake. All lake users should take extra care to check and clean their boats (including canoes, kayaks and rowing sculls), trailers, and fishing equipment before leaving the boat launch,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

HOUSATONIC RIVER (bridge closure). The CT Department of Transportation has announced that the covered bridge over the Housatonic River in West Cornwall will be closed to motor vehicle and pedestrian traffic from September 4 through October 2 for repairs.



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

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the low 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://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

<http://www.wunderground.com/MAR/AN/330.html>

HUMPBACK WHALES have been reported in Long Island Sound, please see check [WHALE WATCHING GUIDELINES](#).

Note: All marine mammals are protected by the Federal Marine Mammal Protection Act. Following these recommended operational guidelines helps minimize chances of harassing or injuring whales and violating Federal law. Guidelines apply to all large whales from Maine through Virginia, except North Atlantic right whales. It is illegal to approach a right whale within 500 yards (1500 feet) unless granted specific exemption or authorization.

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.

SPECIAL REMINDER: The TAUTOG (blackfish) fishing season is closed and will reopen October 10.

STRIPED BASS fishing continues to be good to excellent. Fall is the season for catching some big bass as they feed heavily prior to their migration. Trolling jigs (Chartreuse) with a yellow pork rind and live lining bunker (Atlantic menhaden) and or an eel on the reefs/shoal areas at dawn and dusk will produce some nice bass (58 inches – 53 pounds, (Crane Reef). Striper spots include the Watch Hill reefs, Ram Island Reef in Fishers Island Sound, lower Mystic and Thames River, the Race, Sluiceway, **Plum Gut**, Pigeon Rip, outer Bartlett Reef, Black Point, the “humps” south of Hatchett Reef, **lower Connecticut River**, Long Sand Shoal, Cornfield Point, Southwest Reef (outer), Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island area, the reefs off Branford, New Haven Harbor (Breakwalls) and the upper reaches, **Charles Island area**, lower Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, **Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground**, Milford Point, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands, and Cable and Anchor Reef.

Don't have a Boat? Hook up with the many [Party or Charter Boats](#) found throughout CT's shoreline from Greenwich to Stonington.

BLACK SEA BASS fishing has been good, with plenty of large “humbucks” being caught central sound. You may need to move around from wreck/reef/hump to find good numbers of these tasty bottom fish. Plan a trip on a [party/charter boat](#) trip to fish off of Block Island and east...there are many giant-sized sea bass out there by the wind farm. Eastern Sound (Fishers Island to Block Island and northeast of Montauk) anglers are having good success. Closer to home, the rocky reefs from Niantic, Sixmile reef to Branford (Falkner Island) have been consistent all season. A reminder to all anglers...if you are fishing in water deeper than 100', barotrauma can cause released fish to struggle to make it back to the bottom. A descending device such as the Shelton Fish Descender can help assist the sea bass air bladder to recompress and get safely back down to the depths. See Fishsmart.org for more information.

CT black sea bass regulations are as follows: 15 inch min. length, 5 fish daily creel limit from May 19 to December 31.

SCUP (PORGY) fishing is the best it has been in decades and continues to be amazing. Chumming has been very productive. Good shore fishing areas include; Morningside, and **Woodmont** (Milford), Coast Guard Jetty at Southport Beach, Rick Jetty at **Calf Pasture beach**, **South Benson Fishing Pier**, **Sherwood Island**, **Pleasure Beach Fishing Pier**, **St Mary's by the Sea**, **Gulf Beach Pier**, **Bonds Dock (Stratford)** (excellent shore spots). Other shore spots include **The Sound School Fishing Pier/Dock**, **Rocky Neck State Park**, Harkness Memorial State Park, **Meigs Point**, **Hammonasset**, **Sherwood Island State Park**, **Charles Island** and Fort Trumbull State Park. Fish during the high tide at these shore locations. Locate your favorite [Enhanced Shore Fishing](#)

[Opportunities](#) for these hard fighting and excellent eating “Reef Slammers”. Contact your [local bait and tackle shop](#) for updated fishing information.

BLUEFISH fishing has improved a little. They can be found in good numbers the eastern sound (find the birds). More recently good numbers of bluefish can be found in the lower estuaries, rivers and beaches feeding on menhaden/anchovies. The “Top-water” bite continues to be very good, look for the “blow-ups”. Bluefish fishing spots include the reefs off Watch Hill, the Race, Thames River, Sluiceway, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, lower Connecticut River, Long Sand Shoal, Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor and upper reaches, lower Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middleground, Penfield Reef, and Cable and Anchor Reef

SNAPPER fishing has improved in the tidal creeks and rivers with fish measuring 6 to 10 inches in length.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (FLUKE) fishing is a tough go...however those patient anglers who put their time in fishing deep water (90-120 ft) are scoring on large doormat fluke up to 13 pounds. Live lining snapper blues and whole squid in deep water is the preferred method by fluke sharpies. The usual summer flounder spots include the south shore of Fishers Island (Isabella Beach, Wilderness Point), Napatree Point and along the beach, off the Stonington breakwater, mouth of the Mystic River over to Groton Long Point, Twotree Island Channel, Black Point/Niantic Bay including the Bloody Grounds, Sound View Beach, Long Sand Shoal, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor, off the mouth of the Housatonic River during the flood tide, and around the Norwalk Islands to Darien.

Minimum size is 19 inches and the daily creel limit is 4 fish per person.

ATLANTIC BONITO & LITTLE TUNNY. Just got back from a great morning of fishing today (Sept 20th). They are here feeding on the crab hatch and forage fish. They are fast movers and moving to different locations is important. However, the action in CT is heating up and many fish have moved into the western Sound. Big catches of these small tunas have been reported from Griswold Point. Pleasure Beach, Pine Island, Bluff Point, Groton Long Point to Norwalk/Darien. Shore anglers are scoring at **Pleasure Beach**, Ocean Beach, Seaside, Harkness Memorial and Rocky Neck State Park. These small tunas are also cruising around from Pt. Judith, Watch Hill to Bluff Point (including Fishers Island Sound), the Race to Little Gull Island, from Bartlett Reef to Black Point. Dawn and dusk is the best time to fish for these inshore tunas. They are also feeding heavily of young of the year transparent anchovy. **Try casting metal (heavy) lures (Swedish pimple and Epoxy jigs) to feeding fish on the surface. A jig with a plastic swimming bait (slugos, fin-s-fish, super flukes) and no weight on the leader has been very productive. A quiet approach and finding birds (gulls/terns) actively feeding is the key to a successful trip. Jigging for them also works when they are close to the bottom.**

HICKORY SHAD fishing is good in the **Black Hall River** and **Fort Trumbull Fishing Pier**, fair in the Lieutenant River, Housatonic River and the lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier). Anglers are still waiting for the fall bite to happen, especially shore anglers. Fishing remains good at Fort Trumbull, Black Hall, Clinton Harbor River systems and the lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier). You will also find “schoolie” bass, snappers and hickory shad can all be found schooling together at these locations.

WHITE PERCH fishing continues is improving as fall approaches. Productive spots include the Pawcatuck River (Stanton Weir Pit/Point), Mystic River, upper Thames River (**Norwich Harbor**) 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.** You can collect grass shrimp with a minnow net along the shoreline where marsh/eel grass is growing or along dock pilings. They love to cling to the grass or dock pilings.

BLUE CRAB fishing is good in all tidal creeks and bays, especially around pilings in the evening. There are some gigantic “jimmies” (male crabs) out there (8” to 9”). Many of the large “jimmies” are still in the upper reaches of creeks and rivers. Crabs are still feeding around the pilings in the evening, especially with an incoming tide. Remember...all egg bearing females must be released with unavoidable harm. Minimum carapace length is 5 inches for a hard shell crab. 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](#).

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>

NOTABLE CATCHES –

Species	Length (in.)	Weight (lbs)	Angler
Smooth Puffer	24”	5 lb	Alex Erdmann
Black Sea Bass	24.5”	5 lb 14 oz	Marina M.
Summer Flounder	26”	7 lb 4 oz	Margaret Rux
Bluefish	37”	17 lbs. 2 oz.	Ann G.

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. For the latest marine regulations also click this link: [2018 CT Marine Recreational Fishing Regulations](#). **PLEASE CALL 1.800.842.4357 TO REPORT FISHING VIOLATIONS.**

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DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106

www.ct.gov/deep