



Walleye (*Sander vitreus*)



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INLAND REPORT

Providers of some of the information below included **Candlewood Lake Bait & Tackle**, **Captain Morgan's Bait & Tackle**, **JT's Fly Shop**, **The Fish Connection**, **CTFisherman.com**, and a number of bass fishing clubs & organizations.

TROUT & SALMON STOCKING UPDATE. DEEP'S FALL TROUT STOCKINGS WERE COMPLETED THIS WEEK. This fall we stocked **nearly 32,600 adult trout**. This included 150 9-12 inch Brook Trout, 500 broodstock Brook Trout, 12,900 9-12 inch Rainbow Trout, 11,850 12 inch and up Rainbow Trout, 2,800 9-12 inch Brown Trout and 4,850 12 inch and up Brown Trout. Check our [Current Stocking Report](#) and [Interactive Trout Stocking Map](#) to see where and what fish were stocked this fall. Here's what was stocked this week:

- **TROUT - RIVERS AND STREAMS:** In **Eastern CT**, the **Willimantic River TMA** (350 12" and up Rainbow Trout) was stocked.
- **TROUT - LAKES AND PONDS:** In **western CT**, **Mohawk Pond** (250 broodstock Brook Trout) and **Squantz Pond** (250 12" and up Rainbow Trout) were stocked.

ATLANTIC SALMON. Anglers are finding some good fishing for salmon on both the Shetucket River and the Naugatuck River (especially the upper Broodstock Area). Mount Tom Pond and Crystal Lake are also providing some action but with the weather (rainy, windy) anglers are finding limited windows of opportunity to get out on boats.

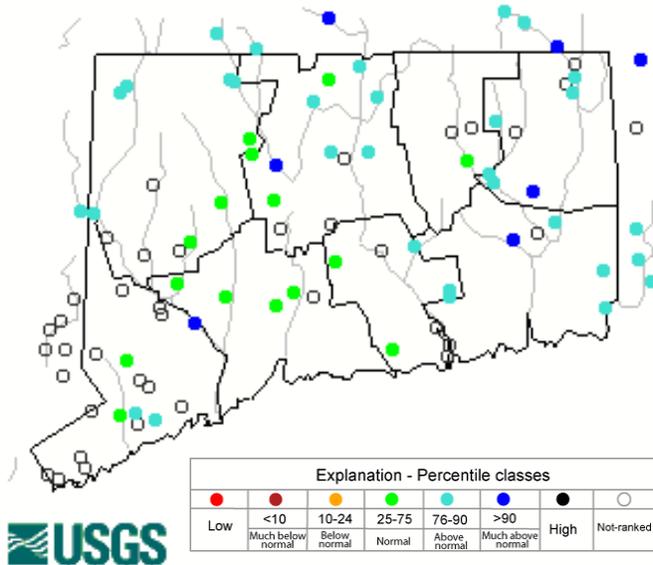
Please remember that a [Trout and Salmon Stamp](#) is required to fish the Broodstock Areas on the Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers and if you **keep** an Atlantic salmon from either Mount Tom Pond or Crystal Lake. If you are strictly practicing Catch and Release, the Trout and Salmon Stamp is not required to fish in either of the two lakes. For a summary of Atlantic salmon fishing regulations see page 4 of this report or page 28 of the 2018 Angler's Guide.

TROUT - RIVERS & STREAMS. Conditions for the weekend will once again be variable. Rainy weather is in the forecast for Friday and early Saturday with a sunny Sunday on tap. There are plenty of fall stocked trout still out there waiting for anglers but flows are likely to increase again with an inch or more of rain (plus some wind) forecast for the start of the weekend (just like last weekend). Currently flows, remain higher than typical for late-October/early November but are clear and at very fishable levels in many areas statewide (see stream flow graphic on page 2). **For real time stream flow data from 68 USGS gauging stations you can check** the following web site: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/current/?type=flow>.

Anglers have been finding nice action on the Salmon River, Hammonasset River, Pomperaug River, Natchaug River, West Branch Farmington River, Naugatuck River TMA (steady action continues) and the Housatonic River (despite the flows). Streamers and nymphs are working well.

STREAM FLOW CONDITIONS

Thursday, November 01, 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 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”.

Farmington River. Conditions for the upcoming weekend will be fair to challenging. Flows are currently clear, moderate and fishable (452 CFS at Riverton plus 180 CFS from the Still River), but with rain in the forecast for parts of Friday and Saturday, look for flows to again increase, especially below the confluence of the Still and West Branch. Water temperatures range from the mid 40’s °F to the upper 50’s as you move downstream and through the day.

Hatches/patterns to try include Isonychia (#12-14, parachute style), Blue Wing Olives (#18, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; brown #16-18), Midges (#20-32, morning), and Rusty Spinner (#14-20, mornings). With higher water this fall, streamers and nymphs are really working, try dryflies in the afternoon after things warm up. Big stonefly nymphs are doing well. White Wooly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, or Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10) are standard streamers. Standard nymphs include Caddis pupa (#14-16), Serendipity (#14-16), Prince (#6-18) and Hare’s ear (#8-20).

Housatonic River. There are still plenty of recently stocked trout in the river and flows are again clearing and dropping last weekend’s rain and are on the high side but fishable in many places, currently 1,510 CFS at Falls Village and 2,080 CFS at Gaylordsville. Water temperatures are currently in the 50’s °F. however, with rain in the forecast to start the weekend, flows may again increase and anglers may wish to call the 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). Also check the tributaries, they’ll moderate the quickest.

Hatches/patterns. Patterns to try include Blue Wing Olive (#18-22, early morning; spinner fall in evening), Isonychia (#10-12 evening), Midges (#20-26) and Brown/tan caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening), Flying Ants (#14-18), Black and Cinnamon Ants (#16-18, midday, when breezy) and large streamers (see Farmington river above for some suggestions). Try nymphing the pockets, deeper riffles and pool heads.

TROUT - LAKES & PONDS. There are few reports this week for trout from lakes and ponds. Good reports from the Chatfield Hollow Trout Park (Schreeder Pond). A number of lakes and ponds were stocked this fall, check our [Current Stocking Report](#) and [Interactive Trout Stocking Map](#) to see where and what fish were stocked.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing seems to be picking up some but angling pressure has been light (with the weather windy a lot, anglers are staying home more). Smaller lakes & ponds may warrant more attention from anglers with the recent weather conditions. Try targeting suspended fish over deeper water using jigs (1 oz.). Also, the outside edges of weed lines tend to hold some bigger fish. Places to try include Amos Lake, Bantam Lake, Gardner Lake, Pattagansett Lake, Crystal Lake, Mudge Pond, Long Pond, Silver Lake (Berlin/Meriden), Gorton Pond, Lake Hayward, Pickerel Lake, Tyler Lake and Pachaug Pond.

Tournament angler reports are from Mashapaug Lake (very tough for all except one who found five, 2.8 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (slow for most, but a 5.2 lb lunker) and Highland Lake (fair, 3.61 lb lunker).

SMALLMOUTH BASS. Smallie fishing is slowly picking up at Candlewood Lake, look for them from the weed lines out to about 28 feet (dropshots and the like suspended vertically). **Tournament angler reports** are from Mashapaug Lake (nothing), Highland Lake (some caught, with a 4.86 lb lunker) and Candlewood Lake (tough).

CATFISH (CHANNEL AND WHITE). Please take our [Catfish Survey](#). 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.

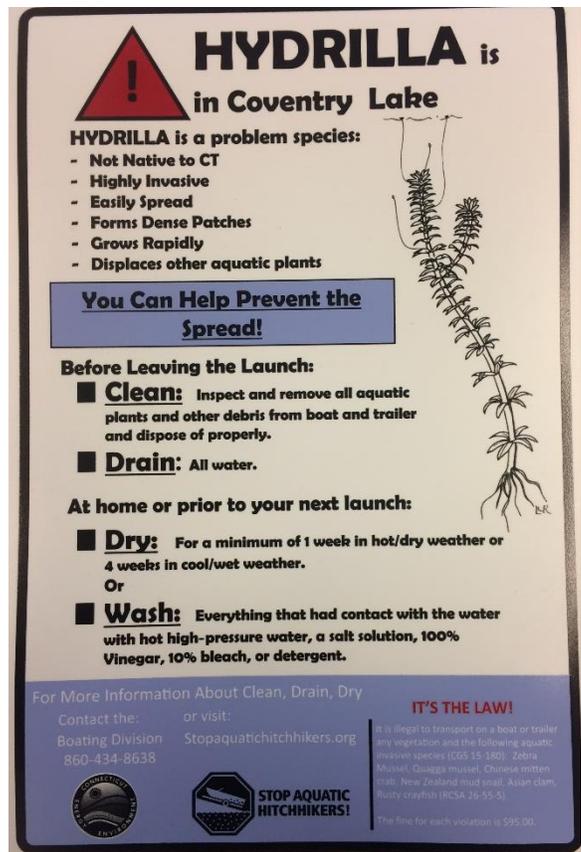
COMMON CARP. There's still time to find some good fishing for these huge fish. Carp favorites include the Connecticut River, Lake Zoar, the upper Housatonic River, Batterson Park Pond, Squantz Pond, West Thompson Reservoir and the Quinebaug River (West Thompson and Aspinook Pond). Pre-Bait your area to bring in plenty of hungry carp.

NORTHERN PIKE. No reports this week but the fish should be eager to feed. Other favorite Pike Waters include Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Winchester Lake, Bantam Lake, and the CT River.

WALLEYE. Walleye are being found up into the shallows, and good reports continue from Squantz Pond where late in the day (and also into the night) have been the best times, with fish also being caught midday on overcast days. Other places to try include Lake Saltonstall, Saugatuck Reservoir, Coventry Lake, Mount Tom Pond, Lake Zoar, Mashapaug Lake, Cedar Lake and Beach Pond. The annual stocking of fingerlings (about 5-7 inch fish) was conducted Monday (10/30).

PANFISH. Perch, sunfish, and Crappie continue to provide some action in most places. Look for white perch in the tidal rivers.

CONNECTICUT RIVER. Flows have been increasing some this week (currently 18,500 CFS at Thompsonville), but are still boat-able and fishable. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** has been slow, with the side channels and coves providing better action. **CHANNEL CATFISH/WHITE CATFISH** have been providing some action, try live shiners, chicken livers and chunk bait (staff favorites are 3" sections of eel). **COMMON CARP** continue to provide some action, especially in the Haddam/East Haddam and Mattebesset areas.



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.

Atlantic salmon fishing regulations and areas summary

- **Regulations for Atlantic salmon on the Shetucket and Naugatuck Rivers.** In the Naugatuck, Housatonic and Shetucket Rivers, from September 1 through November 30, angling for Atlantic salmon is restricted to **catch-and-release only**. From December 1, 2018, through March 31, 2019, the daily creel limit for Atlantic salmon will be one. During the open season in the rivers, the legal method for taking Atlantic salmon is limited to angling using a single fly, or an artificial lure with a single free swinging hook and no additional weight can be added to the line above the fly or lure. Also, from September 1st through March 31st, fishing for other species in the designated Atlantic Salmon “Broodstock Areas” is restricted to the gear legal for Atlantic salmon.
- On the **Shetucket River**, anglers can fish for salmon downstream from the Scotland Dam (Windham) to the Water Street Bridge in Norwich (the first bridge upstream of Norwich Harbor). The salmon are stocked into one designated Atlantic Salmon “Broodstock Area”, from the Scotland Dam to the Occum Dam.
- Anglers are allowed to fish for salmon in the **Naugatuck River** from the confluence of the East and West Branches (Torrington) downstream to the Housatonic River (Derby). Anglers may also fish for Atlantic salmon in the Housatonic River downstream of Derby Dam. The salmon are typically stocked into two designated Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas on the Naugatuck River, the “Campville Section” of the upper Naugatuck River from Route 118 downstream to the Thomaston Flood Control Dam (Litchfield-Thomaston) and the “Beacon Falls Section” of the lower Naugatuck, from Prospect Street (Naugatuck) downstream to Pines Bridge Road (Route 42 bridge, Beacon Falls). From September 1st through March 31st, fishing for other species in these designated Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas is restricted to the gear legal for Atlantic salmon.
- The regulations for Atlantic salmon released into lakes and ponds are different from the regulations for salmon on the Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers. **In each lake, the regulations for methods, seasons and minimum lengths for salmon will be the same as for trout in that specific water body but the daily creel limit will be one salmon per day.** (Please refer to the 2018 CT Angler’s Guide for trout regulations).

**Mark your
calendars
now!**

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Photo courtesy of CT DEEP Fisheries Division
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NOTES & NOTICES:

STORM DAMAGE REMINDER. 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 and will not be stocked with trout this fall.

CANDLEWOOD LAKE (safety buoy removals). The Candlewood Lake authority has removed the hazard, navigation and speed buoys for the winter. Boaters, especially those unfamiliar with the lake should use extra caution out on the lake.

CENTER SPRING POND (Manchester - dredging). A dredging project is ongoing at Center Spring Pond. Hydraulic dredging is used so there will be no drawdown but access to a portion of the park may be limited. The project is currently expected to be completed by this Thanksgiving.

VALLEY FALLS POND (Vernon – dam repair). DEEP will not be stocking the Trout Park at Valley Falls Pond this fall due to dam repair work.

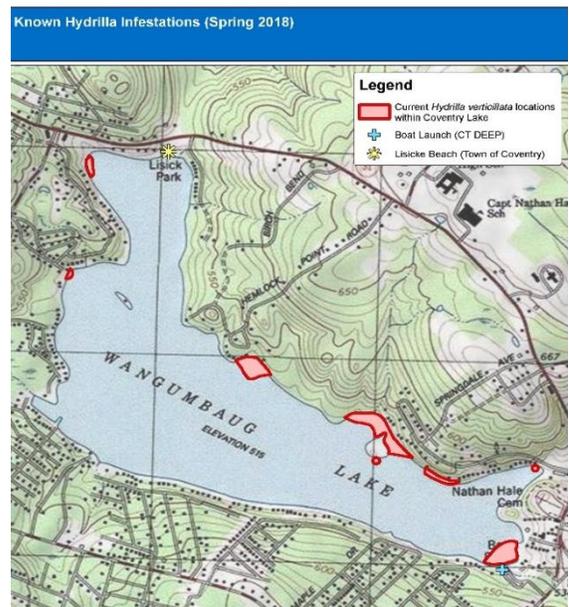
CONNECTICUT RIVER (invasive species alert). In 2016 hydrilla was found in the main stem Connecticut River in Glastonbury (near Glastonbury’s Riverfront Park & Boathouse). **Last year hydrilla was found at other locations along the river including Wethersfield and Crow Point coves and at a site in Enfield.** 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.

QUADDICK LAKE (launch access). The park gates will be closed for the season to vehicular access on October 29.

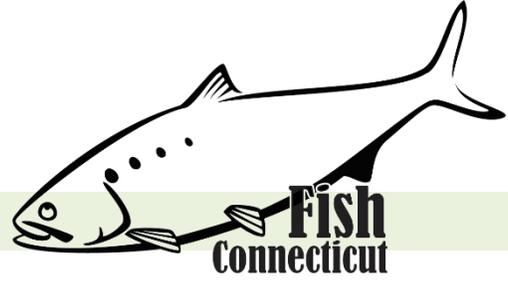
UPCOMING DRAWDOWNS. In western CT, **Lake Lillinoah** is scheduled for a drawdown from this Friday night, October 26, to November 9. Launching of trailered boats from the Route 133 state boat launch will be difficult and launching from the Pond Brook boat launch is likely not possible during this drawdown. **Lake Zoar** is scheduled for a drawdown from November 10 to November 24, and the winter drawdown of **Highland Lake** is scheduled to start in early November. In eastern CT, winter drawdowns of **Bashan lake, Beseck Lake, Middle & Lower Bolton Lakes, Gardner Lake, Mashapaug Lake** and **Pickerel Lake** are scheduled to begin in early November

FISHING SEASONS. Anglers are reminded that the fishing season at several lakes and ponds scattered throughout the state closes at the end of the month (Wednesday, October 31 is the last day), most notably **LAKE WONOSKOPOMUC, GREEN FALLS RESERVOIR** and **SHENIPSIT RESERVOIR**. Please refer to the 2018 CT Angler’s Guide for additional locations.



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 around 60-64 °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.

TAUTOG (Blackfish) fishing is very good (Rapid Rock, Race Rock, Sarah's Ledge, inner Bartlett Reef, Two Tree Island (flood tide), and various smaller locations east to Watch Hill. You may want to try rock piles or reefs that are away from the more popular areas to increase your chances of finding a keeper sized fish. Tautog this week were moving into deeper water...preparing for their fall migration to over-wintering grounds. Green, Asian or Hermit Crabs will work, especially on jigs. **Consider putting the crab (bait) on a chartreuse and orange jig (1.5 – 3.0 ounces in weight/depending on tide and wind). The lighter the jig the better...feel more bites. Use braid in 30-50 lb class and/or a 50 lb fluorocarbon leader (sensitivity to feel the bites is important). Also use a 4/O Gamakatsu hook (Octopus style) when using bait.** I would highly recommend planning a trip on a [party/charter boat](#) trip to fish for tautog this fall.

STRIPED BASS fishing is excellent. Shore anglers get out and cast those top water baits (bass are everywhere). The lower Housatonic River is red hot, lower CT River up to Haddam, **Bluff Point** (fantastic shore fishing), Long Sand Shoal and the upper Thames River (north of Montville). Fish have been migrating into the estuaries and tidal rivers but the reefs in Long Island Sound are still producing fish. There are still plenty of Atlantic menhaden (bunker) around that can be used as bait. Live bunker on a three-way or slider rig on the local reefs and rip areas can still provide some results. Other striper spots include the 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 (Dock & Dine shore fishing access)**, 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**, Long Beach (first Jetty), 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.

Striped bass are not as picky this time of the year, use your top-water plugs...they are working well. This is the time to when you can catch a lot of fish during the day, especially during an overcast day. There are some large holdover stripers available on top...but the smaller juveniles are really on fire this past week. Plastics are also very effective on the 18”-28” striped bass inhabiting our lower rivers and coves this fall. Anglers are having a blast catching smaller striped bass on the Housatonic, Connecticut, Thames and Norwalk Rivers. Bait fish like to take refuge in harbors, rivers and estuaries at night, so the rule still goes that the best fishing is at dusk and dawn. **Please use circle hooks when fishing with bait (prevent gut hooking) and practice catch & release. Don't have a Boat? Hook up with the many [Party or Charter Boats](#) found throughout CT's shoreline from Greenwich to Stonington.**

ATLANTIC BONITO & LITTLE TUNNY fishing continues to be good especially around Pine Island, Bluff Point (Thursday was incredible with multiple pods of tunas busting on the surface). Pink, brown and green is the lure color choice. Many anglers are scoring using a 3” Hogy heavy minnow jig in pink. Shore anglers are scoring at **Bluff Point, Short & Long Beach (first jetty) in Stratford (find the birds working)**. Dawn and dusk is typically the best time to fish for these inshore tunas but they can easily be caught during the daytime. Try casting metal (heavy) lures (Swedish pimple, sluggos, Fin-S-Fish, albie snax and Epoxy jigs) to feeding fish on the surface. A quiet approach and finding birds (gulls/terns) actively feeding is the key to a successful trip. **Jigging (1.5oz crippled herring) for them also works when they are close to the bottom and your fish finder is “lit up”**. Bottom line...they are still here and will stay as long as the water stays warm.

BLACK SEA BASS fishing continues to be good on all the major reefs and wrecks throughout Long Island Sound. The larger fish have migrated east towards Block Island Sound. It's a deep eater bite (60' 120'). Please be careful releasing them...when releasing fish suffering from “barotrauma”, a buildup of swim bladder gases, try using a recompression tool to help get them back to the bottom quickly. More information is available at FishSmart.org.

SCUP (porgy) fishing has started to slow down as fish start their migration (south) to offshore overwintering grounds. Some scup can still be caught on the local reefs or from shore. Locate your favorite [Enhanced Shore Fishing Opportunities](#) for these hard fighting and excellent eating “Reef Slammers”.

HICKORY SHAD fishing has picked up from last week. Want some fun fall shore fishing action...start casting your willow leafs and castmasters. Your best chances are in the lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier), East and West River, Lieutenant River, and Black Hall River.

BLUEFISH fishing is still good. If you're looking for these “choppers” now's the time before it's too late. They are on the move...migrating south for the winter. Bluefish can be found throughout the Sound (find the birds). Bluefish fishing spots include the reefs off Watch Hill, the Race, **Thames River**, Sluiceway, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, **lower Connecticut River, CT DEEP Headquarters**, 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, **Norwalk Islands** and Cable and Anchor Reef. [CT Bait & Tackleshop List](#)

WHITE PERCH fishing is good for this tasty panfish. 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.

NOTABLE CATCHES –

| Species | Length (in.) | Weight (lbs) | Angler |
|------------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| Tautog | 22" | 8 lbs 3 oz | Mason DeCarlo |
| Striped Bass | 45" | 36 lbs 14 oz | Mathew Beardsley |
| Striped Bass | 49" | C&R | Rod M. |
| Oyster Toadfish | 14" | 2 lbs. 14 oz. | Damian S. |
| Little Tunny | 30" | 12 lb. 5 oz. | Doug C. |
| Gray Triggerfish | 18" | 4 lbs. 15 oz. | Dave S. |

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>

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 VIOLATION**

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DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
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