

# 2019

## FISHERIES DIVISION Notes & Updates (Winter)



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## Updates to begin 2019

### 2019 FISHING GUIDE.

You may have noticed that we changed the wording on the cover from “Angler’s” to “Fishing.” This is an attempt to appeal to a much wider audience (those people who may not see themselves as an “angler” (or even know what one is – apparently “angling” brings back memories of geometry class to many of those who don’t fish) but do see, or would like to see themselves as someone who fishes. subtle but it could be meaningful.

The selected photo for the cover contest was Andrea Nivolo. You may remember that Andrea was our very first cover contest winner back in 2014. Since that time she has become completely obsessed with fishing, has become a certified CARE instructor, has volunteered many hours teaching kids to fish, and led our “women’s only” fishing course last year. Oh and yes, she sends us really great photos.

This year we are adding a theme to the cover contest: “Family Fishing- Catching Memories You Won’t Release”, so the winner of the 2020 cover will be a high quality shot, eye catching,

colorful, in focus, and most importantly, of a family fishing. There are no restrictions on DEEP employees or others associated with us (CARE Instructors, Fisheries Advisory Council members, etc.) from entering the contest, so please feel free to get out and snap those shots.

One last note, we will be printing 10,000 copies of the guide in Spanish this year. This idea has been a long time coming and it will greatly facilitate our ability to more effectively share fishing information with the Hispanic community in Connecticut.

### FISHERIES QUARTERLY REPORT.

ALSO A CHANGE FOR 2019, the separate Inland and Marine Quarterly Reports will be combined into a single Quarterly Report, with this issue the first combined report. Hopefully this will be even more convenient for our constituents.



*2019 fishing Guide cover photo contest winner Andrea Nivolo with her daughter and future fisher Harper (born just this January) and husband Jesse at the unveiling of the 2019 Guide cover held at the Kensington State Fish Hatchery.*

**Cover:** Blake Kamoen of Killingworth with a dogfish caught on one of the family’s many fishing trips to Long Island Sound. Blake’s brother Evan is the Trophy Fish Program Angler of the Year for both the Marine and Inland Youth Categories. Way to go Kamoen Family.

# Inland Fish Management & Fish Culture

## COLDWATER FISHERIES

**2019 SPRING TROUT STOCKING.** Approximately **538,000 catchable size trout were produced and are available for pre-season and in-season stocking in 2019, which is similar to last year’s production.** New for this year was the production of larger Brook Trout. These trout were produced for stocking into March season Trout Management Lakes which have a one trout limit with a 16” minimum length in March. In addition, 10,000 Brown Trout smolts have been produced for special programs such as sea-run trout fisheries. Also, 20,000 (“Survivor”) Brown Trout fry and 200,000 Kokanee fry are currently in production for stocking into special designated waters. Approximately 314,000 trout are scheduled to be released prior to the new Opening Day (2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in April, which is the 13<sup>th</sup> this year). The following have been produced for stocking this spring:

<i>Catchable size trout/salmon</i>		<i>Juvenile/yearling/fry trout &amp; Kokanee</i>	
Rainbow Trout (10-12")	151,500		
Rainbow Trout (≥12")	44,000		
Brook Trout (10-12")	66,500		
Brook Trout (≥12")	9,000		
Brook Trout (≥16")	4,000		
Brown Trout (10-12")	223,500	“Survivor” Brown Trout fry	20,000
Brown Trout (≥12")	25,000	Atlantic Salmon fry	100,000
“Survivor” Brown Trout yearlings (7-9")	12,000	"Sea-run" Brown Trout smolts	50,000
“Survivor” Brown large adults (14-16")	850	“Cortland” Brown Trout fry	85,000
Surplus Broodstock (1-3 lb fish)	1,920	Kokanee fry	200,000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>538,270</b>		<b>455,000</b>

**ANGLER SURVEYS.** Plans are in place to survey anglers on Opening Day at several waterbodies this spring. Efforts will focus on evaluating the effectiveness current trout stocking strategies on Opening Day fishing. In addition, a stream angler survey loop will be conducted on a set number of streams in the Western District during the in-season to gauge angler usage.

### **STREAM SAMPLING and MONITORING**

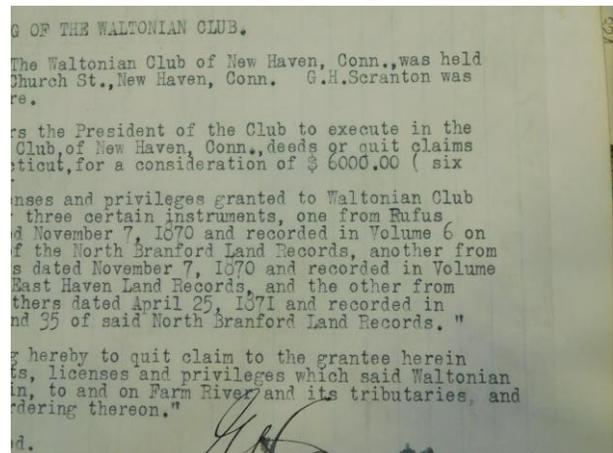
- **Statewide stream sampling. Winter activities** centered on data proofing, database updating and preparing materials for annual progress reports. Planning is now underway for the 2019 sampling season where old stream survey sites (1988-1994) will be re-sampled to document changes in fish communities throughout the State’s wadable rivers/streams.

**SURVIVOR BROWN TROUT.** The hatchery staff continue the rearing of the Survivor Brown Trout at Burlington State Fish Hatchery. Elastomer tagging material has been received and plans are being formulated for the marking of 5,000 Farmington River Survivor yearling Brown Trout this year. This task is manually intensive and often requires 10-12 staff-days to complete. The Age-2 Farmington Survivor

Browns will be marked later this spring as time permits. The Age-2 Survivor Browns scheduled for stocking in mid-April 2019 were marked last spring with a Left Green tag.

**PUBLIC ACCESS.** During February, staff researched permanent fishing Easements on the Farm River (East Haven, North Branford and Wallingford) and on the Fivemile River (Killingly, Putnam, and Thompson). Tracking easements is becoming easier as more towns develop comprehensive mapping layer linked to their property records. The easements on these river have been held by the state for almost 70 years. Unfortunately, title search are only required to go back 40 years, so if an easement is not incorporated into a new deed, the currently landowner may be completely unaware of the right of state anglers to access the river. The Constituent Affairs & Land Management unit has indicated that this may require notification to the landowners through the Office of the Attorney General.

Information on the Farm River Easements was obtained from the Personnel Papers of Mr. Scranton, the last President of the Waltonian Club Inc., that were stored at the New Haven Colony Historical Society. There was considerable information on Club membership and a 1911 Club inventory and map of the stream frontage ownership. More importantly, the documents we found included references to the pages and volumes for the agreements with the individual landowners and the Club. We should be able to use this information to determine which current parcels that had Waltonian Club easements.



*Portion of the sale of Farm River fishing rights to the state document from 1942*

We were also searching for information on the source of the unique looking wild Brown Trout found in the Farm River. Unfortunately, the records on fish stocking were generally lacking. We did find out that the Club stocked only Brook Trout until 1927 and then imported Brown Trout from a hatchery in DeBruce, New York for several years. Starting in 1932 the club arrange temporary fishing leases with the State Board of Fisheries and Game that resulted in 7 of the 12 miles of river controlled by the club being open to public fishing while the club retained a 5 mile stretch around their club house. The State stocked



*One of the uniquely colored wild Brown Trout from the Farm River (note red dots on adipose fin).*

the entire 12 miles from 1932 until 1942, when the club permanently sold the Farm River fishing rights to the state.

The Fivemile River Easements consist of a 25,000 foot easement for fishing that includes an area around the dam at Quaddick Reservoir and downstream of the Dam and a large block of property in Killingly that stretches from near the town border downstream to past I-395. These parcels were sold and subdivided several times. Some Parcels were sold several times through water companies and private landowner. Currently, the majority of property that was part of the easement in Killingly are held by an Ohio based Trust. Since the easements existence was not recorded in one of the deed rewrites it will be necessary to establish the ownership sequence and have DEEP's Land Management unit present this to the Attorney General's Office, who would then notify the Trust of the state rights and interest in the property and get it reincorporated in the deed.

Great improvements have been made in public record keeping during recent years and this should allow us to have the deeded fishing rights associated with individual parcel records going forward. Once this is done there should be no future question about where or if the State owns fishing rights on a piece of land. A Fisheries seasonal is currently inventorying DEEP fishing easements with the ultimate goal being a searchable interactive map available to the public.

**PUBLIC OUTREACH.** Fisheries Management staff attended and provided presentations on statewide coldwater management activities and recent research at several expos or meetings including the Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association (CFFA) annual Fly Fishing Expo., CFFA monthly meeting and the Thames Valley Trout Unlimited monthly meeting. Staff also crewed displays at the Connecticut Outdoor Expo at Mohegan Sun.

## **WARMWATER FISHERIES**

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**NORTHERN PIKE.** Three pike spawning marshes have been prepped for the 2019 Northern Pike propagation season. Broodstock collection for the Haddam and Mansfield marshes will begin in the middle of March. Arrangements to obtain free Northern Pike fry from the state of New Jersey (Hackettstown state fish hatchery) for release into Mansfield Marsh are underway. In addition, the FD has made arrangements to purchase 9,500 fingerlings (4-6 inches) from the same vendor out of Minnesota that supplies us with our Walleye fingerlings. The two spawning marshes in Wyantenock SF are not being run in 2019. The Punch Brook ponds at the Burlington State Fish Hatchery will again not be used to raise Northern Pike in 2019.

**CATFISH.** The order for purchasing 9,800 adult size (14-18 inch) Channel Catfish to be stocked in late May 2019 has been made. We are no longer stocking yearling size [9-12 inch] Channel Catfish. Beginning in 2019 we will be stocking each Community Fishing Waters annually and will be stocking our former yearling lakes on an alternating basis (i.e. this year a certain group of former yearling lakes will be stocked then next year the remaining group of yearling lakes will be stocked, then the following year the first will be stocked again and so forth).

**WALLEYE.** Preparations for ordering Walleye to be stocked during fall 2019 are being made. A price quote for this year's fingerlings has been obtained and no changes to prior years' stocking numbers are proposed at this time.

## CARE & Constituent Services

**ICE FISHING CLASSES** Taught 13 Introduction to Ice Fishing classes for 312 students in the towns of Ansonia, Bristol, Coventry, Essex, Farmington, Glastonbury, Groton, Killingworth, Litchfield, New Haven, Oxford, West Harford and Wethersfield,. Certified CARE Instructors taught students about winter pond ecology, safety on the ice, ice fishing equipment, proper bait and how to rig it, and fish identification and ecology. All students were invited to join CARE Instructors on an ice fishing trip to Coventry Lake in February, which attracted 74 ice anglers!



*Introduction to Ice Fishing class graduates had excellent fishing and created great memories on Coventry Lake with CARE Instructors this past February! Notable catches included dozens of crappies, bluegills, and perch jigged up, and bass up to 18 inches and a surprise walleye on tip-ups.*

**WINTER FESTIVAL** The 13<sup>th</sup> annual *No Child Left Inside*<sup>®</sup> **Winter Festival**, a partnership with DEEP's State Parks Division, was held at Burr Pond State Park this past February 2<sup>nd</sup>. We had perfect winter conditions with several inches of snow on the ground and 9 inches of ice. Another record breaking crowd of over 1,100 participants attended! Thirty CARE Instructors were on hand to show families how to setup a tip-up, use a jigging rod, and drill a hole in the ice. The lucky anglers who were patient were rewarded with catches of chain pickerel, perch, largemouth bass, sunfish, brown bullhead and even channel catfish! The Fisheries Outreach and Education trailer was on display, and families took advantage to learn about Connecticut's freshwater fish and fishing opportunities. Our Northwest CARE Instructor team setup their ever popular "fish fillet and cooking station", where they demonstrated proper filleting techniques and then fried fish for festival participants to sample!

**SPRING CLASSES** Staff has worked with volunteers and partners to schedule and coordinate spring CARE classes open to the public:

- 19 Introductory Level Family Fishing Courses for spring 2018 in Ansonia (3), Avon, Berlin, Essex, Farmington, Glastonbury, Groton, Hartford, Killingworth (2), Litchfield, Newington, Norwalk,

Suffield, Trumbull, Wallingford and West Hartford. Again this spring, the CARE program will be offering a special “Women Only!” fishing course in Killingworth on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

- Four “Specialized Fishing Courses” that will focus on specific fishing techniques: Introduction to Trout Fishing, Introduction to Bass Fishing, Introduction to Fly Fishing, and “Cook it and Catch it” course.
- Five “2<sup>nd</sup> Cast Fishing Trips” have been scheduled around the State. These are follow-up fishing trips only open to Introduction to Fishing graduates, offering students a second opportunity to fish with guidance from CARE.

**CARE CENTER PROGRAMS** Staff has coordinated and scheduled 18 field trips for Hamden Public School 6<sup>th</sup> grade students, and Hartford and East Lyme middle school students to the CARE Center on Forster Pond for this spring. Teachers will incorporate modules from the CARE curriculum into science lessons prior to the class field trip to the CARE Center on Forster Pond. Every student will then visit the CARE Center for a day of aquatic education and angling.

**INSTRUCTOR TRAINING** Recruited, trained, and certified 11 new Instructors at the CARE Center this past February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The newest cohort of CARE Instructors come from all over the State with diverse backgrounds that include Trout Unlimited, Fly Fishing Instructors, State Park staff, aquaculture and physical education teachers, commercial fisherwoman, competitive bass anglers, former students turned Instructors and Environmental Conservation Police, **THANK YOU FOR YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP!** The next opportunity for CARE certification training will be June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Knowledgeable and passionate candidates interested in joining the program should contact Tom Bourret or Justin Wiggins at 860-663-1656 or [thomas.bourret@ct.gov](mailto:thomas.bourret@ct.gov).



*The 11 newest certified CARE volunteer Instructors plus CARE’s Justin Wiggins (third from right). Thank you for taking the next step in being a steward of our environment!*

## Diadromous Fisheries Restoration

### SEA-RUN ATLANTIC SALMON

- Staff transferred 145,152 eyed Atlantic salmon eggs from the Kensington State Fish Hatchery to streamside incubators operated by the Tributary Mill Conservancy in Old Lyme. This is a privately run volunteer hatchery, but staff provide guidance and technical assistance throughout the incubation period. The facility is expected to produce approximately 116,000 fry that will be stocked in the Salmon River watershed in April.

*Interns from Old Saybrook High School pick salmon eggs at the Tributary Mill Conservancy.*



- Salmon-in-Schools – In January, staff at the Kensington State Fish Hatchery helped with the distribution of approximately 14,000 Atlantic salmon eggs to 70 incubators in 52 schools in 38 Connecticut towns. Each incubator was loaded with approximately 200 eggs. Diadromous program staff delivered eggs to Chester Elementary, Essex Elementary, and Waterford High School.

### SEA-RUN TROUT

- The sixth year of sea-run brown trout (Iijoki strain) eyed egg importation in 2019 was delayed due to the Federal Government Shutdown. The eggs, which arrived in mid-February (the latest possible date), were disinfected and loaded into the incubation trays at Burlington State Fish Hatchery (BSFH). The eggs began hatching within a week of arrival and the sac fry have been transferred to small aluminum raceways (troughs). To this point, mortality has been negligible.

*Some of the 36,000 Iijoki eggs that successfully made the journey from Finland. Their trip took 75 hours from the time that they were loaded into the shipping container until they were loaded into the incubation trays at BSFH.*



## FISH PASSAGE

The Division has been working to address siltation problems on the East Aspetuck River, a designated Wild Trout Management Area (WTMA), in New Milford for years. Sand kept collecting beyond a crumbling dam and sporadic releases sent lots of sand farther down the WTMA. We developed a partnership with the dam owner, the Housatonic NRD trustees, Princeton Hydro engineers, SumCo contractors and The Nature Conservancy CT, who ran the job. After long last, the dam was removed in March, opening up several miles of river for fish movement. But more importantly, it eliminates a failing dam and solves the sand problem.

*Looking downstream towards the former dam on the East Aspetuck River. A small portion of the dam can be seen angling-out from the downstream edge of the concrete abutment wall running along the bank in front of the gazebo. This small portion of the dam was left in-place to help protect the streambank from erosion.*



## OUTREACH & COLLABORATION

- Staff attended the 2019 winter meeting of the Southern New England Chapter of the American Fisheries Society held at the University of Connecticut.

## Habitat Conservation and Enhancement

### STAFF UPDATE

The Fisheries Division is pleased to announce the hiring of **Matthew Gocłowski** as a Fisheries Biologist 1 assigned to the Habitat Conservation and Enhancement Program (HCE). The hiring of Matt is an important step in restoring the severely reduced capacity that the HCE Program has experienced over the last couple of years due to attrition. His duties will include reviewing various DEEP permit applications that have the potential to affect fish or fish habitat, and he will also take the lead on the Division's triploid Grass Carp program, in which we permit the release of sterile Grass Carp to control nuisance/non-native invasive plants in eligible lakes and ponds. His duties will take him throughout much of the state but he will be stationed at the Western District Headquarters in Harwinton. Matt began his new career with us in mid-January.



### PHASE II HARBOR BROOK FLOOD CONTROL AND LINEAR TRAIL PROJECT, Meriden

The City of Meriden is undertaking the Harbor Brook Flood Control and Linear Trail Project to reduce the frequency of flooding through the City's center, provide a more natural riparian habitat in the urban setting and provide recreational opportunities where none currently exist. HCE staff recently reviewed permit application materials and conducted a field review of the proposed 1.2 mile project along Harbor Brook. The proposed channel work largely includes regrading and lowering the channel, excavating to form pools within the channel, enhancing stream habitats and stabilizing the channel and embankments. Varying stabilization methods including natural streambed material, riprap, boulder revetments, coir fiber logs, J-hook vanes, and vortex rock weirs are proposed to stabilize and protect the channel. Additional work adjacent to the channel along the banks includes lowering or flattening grades to form flood storage and wetland mitigation areas. Five Wetland Restoration Areas are proposed within or adjacent to these flood benches as mitigation as well as to provide effective flood storage.

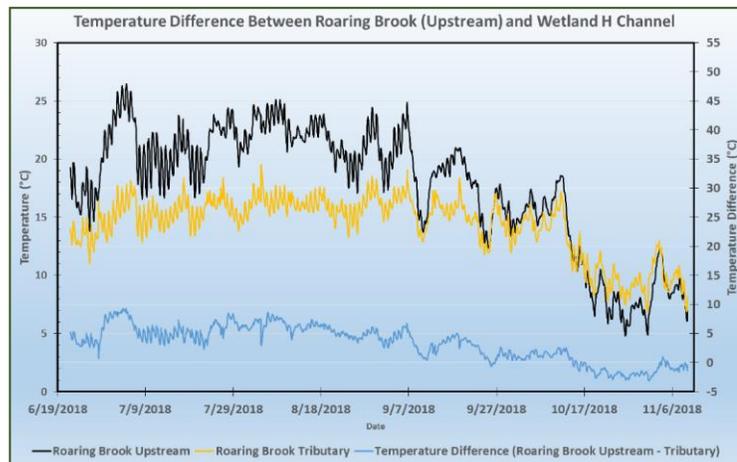
*A field review of Harbor Brook revealed that much of stream is highly urbanized with armored banks such as the vertical concrete wall pictured here. HCE staff will provide guidance to enhance instream habitat and restore riparian function during the project's implementation.*



## COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL, WILLINGTON

HCE staff provided pre-construction water temperature data collected from Roaring Brook in 2018 to Town of Willington land use commissions relative to the application by Loves Travel Stop and Country Store to develop a truck stop travel center on land adjacent to Roaring Brook. This development will include the installation of a subsurface wastewater absorption system next to an unnamed tributary to Roaring Brook that has been found to support a wild Brook Trout population. Results of temperature monitoring confirm that this tributary is supported by very cold, groundwater with temperatures being as much as 10 degrees Celsius colder than observed within the mainstem of Roaring Brook. In addition to providing mitigatory comments to the town, HCE staff have requested post development water quality monitoring to ensure the long-term protection and survival of fisheries resources.

*Example of water temperature data collected from Roaring Brook and an unnamed tributary. Roaring Brook temperatures are the black line, tributary temperatures are the gold line, and the blue line is the difference between the two streams.*



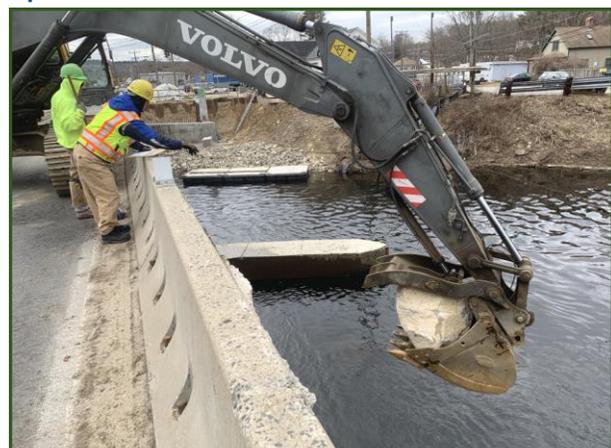
## CTDOT CULVERT PROJECTS, FISH PASSAGE AND INSTREAM HABITAT ENHANCEMENTS

HCE staff review all Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) bridge and culvert replacement projects as well as many locally regulated projects. Staff ensure that such projects are designed to allow the unrestricted movement of fish upstream and downstream and do not degrade aquatic and riparian habitats. In addition, instream habitat structures are often recommended for installation to restore/enhance instream habitat features or to mitigate unavoidable habitat losses. Permit conditions require project contractors to be assisted by HCE staff during construction to ensure the proper installation of fish passage and habitat structures. During the last quarter our program reviewed 40 projects for fish passage and habitat concerns.

### ■ NATCHAUG RIVER, Route 66 Windham - Bridge Replacement

This project involved a total bridge replacement along with repairs to the center pier and bridge abutments. The HCE program requested that several large boulder clusters be installed within the Natchaug River to enhance instream fish habitat. This stretch of the river is a popular fishing area for hatchery-reared trout during early spring.

*HCE Fisheries Biologist Brian Murphy assists with boulder placement to improve habitat in the Natchaug River as part of a CTDOT bridge replacement project.*



- **MOTT HILL BROOK, Meshomasic State Forest, East Hampton – culvert replacement project**  
HCE and Central Services engineering staff began the engineering and design phase to replace a substandard culvert that conveys Mott Hill Brook under Del Reeves Road, located within the Meshomasic State Forest in East Hampton DEEP has hired Macchi Engineers, LLC to design the project. The main project goals are to restore upstream fish passage and instream habitats for the wild Brook Trout population and provide stream connectivity to over 1.68 miles of upstream habitats. CTDOT has provided funding to DEEP to design and build the Mott Hill culvert replacement project. The Mott Hill project was chosen as off-site mitigation for DOT Project 103-266 which involves the sliplining of a culvert conveying Hammer Brook, Norwich under Route 395. The project has been flagged as requiring mitigation due to the fact that the existing culvert provides fish passage but the proposed sliplining of the culvert will prevent the passage of fish through the sliplined culvert.



Left. Outlet of 30 inch substandard culvert perched above the Mott Hill Brook streambed that blocks and prevents upstream passage for the wild Brook Trout population.



Right. Photo looking upstream from the culvert crossing flooding and road overtopping causing erosion and sedimentation impacts to Mott Hill Brook.

# Marine Fisheries Program

## ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION (ASMFC) UPDATES.

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ASMFC held its 2019 Winter Meeting on February 5-7 in Arlington, VA. The ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board also met jointly with the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council (MAFMC) on March 6-7 in Virginia Beach, VA. Below is a summary of important actions taken at these meetings.

- **Striped Bass:** A striped bass stock assessment was completed in 2018. The assessment concluded that striped bass are overfished (spawning stock biomass is too low) and overfishing is occurring (annual fishing mortality is too high). The Board tasked the Striped Bass Technical Committee (TC) with: a) determining the percent harvest reduction that is necessary to end overfishing of striped bass by 2020, and b) providing examples of regulation changes that would achieve the necessary harvest reduction. The TC will report back to the Board at the Spring ASMFC Meeting (4/29-5/1). We anticipate that ASMFC will deliberate throughout 2019 on potential striped bass regulation changes for the 2020 fishing season.
- **Black Sea Bass:** The ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board approved “status quo” (same as 2018) black sea bass recreational measures for all states in 2019. The Board’s vote was motivated by several factors: a) scientific advice that status quo measures will likely constrain harvest to the coastwide 2019 Recreational Harvest Limit (RHL), b) the expected availability in late 2019 of results from a new black sea bass stock assessment, c) uncertainty around how newly revised Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) sea bass harvest estimates will impact the stock assessment, and d) a desire to avoid making changes to black sea bass measures every year. Black sea bass regulations in CT for 2019 will therefore be: 15” minimum size limit, 5 fish bag limit, open season May 19 – December 31, with a September 1 – December 31 party/charter boat “bonus season” during which the bag limit for paying passengers is 7 fish.
- **Summer Flounder (Fluke):** A summer flounder stock assessment was completed in 2018. The stock assessment concluded that the summer flounder stock was not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. In response to the stock assessment, the ASFMC Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board and the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council voted at their joint meeting in March to set an annual coastwide summer flounder Recreational Harvest Limit (RHL) of 7.69 million lbs for the next three years (2019-21). The 7.69 million lb RHL for 2019 represents a 49% increase from the interim 2019 RHL of 5.15 million lbs that had been in place pending the outcome of the stock assessment. Estimated 2018 coastwide summer flounder recreational harvest was approximately 7.2 million lbs. Given the approximate equivalence of 2018 recreational harvest and the 2019 RHL, the ASMFC Board voted to allow states to maintain status quo measures in 2019. CT and NY comprise a management region in the ASMFC Summer Flounder Fishery Management Plan and are required to have identical measures. Summer flounder recreational regulations for Connecticut and New York in 2019 will therefore be the same as in 2018: 19” minimum length limit,

4 fish bag limit, open season May 4 – September 30. Anglers at CT Enhanced Shore Opportunity Sites will still be allowed to retain 17” summer flounder.

- **Scup:** Estimated coastwide harvest of scup was 5.61 million lbs in 2018, 1.71 million lbs below the 2018 Recreational Harvest Limit (RHL) of 7.37 million lbs. In 2019, the RHL will remain at 7.37 million lbs, providing the opportunity for liberalization of recreational scup measures. Scup are managed by region, with the four states of CT, NY, RI, and MA forming a “northern region” that works cooperatively to maintain consistent regulations. The northern region received approval from ASMFC to make minor liberalizations to scup recreational measures in 2019, and after gathering public comment and discussing various options, the northern region states made the following changes to scup measures for 2019: a) a year-round open season (scup had previously been closed during January-April), and b) increasing the bag limit from 45 to 50 fish for paying customers during the party/charter “bonus season” (in CT: September-October). All other scup recreational measures for 2019 will be identical to 2018: 9” minimum length limit, 30 fish bag limit, anglers at Enhanced Opportunity Shore Fishing Sites are allowed to retain 8” scup.

## MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHING.

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**Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP).** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries conducts a survey of marine recreational anglers to obtain information about their fishing effort, catch, and participation in marine recreational fishing, and about the demographic, social, and economic characteristics of those who participate in saltwater recreational fishing in United States waters. These data for marine recreational fisheries had been collected through the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) from 1979 until 2008; wherein, it was replaced by the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP). The MRIP was created in order to continue improving the collection, analysis, and use of fishing data.

The Access-Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS) is conducted at public marine fishing access points (i.e., boat ramps, piers, beaches, jetties, bridges, marinas, etc.) to collect individual catch data, including species identification, total number of each species, length and weight measurements of individual fishes, as well as angler-specific information about the fishing trip and the anglers’ fishing behavior. This field intercept survey is conducted by each of the 13 Atlantic states extending from Maine to Georgia.

Accurate, up-to-date catch, effort, and participation statistics are fundamental for assessing the influence of fishing on any stock of fish. The quantities taken, fishing effort, and seasonal and geographical distribution of the catch and effort are required for the development of rational management policies and plans. Continuous monitoring of catch, effort, and participation is needed to monitor trends, to evaluate the impacts of management regulations, and to project what impacts various management scenarios will have on a fishery. Recreational fisheries data are essential for NOAA Fisheries, the Regional Fishery Management Councils, the Interstate Fisheries Commissions, state conservation agencies, recreational fishing industries, and others involved in the management and productivity of marine fisheries. **See the next three pages for MRIP recreational harvest estimates for 2016, 2017 and 2018.**

**CONNECTICUT'S 2016 TOTAL HARVEST MRIP ESTIMATES (numbers of fish)**

2016		
Species	Total Harvest	PSE*
<b>Bluefish</b>	<b>328,482</b>	21.5
Dogfish Sharks	2979	82.6
Skates/Rays	23	85.9
Atlantic Cod	20341	53.1
Pollock	244	88.2
Dolphins	247	106.4
Kingfishes	8637	88.5
Weakfish	1186	107.5
<b>Summer Flounder</b>	<b>219,370</b>	18.2
Winter Flounder	33	100
Herrings	331654	23
<b>Scup</b>	<b>878,707</b>	25.7
<b>Black Sea Bass</b>	<b>450,030</b>	16.2
Searobins	35363	43.7
<b>Striped Bass</b>	<b>59,625</b>	22.1
White Perch	3508	101.4
Atlantic Mackerel	444	94.5
Little Tunny/Atlantic Bonito	173	89.2
<b>Cunner</b>	18	105.9
<b>Tautog</b>	<b>166,864</b>	37.8
<b>Total Harvest for CT</b>	<b>2,522,424</b>	

*The most popular species are in bold font.*

*\*Percent standard error, which represents confidence in the estimated value and is similar to the margin of error used in polling. The lower the percent standard error, the higher our confidence that an estimate is close to the actual population value.*



**CONNECTICUT'S 2017 PRELIMINARY TOTAL HARVEST MRIP ESTIMATES (numbers of fish)**

2017		
<i>Species</i>	<i>Total Harvest</i>	<i>PSE*</i>
<b>Bluefish</b>	<b>240,508</b>	20.2
Dogfish Sharks	3143	55.6
Skates/Rays	3376	77.5
Atlantic Cod	1946	95
Dolphins	592	92.8
<b>Summer Flounder</b>	<b>87136</b>	17.4
Winter Flounder	367	66.1
Herrings	263561	37.5
<b>Scup</b>	<b>1,016,698</b>	17.5
<b>Black Sea Bass</b>	<b>374,434</b>	15.9
Searobins	51449	20.9
<b>Striped Bass</b>	<b>40,006</b>	21.8
White Perch	4367	89.8
Toadfishes	2701	94.3
Triggerfishes/Filefishes	3141	70.3
Atlantic Mackerel	1136	101.2
Little Tunny/Atlantic Bonito	5174	64.6
Cunner	402	63.1
<b>Tautog</b>	<b>126,229</b>	25.8
<b>Total Harvest for CT</b>	<b>3,079,640</b>	

*The most popular species are in bold font.*

*\*Percent standard error, which represents confidence in the estimated value and is similar to the margin of error used in polling. The lower the percent standard error, the higher our confidence that an estimate is close to the actual population value.*



**CONNECTICUT'S 2018 PRELIMINARY TOTAL HARVEST MRIP ESTIMATES (numbers of fish)**

2018		
<i>Species</i>	<i>Total Harvest</i>	<i>PSE*</i>
<b>Bluefish</b>	<b>311,546</b>	30.2
Dogfish Sharks	2,721	65.7
Atlantic Cod	2,489	58.2
Dolphins	8,043	66.6
Weakfish	463	84.2
<b>Summer Flounder</b>	<b>162,423</b>	25.1
Winter Flounder	1,505	75
Herrings	77,971	52.6
<b>Scup</b>	<b>3,243,053</b>	21.2
<b>Black Sea Bass</b>	<b>400,904</b>	16.4
Searobins	55,965	31
<b>Striped Bass</b>	<b>93,184</b>	24.2
Toadfishes	426	105.7
Triggerfishes/Filefishes	461	64.3
Atlantic Mackerel	61	71.9
Little Tunny/Atlantic Bonito	4,083	83.4
Other Tunas/Mackerels	8,955	63.5
Cunner	128	22.5
<b>Tautog</b>	<b>81,341</b>	36.1
<b>Total Harvest for CT</b>	<b>4,716,697</b>	15.4

*The most popular species are in bold font.*

*\*Percent standard error, which represents confidence in the estimated value and is similar to the margin of error used in polling. The lower the percent standard error, the higher our confidence that an estimate is close to the actual population value.*



**CT Marine Catch Card Angler Survey.** DEEP staff completed **146 interviews and distributed 84 catch cards to boat based anglers at eight launch sites along Connecticut’s coastline.** Four launch sites in the east and west were chosen along with a group of Fairfield County boat anglers (FCBA) and New London county boat anglers. Eastern sites were visited 47 times and western sites 45 times. A total of 103 catch cards were distributed to Fairfield county boat anglers, 25 distributed (provided) at western boat launches, and another 59 distributed at eastern launches. Thirty-six cards were returned from western anglers (FCBA & western launches) and 10 cards were returned from eastern anglers (New London county boat anglers & eastern launches) in 2018. A total of 46 cards were returned (25%) with 356 anglers reporting their fishing trip activities in 2018. **Of the 356 anglers, 299 (83%) caught at least one fish.** There was a total of **408 (15%) fish kept and 2342 (85%) fish released, including 14 finfish species or species groups.**

The catch data from eastern and western sites are examined separately to address concerns regarding differences in angler catches in the eastern versus western Long Island Sound which were not clear when coast-wide catches were grouped. **Catches of scup, Summer Flounder, and Tautog were more prevalent in the east; Black Sea Bass, Bluefish, and Striped Bass were more common in the west.**

**Volunteer anglers measured a total of 442 fish in 2018.** Targeted species (black Sea Bass, Bluefish, Scup, Striped Bass, Summer Flounder, and Tautog) accounted for 96% of the measured catch in 2018.



**Connecticut Volunteer Marine Angler Catch Card Survey for the Private Boat Mode<sup>2014</sup>**

If you need assistance completing this form, please contact the DEEP Marine Fisheries Division (860.434.6043)

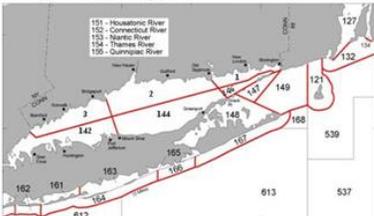
00001

Date of Trip \_\_\_\_\_

AM    Conservation ID/Fishing Lic. # \_\_\_\_\_  
 PM    (Enter # in order to qualify for Raffle Prize)

Trip Start Time \_\_\_\_\_

Area(s) Fished-See map below



Primary Fish Targeted \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Fish Targeted \_\_\_\_\_

Total fishing hours (to nearest 1/2 hr - lines wet) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Anglers in Fishing Party \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Anglers that Caught Fish \_\_\_\_\_

**Boat's Total Catch For Trip**

Common Fish Name	# Kept	# Relsd

**Length of first 3 fish caught**  
(Rounded down to the nearest half inch)

Common Fish Name	Length	Kept? (Circle one)
	.	Y / N
	.	Y / N
	.	Y / N
	.	Y / N
	.	Y / N
	.	Y / N
	.	Y / N

Please Mail Card after trip completion-Thank you!

Check Box, if NO fish were caught

*Connecticut Volunteer Marine Angler Catch Card for the Private Boat Mode.*

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