

CT DEEP **2019**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 24
9/26/2019



Common Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*)



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INLAND REPORT

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DEEP'S FALL STOCKINGS HAVE BEEN POSTPONED – SEE PAGE 2.

Providers of some of the information in this report included *Candlewood Bait & Tackle*, *JT's Fly Shop*, *The Fish Connection*, *Yankee Outdoors*, *CTFisherman.com*, and a number of bass fishing clubs & organizations.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing has been spotty with some fish in transition from summer to fall habits and some stuck in summer with surface waters still warm. Some decent action reported from Glasgo Pond, Pachaug Pond and Lake of Isles. At candlewood Lake many anglers are having a tough time, still look for action in the weeds (remember that the weeds are farther out and not up to the surface this year), and Lake Lillinonah (really tough for some, although it did cough up a 5.1 lb largemouth) and Mashapaug Lake have been slow.

Tournament angler reports are from Amos Lake (fair at best, not much size for one club, with a 2.55 lb lunker; but a second club had a 3.72 lb lunker and a 2.25 lb average weight per fish), Gardner Lake (slow for most, 3.55 lb lunker), Hopeville Pond (slow, 3.04 lb lunker), Long Pond (good for some, slow to fair for the rest, **with a 7.00 lb lunker**), Moodus Reservoir (tough, with only a 1.45 lb lunker), Pachaug Pond (fair results for "tough bluebird conditions", 3.25 lb lunker), Lake Williams (fair to good for a kayak club, with a 4.5 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (Fair to good for one club, with a 5.60 lunker; and for a second club, good for a couple and tough

Calling All Trout & Salmon Anglers!

We will be hosting a series of town hall style meetings to discuss your preferences and desires related to trout and salmon fishing. Stay tuned for additional details, but for now **save a date**.

- 10/5 (Saturday) DEEP's Quinebaug Valley State Trout Hatchery from 3-5 pm. [RSVP](#)**
- 10/7 (Monday) DEEP's Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area, Burlington, from 7-9 pm. [RSVP](#)**
- 10/10 (Thursday) Connecticut Forest and Park Association Headquarters, Middlefield, from 7-9 pm [RSVP](#)**
- 10/18 (Friday) DEEP's Quinebaug Valley State Trout Hatchery from 7-9 pm [RSVP](#)**
- 10/21 (Monday) DEEP's Kellogg Environmental Center, Derby, from 7-9 pm [RSVP](#)**
- 10/22 (Tuesday) DEEP's Franklin Swamp Wildlife Management Area, Franklin, from 7-9 pm [RSVP](#)**



for the rest, with a 5.26 lb lunker), Lake Housatonic (hard work for many, but with a 5.14 lb lunker) and Silver Lake (slow, 4.0 lb lunker).

SMALLMOUTH BASS. Candlewood Lake and Lake Lillinonah just continue to be slow for many anglers, although at Candlewood trying swimbaits around humps has been producing fish. Some nice fish have been caught at Lake Housatonic. In the rivers, good action reported from around Enfield on the Connecticut River with a number of 1.5 to 2.0 lb fish caught (one anglers had a great time on structure in a drop-off), and the bass are still really keeping anglers busy on the upper Housatonic River. Other places to try include the Shetucket and Quinebaug rivers. **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake (a few did well but it was tough for most to find fish), Lake Housatonic (fair, 4.03 lb lunker) and Pachaug Pond (a couple of 2-lb smallies for one club).

TROUT-STOCKING. We are postponing additional stocking until conditions improve. We were close to finishing up the first round of stocking rivers and streams this week, but the long term forecast is for worsened conditions for trout and salmon, meaning no measurable rain and warmer than normal temperatures. Lakes and ponds will be stocked once we are confident water temperatures are adequate and will remain so. We did stock on Monday (9/23):

Rivers & Streams. The Blackberry River (from the Beckley Furnace dam down to Rt. 44, 800 9-12 inch Rainbow Trout) and the east branch of Salmon Brook in the Granby area (from the Mechanicsville Road bridge down to Floydsville Road Bridge, 850 9-12 inch Rainbow Trout) were stocked.

We are not allowed by state statute to release most stocking information ahead of time, however, as soon as we stock we get the word out via our [Facebook page](#) and have a list on our [web page](#). A very popular application is our [interactive trout stocking map](#), which shows the number of days since a waterbody was last stocked. A second popular use of this map is to find new places to fish.

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS. Flow conditions in CT remain variable with at or higher than typical early September flows east of the Connecticut River and flows at or a bit below typical levels west of the Connecticut River (*see stream flow graphic on page 5* or check stream flows anytime for 68 USGS gauging stations at the [USGS web site](#)). Warm dry days are forecast for the weekend and beyond. We are continuing to monitor conditions and may need to suspend stocking for a bit if water temperatures, oxygen level, and flows become problematic for trout.

Farmington River – Fishing remains largely unchanged from the past several weeks and is considered good to very good. Conditions for the weekend and next week should also be near ideal for fall fishing. Flows are clear, continue to be somewhat low (currently 122 CFS at Riverton plus 10 CFS from the Still River) and very comfortable for fishing. Anglers should expect flows to slowly decrease from their current level as the drawing down of West Branch Reservoir to facilitate Colebrook River Lake dam maintenance continues (*see Notes section on page 5 for more information on this project*).

Hatches/patterns Evening hatches are picking up with large Cinnamon caddis common. Good offerings include Tricos (*Tricorythodes* #22-28 in the morning; best in the catch-and-release-section of the river), *Ephemerella needhami* (#22-26, early morning), Winter/Summer caddis (#18-24), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* spp. & *Baetis* spp.; #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), and Stone Hopper (#8-12, mid-day). Try nymphing in the early morning. Fish are falling for Bead Head, Midge Pupa, Zebra Midge or Copper John patterns. Streamers, large and shiny, are also a good option (Hare's ear, Pheasant Tail, White Zonkers & Buggers (#4-12), Muddlers, Grey or Black Ghost).

Housatonic River – The River continues to be very wadeable and fishable, and fishing has been good to very good. Note that the water is super clear and flows are well below typical levels, currently 162 CFS at Falls

Village and 217 CFS at Gaylordsville, anglers should plan accordingly in their gear selection. Look to fish areas connected to deep pools as the flows in the River are not offering much in the way of cover in the riffles and runs. Flows may get a brief bump-up from Thursday's line of showers and rain but should drop back down. Anglers can call the **FirstLight Power Resources flow line at 1-888-417-4837 for updated river information or check the [USGS website](#)** for up to date real time streamflow data from a number of USGS gauging stations including two on the upper Housatonic River.

Hatches/patterns. Lots of different activity on the river. Key is to have a diverse box of sizes and colors. Patterns to try include Sulfurs (#14-18, evening), Blue Wing Olive (#16-18, cloudy days, early morning; spinner fall in evening), Light Cahill (#12-14, evening), (*Isonychia bicolor*, #10-12 has been active lately, fast water, evening) and Black caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening). Streamer fishing and nymphing with big stoneflies have been very productive. Don't forget poppers and streamers (morning & evening). Patterns to try include White Zonkers, Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). Also try brown crayfish.

TROUT- LAKES & PONDS – No reports for trout again this week. Crystal Lake, East Twin Lake and West Hill Pond may provide some sparse and limited action. Some reports of Kokanee Salmon on East Twin beginning to change into spawning mode.

CHANNEL CATFISH. The more productive areas include the CT River (evenings/nights best but cats are being found throughout the day in the Hartford area), Batterson Park Pond, Mohegan Park Pond, Wauregan Reservoir, Crescent Lake (Southington), Lake Wintergreen, and Beardsley Park Pond. Some cats are also be found at Lake Quonnipaug. Other places to try include Stillwater Pond, Burr Pond, Silver Lake, Hopeville Pond, and Black Pond. **Please note that the Fisheries Division has nets set in Burr Pond and Lake Kenosia in order to collect catfish for a population estimate. Please do not disturb these nets (marked by large orange floats).**

COMMON CARP. Try south of Middletown in the CT River and the coves for big carp. Other carp favorite water include Lake Zoar, Candlewood Lake, the upper Housatonic River, Batterson Park Pond, Aspinook Pond and West Thompson Reservoir. Pre-Bait your area to bring in plenty of hungry carp.

NORTHERN PIKE. Some pike reported from the CT River and the Pachaug River system (Ashland Pond, Hopeville Pond, Pachaug Pond). A couple of fish have also been caught in the lower Shetucket River. Bantam Lake, Lake Lillinonah, Lake Zoar, Winchester Lake and Mansfield Hollow Reservoir are also all good places for pike. Some nice pike can also be found in the small impoundments on the Housatonic River from Bulls Bridge up to Salisbury.

PANFISH. Good time of year to go to your favorite pond and load up on bluegill and perch. It's great for families and will get kids hooked on fishing. Fly-fishing with small poppers will provide some great catches. Some good sunnie action can be found statewide. Black Crappie are also providing some action across the state (also good reports from Avery Pond and Lake of Isles in the southeast corner), try suspending poppers to catch a few. Looking for a new place to fish? Check out our [interactive mapping application](#).



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

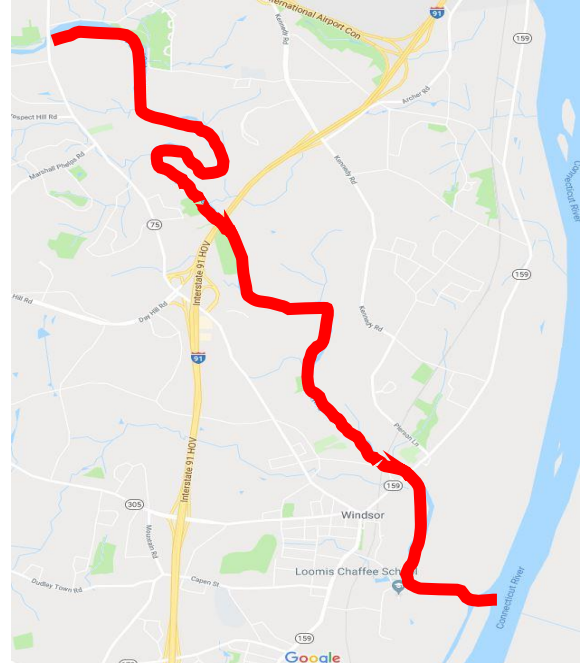
For more information including precautions that should be taken to prevent the spread of zebra mussels to additional waters, visit www.ct.gov/deep/invasivespecies or the Aquatic Invasive species section of the 2018 CT angler's Guide(www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide).

WALLEYE. Late evening and nighttime is generally the best for Walleye fishing. There’s been some nice Walleye caught at Saugatuck Reservoir recently. Other places to try include Beach Pond, Coventry Lake, Gardner Lake, Mashapaug Lake, Mount Tom Pond, Squantz Pond, Lake Saltonstall and Batterson Park Pond.

CHAIN PICKEREL. September pickerel action has been fairly good.

CONNECTICUT RIVER. Flows in the river continue on the low side (currently 4,320 CFS at Thompsonville), and while comfortable for fishing and boating, make getting into some areas difficult. Good action for **catfish** (Whites and Channels) throughout the river, especially in the Glastonbury and Middletown areas. For catfish, fish the deep holes by day and the adjacent shallow flats by night. Fishing for **Largemouth Bass** remains slow to fair in the Salmon River Cove/Haddam Meadows area. **Smallmouth Bass** was good in the Enfield area and some decent **Common Carp** action is being found throughout the river.

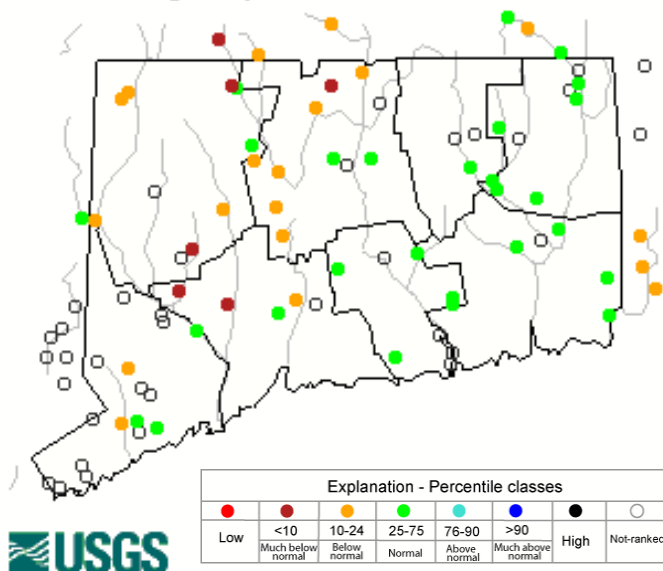
IMPORTANT NOTICE - Please note that an accidental release of fire-fighting foam from a hangar at Bradley International Airport on June 9. DEEP and the Department of Public Health have lifted the advisory concerning boating and swimming in this section of the lower Farmington river. **The advisory to not eat fish caught from this area remains in place until further testing is completed and results analyzed.**



Section of the lower Farmington River possibly affected by the recent firefighting foam release under the cautionary advisory.

Stream flow conditions

Thursday, September 26, 2019 16:30ET



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”.

NOTES & NOTICES:

ASPINOOK POND (drawdown). A 30-inch drawdown of Aspinook Pond to facilitate dam maintenance was scheduled to begin this past Monday (September 23). The drawdown is expected to last approximately one week.

COLEBROOK RIVER LAKE (boat launch) - UPDATE. Water levels have risen sufficiently for the regular boat launch at Colebrook River Lake to reopen and the launch is now open to use by the public. Boaters can call the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at 860-379-8234 for updated information.

WEST BRANCH RESERVOIR, WEST BRANCH FARMINGTON RIVER & COLEBROOK RIVER LAKE. The water level in West Branch Reservoir is being lowered 70 feet from its usual elevation by MDC at a rate of no more than two feet a day. This will result in a minor increase in flows in the West Branch Farmington and Farmington rivers independent of any rain events. This increase will decrease over time as the reservoir drops. It is expected that lowering the reservoir to the necessary level will be completed by October 14.

Once the desired level is reached repairs will begin and are anticipated to last two to three months. During this period flows in the West Branch Farmington River are expected to stay within typical levels dependent on precipitation amounts and water level manipulations of impoundments (especially Otis Reservoir) upstream of Colebrook River Lake and impoundments (such as Highland Lake) on tributaries. Recreational opportunities at Colebrook River Lake should be unaffected but will be severely limited at West Branch Reservoir during the repair project and drawdown.

Once the repairs to the Colebrook River Lake dam infrastructure are completed, refill of West Branch Reservoir is expected to take approximately 35 days. Downstream flows during this time are expected to stay within typical levels during refill.

CONNECTICUT RIVER (Glastonbury). The *“Head of the Tomahawk” rowing regatta* will be held on Saturday, September 29 (approximately 7 am – 1 pm) on the CT River in East Hartford/Glastonbury from approximately ½ mile downstream of the Charter Oak Bridge to the Glastonbury Boat House. Boat travel through the course area will be congested during the race events, use extra caution.

CONNECTICUT RIVER (invasive species alert). In 2016 hydrilla was found in the main stem Connecticut River in Glastonbury (near Glastonbury’s Riverfront Park & Boathouse). **Hydrilla has now spread throughout the river and can be found in numerous areas.** 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.

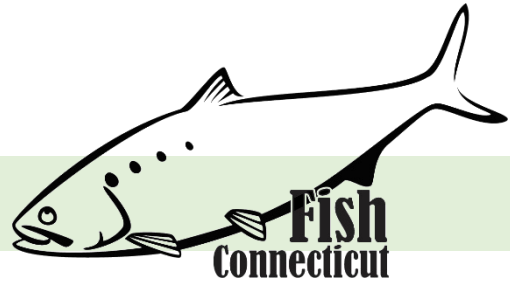
COVENTRY LAKE (invasive species alert). Hydrilla, a very highly invasive aquatic plant, has been found growing in Coventry Lake. All lake users should take extra care to check and clean their boats (including canoes, kayaks and rowing sculls), trailers, and fishing equipment before leaving the launch.

STANLEY QUARTER PARK POND (drawdown). A 2-3 foot drawdown for dam repairs is ongoing. Accessing the water may be limited.



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 mid 60'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>

NOTE ON TAUTOG SURVEY: Some of you may have recently become aware of an online survey being conducted by researchers at UConn and CT Sea Grant concerning tautog recreational fishing regulations in Long Island Sound. While CT DEEP supports this research project and encourages CT anglers to participate, **we would like to assure anglers that there are no plans to change tautog regulations in the near future.** Current regulations will remain in place until the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission conducts its next tautog stock assessment (currently scheduled for 2021). If you have questions about the survey, or would like to take the survey, please contact Eric Schultz at eric.schultz@uconn.edu

Public Input Wanted regarding Striped Bass (Deadline October 7):

The DEEP Marine Fisheries Program hosted two public hearings of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to gather input on Draft Addendum VI to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Striped Bass. Draft Addendum VI was initiated in response to the 2018 Benchmark Stock Assessment, which indicates the resource is overfished and experiencing overfishing. The Draft Addendum explores a range of management alternatives designed to end overfishing and reduce fishing mortality to the target level in 2020. Get more details [here](#).

If you could not or did not attend one of the public meetings and would like to have formal comment- Fishermen and other stakeholders are encouraged to provide input on Draft Addendum VI either by attending one of the public hearings or providing written comment. **Public comment will be accepted until 5 PM (EST) on October 7, 2019** and should be sent to Max Appelman, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or at comments@asmfc.org (Subject line: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI). Additional details [here](#).

IMPORTANT REMINDERS for ANGLERS:

- **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.

- **NORTHERN DIAMONDBACK TERRAPIN TURTLE** – Many shore anglers fishing in the lower Connecticut and Housatonic Rivers and other estuaries are encountering these beautiful brackish water turtles while fishing. They will frequently feed on fishermen’s live or dead bait when bottom fishing. They are a protected species with very low abundance. Please take great care (use needle nose pliers) when removing the hook and release the turtle without avoidable harm. Terrapins have a long lifespan of about 25 to 40 years. Thank you for supporting conservation!

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

NOTABLE CATCHES

Species	Length (in.)	Weight (lbs)	Angler
Atlantic Bonito	23.5"	C&R	Jeremy M.

CAUGHT A TROPHY FISH – CLICK HERE FOR THE MARINE TROPHY FISH AWARD PROGRAM AFFIDAVIT

- **CONNECTICUT STATE BOUNDARY LINE IN LONG ISLAND SOUND.** Anglers please note, although 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 Sport Fishing License to fish in the Marine District.
- **CT TIDE INFORMATION** can be found on page 64 of the [2019 CT Fishing Guide](#).
- **FISH RULES APP** Fish Rules is a totally new and innovative way to understand recreational saltwater fishing regulations for state and federal waters from Maine to Texas.

For Current Connecticut Recreational Fishing Regulations: Anglers should consult the 2019 Connecticut Fishing 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 Fishing Guide and additional information can all be accessed on the DEEP website at: www.ct.gov/deep/fishing.

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DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106
www.ct.gov/deep