

# FISHING REPORT NUMBER 29

## 11/4/2009



### IMPORTANT REMINDER TO SPORTSMEN

*Pursuant to the recently adopted state budget (Public Act 09-3 – June Special Session):*

- **FISHING, HUNTING AND TRAPPING LICENSE AND PERMIT FEES HAVED INCREASED (effective October 1, 2009).** This includes both recreational and commercial fishing fees.
- Among the other fees that increased on October 1, 2009, are state park and forest fees, including parking fees, season passes and camping fees.
- Fishing & hunting license and permit fees are available at [www.ct.gov/dep](http://www.ct.gov/dep)

## INLAND REPORT

**ATLANTIC SALMON** - Fishing for broodstock Atlantic salmon in the Shetucket River and the Naugatuck River was good with a number of fish caught and released on both rivers. Crystal Lake is fishing well with a lot of jumping salmon, (several more fish in the 2-5 lb range were taken this past week). Anglers may also occasionally find a salmon in two other lakes, Mashapaug Lake and Beach Pond (each stocked with 200 salmon in April, 2009). Anglers have to try this unique fishery, these fish are pure adrenalin and will more than live up to your expectations.

Anglers are reminded that all the broodstock Atlantic salmon available for stocking in Connecticut this fall were stocked in mid-October. A total of **1,300 broodstock salmon** were stocked into the **Shetucket River (550 fish)**, **Naugatuck River (550 fish)**, **Crystal Lake (100 fish)** and **Mount Tom Pond (100 fish)** this fall. Anglers should consult the 2009 CT Anglers Guide for regulations for broodstock Atlantic salmon prior to fishing.

## TROUT

**Rivers & streams** - Fall fishing can produce excellent action for those willing to brave the weather and work through leaf fall. This week, conditions should be good for trout fishing, flows and temperatures will be comfortable, and rain is not currently in the forecast for either Saturday or Sunday. Good reports from a number of smaller streams with some nice action on wild brook and brown trout. Fall is also streamer and nymph time. For streamers try white, yellow & brown colors, patterns include White Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, and Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). Nymphs to bottom-bounce include Tan & Winter Caddis pupa (#16-18), Serendipity (#14-16), Pheasant Tail (#12-20), Prince (#6-18) and Hare's ear (#8-20).

**Farmington River** – West Branch flows are clear and moderate (280 cfs at Riverton, plus an additional 170 cfs from the Still River). Morning water temperatures are in the upper 40's to low 50's °F. Hatches include Blue Wing Olive (#18-26, dominant hatch), with *Isonychia* (#12-14-nymph), Midges (#18-32) & Caddis mixed in. For best action try Blue Wing Olives (#20-28, late morning, 8-10x tippet), Caddis (winter & tan #18-22, early afternoon). Expect most of the action to be between 11:30 am and 3:00 pm.

**Housatonic River** – Flows are clear and dropping to more fishable levels, currently 1,380 cfs at Falls Village and 1,650 cfs at Gaylordsville. With dry weather forecast for the weekend, flows should continue to drop to levels easier to fish. Morning water temperatures have been in the mid to upper 40's °F. Hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive (#18-26, early morning), Midges (#20-26) and Tan & Winter caddis (#14-18, early morning and late afternoon).

**Lakes & Ponds** – Anglers have been finding some mid-fall action at a number of areas including Colebrook Reservoir (near the dam), East Twin Lake (good action, 25 trout for one angler), Black Pond (Meriden), Cedar Lake, Quonnipaug Lake, Crystal Lake (action slowing down), Squantz Pond (a few fish caught), Mount Tom Pond, Mohawk Pond and West Hill Pond.

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** are providing some mid-autumn action, with reports from Ball Pond (some nice catches in the 3-5 lb range), Coventry Lake, Candlewood Lake, Rainbow Reservoir, Gardner Lake, Shenispit Lake (season is now closed here, but some nice bass were caught last week) and Mudge Pond.

**SMALLMOUTH BASS** action reported from Colebrook Reservoir, Squantz Pond (several 3 lb smallies among the catches), Gardner Lake, Coventry Lake, Rainbow Reservoir, Candlewood Lake (continues to be very good) and Beach Pond.

**NORTHERN PIKE** – Some catches reported from Mansfield Hollow Reservoir and Pachaug Pond.

Fall **WALLEYE** are being reported from Saugatuck Reservoir, Squantz Pond and Mashapaug Lake.

**CONNECTICUT RIVER – STRIPED BASS** action is fair in the lower river, with hickory shad activity slowing. Successful anglers are using plugs and eels. Some schoolies are mixed in with larger fish.

**BLACK CRAPPIE** are putting on a good showing in the coves up and down the river for anglers using shiners. **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing is reported as good with fish up to 3 inches being caught. Fish have been found from Wethersfield Cove, and from the Middletown area down to Salmon River Cove. **CARP** are being caught with 30 lb and 18 lb fish among the catches this past week. Anglers are having some luck finding **LARGEMOUTH BASS** in coves, and behind islands.

## **TIPS & TRICKS for FALL NORTHERN PIKE**

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❖ *Pike stay fairly shallow in the fall, so fishing for them can be excellent at this time of the year.*

### **LURES:**

- ❖ Red-&-White Daredevil (clear water) and the Yellow 5-of-Diamonds Daredevil (yellow to murky water).
- ❖ When using a Daredevil, try casting up high and just before the lure hits the water, jerk it towards you so the lure slaps the surface. This slap sound seems to trigger a better feeding response from bigger Pike.
- ❖ Spinnerbaits, Crankbaits, Bucktails and Weedless Spoons also work well.
- ❖ Jitterbugs and Spooks are excellent for Pike.
- ❖ Pike are also well known for hitting surface lures.
- ❖ Also try fly-fishing for pike. You can drop the fly in an opening in the middle of thick weeds, which would not be practical for normal lures.

### **AREAS TO TARGET:**

- ❖ Points leading into weedy bays.
- ❖ Stream and river mouths.
- ❖ In the thick cabbage weed or other big leaf weeds.
- ❖ Under lily Pads.
- ❖ Narrows between lakes or open water.
- ❖ Drop offs close to thick shallow weeds.
- ❖ Deep ridges.
- ❖ Shoals or rocky points where the bass hang out is a good spot. If the bass stop feeding, it may mean a big pike has started to feed. This is when you switch to something big and flashy.

## NOTES & NOTICES:

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- DEP is conducting its annual fall walleye fingerling stockings this week, with approximately 20,900 fingerling walleye (4-6 inch fish) being released into Batterson Park Pond, Beach Pond, Coventry Lake, Gardner Lake, Mashapaug Lake and Squantz Pond. Additionally, 9,500 fingerlings will be stocked into Saugatuck Reservoir and Lake Pocotopaug (fish purchased by Aquarion Water Company and the Town of East Hampton, respectively).
- **QUADDICK RESERVOIR** is currently drawn down approximately 2 feet, launching from the state boat launch at Quaddick State Park may be difficult for some boats.
- An 8 foot drawdown of **HIGHLAND LAKE** is in progress.
- “Winter” drawdowns of a number of Eastern CT lakes are in progress. Reported lake depth status for the following water bodies is current as of Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>: **BASHAN LAKE** (down 6 inches), **BESECK LAKE** (down 24 inches), **GARDNER LAKE** (down 9 inches), **LOWER BOLTON LAKE** (down 24 inches), **MIDDLE BOLTON LAKE** (down 24 inches), **MASHAPAUG LAKE** (down 26 inches) and **PICKERAL LAKE** (down 23 inches)
- **ASPINOOK POND** continues to be drawn down 30 inches to facilitate dam maintenance. Areas such as the Butts Bridge lot used by many anglers/boaters to access the impoundment may be difficult to impossible to use by trailered boats.
- Anglers are reminded that the fishing season is now closed at several lakes and ponds throughout the state, including **LAKE WONOSCOPOMUC**, **GREEN FALLS RESERVOIR**, **BATTERSON PARK POND** and **SHENIPSIT RESERVOIR**. Please refer to the 2009 CT Angler’s Guide for additional locations.
- The boat launch at Indian Well State Park on **LAKE HOUSATONIC** is currently scheduled to remain open for daytime use until December 1<sup>st</sup>, weather permitting (call Park Office if in doubt: 203-735-4311).

## MARINE FISHING REPORT

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Water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) range from the upper 40’s to mid 50’s °F. Check out the following web sites for more detailed water temperatures and marine boating conditions:

<http://www.mysound.uconn.edu/stationstat.html>

[http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat\\_data/?nothumbs=1](http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1)

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

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

**STRIPED BASS** fishing is good to excellent with many large bass (40 pounds and larger) being taken in the past week. This week's *November full "Beaver" Moon* should be providing anglers with the best striper action, with many opportunities to catch a large "cow" bass. The bait of choice for trophy size "*linesiders*" (40 pounds and larger) are eels, hickory shad, bunker, butterfish and chunks of menhaden. The best times are during dawn and dusk, including nighttime and daytime periods of overcast low light conditions. The Race, Long Sand Shoal and Outer Bartletts being the hot spots, loaded with striped bass in the mid-30 inch to low 50-inch range. Other fishing locations include the Watch Hill reefs, Ram Island Reef (Fishers Island Sound), the Sluiceway, Plum Gut, inner Bartlett Reef, Hatchett Reef, Crane Reef, Connecticut River between the Baldwin Bridge and the Amtrak RR Bridge, Southwest Reef, Sixmile Reef, the reefs off Branford, Charles Island to Milford Point, the Norwalk Islands and the reefs off Stamford. Three 50 plus pound trophy striped bass were landed this week. Please use circle hooks to avoid gut-hooked fish. Large "cow" bass are susceptible to hooking mortality from stress. *See page 41 of the CT Angler's Guide for tips on Catch & Release Fishing. These large striped bass are very important fish, providing superior genetics (offspring), which maintains a healthy striper population and fishing for years to come.*

**BLUEFISH** - The best action of the 2009 season with larger "*Alligator Blues*" showing up and feeding voraciously on prey (butterfish, and Atlantic herring) fish. Fishing is consistent throughout LIS. Hot spots include the Race, Long Sand Shoal, Milford Harbor to Greenwich Point Park, with many "alligators" in the 8-15 pound category. Bluefish in the mid 20's to low 30 inch range can be caught off the major current breaks during the day. Other good fishing locations include the Sluiceway, Plum Gut, Bartlett Reef, Hatchett Reef, Connecticut River between the Baldwin Bridge and the Amtrak RR Bridge (incoming tide), New Haven Harbor, Milford Harbor, Lower Thames River, and lower Housatonic River. Bunker (chunks) and fish-imitating lures are providing fast and furious action with many anglers coming home with great memories, along with sore and tired arms.

**HICKORY SHAD** ("*Connecticut Tarpon*") fishing remains good in the Niantic River and fair in the Connecticut River (CT DEP dock and Baldwin Bridge fishing pier) and Clinton Harbor. Incoming tides are best. Shad approaching 20 inches have been caught on willowleafs, shad darts and leadhead jigs with plastic curly tails. Chartreuse, white and copper are the colors of choice. Go out and enjoy some great shore-based fishing action.

**BLACKFISH** is rated good. Fish weighing 4-12 pounds are common, and a few bruisers weighing 15 pounds have been landed. Look for "*Reef Bullies*" in shallower water (10-20 ft) near structure (reefs). Hermit crabs, green crabs, Japanese (Asian shore) crabs and conch are your best bets to score. Patience and mobility is the key with these finicky fish.

*Remember to check the 2009 Connecticut Angler's Guide for tidal information (page 52) and pages 49-51 for saltwater trophy fish award information. For regulation updates, please check our website [www.ct.gov/dep/fishing](http://www.ct.gov/dep/fishing)*



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