

FISHING REPORT NUMBER 12

7/7/2010



INLAND REPORT

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is generally fair to good, with the best reports from Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Lower Bolton Lake, Hopeville Pond, Quaddick Reservoir, Mudge Pond, Winchester Lake, West Hill Pond, Wononskopomuc Lake, Candlewood Lake, Ball Pond and Cedar Lake. The fair reports are from Billings Lake, Lake McDonough, Highland Lake, Rainbow Reservoir, Lake Zoar, Lake Lillinonah (catches here include a 5.3 lb largemouth), Wyassup Lake, Lake Saltonstall, Glasgo Pond, Rogers Lake, Griggs Pond, Black Pond (Woodstock), Moodus Reservoir, Halls Pond, Scoville Reservoir, Coventry Lake and Beach Pond (it's been tough for some here).

SMALLMOUTH BASS fishing is variable, with good reports from Candlewood Lake (has slowed some, but lots of big fish among the bags) and Colebrook Reservoir, and fair reports from Mashapaug Lake, Rainbow Reservoir, Highland Lake and Lake McDonough. Smallie fishing is reported as slow at Bashan Lake and Coventry Lake. With summer now more than fully entrenched, river smallmouth action is excellent on the Housatonic River. The "*big stick*" goes to one angler boating 35 fish.

NORTHERN PIKE catches are being reported from Bantam Lake, Winchester Lake and Pachaug Pond.

KOKANEE (fish in the 12-15 inch range) are producing good fishing at West Hill Pond (day, trolling slowly, and at night, bait fishing over 40 feet of water) and East Twin Lake (18 inch fish, on slow trolled beads & grub/corn).

WALLEYE are being reported from Lake Saltonstall, Coventry Lake and Mashapaug Lake.

SUNFISH are providing excellent action statewide. Use worms or poppers on a fly rod. Small local ponds are often great places for sunnies, larger waters to try include Quaddick Reservoir, Bishop Pond, Roseland Lake, Highland Lake, Uncas Lake and Tyler Lake.

CONNECTICUT RIVER – CATFISH action is good. Fish in the 7-10 lb range are being taken on frozen herring & cut/chunk bait. **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing is fair with catches reported from Hartford downstream to Salmon River Cove, best in the coves and the Haddam Meadows area. **STRIPED BASS** are being taken at night at the mouth on live eels and tube & worm. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are providing some action in the Enfield area. Smallies are also surprising some anglers in the Hartford-Wethersfield area and East Haddam. Some **LARGEMOUTH BASS** are being found in the coves and backwaters along the river from Wethersfield to East Haddam.

TROUT

Rivers & streams - Both trout and trout anglers are being challenged by the current heat wave and the low flows caused by the extended period of dry weather. In these conditions, mornings and evenings are best for fishing, and light line and leaders should work best. Try targeting areas of cooler waters to reduce stress on fish. Rainbow trout can be found in the fast water and brown trout will typically be in the larger, deeper pools. Bait fisherman are using a corn/mealworm combination.

Farmington River – Trout fishing continues to be good, and conditions should again be good for the weekend. West Branch flows are clear and very fishable, currently 260 cfs at Riverton plus an additional 15 cfs provided by the Still River. Morning water temperatures in the West Branch TMA are in the low 60's °F (expect warmer temperatures below New Hartford, and cooler temperatures, in the upper 50's °F, can be found up below the dam). Anglers should be finding some good fishing in the upper reaches of

the West Branch (from Hogback Dam down to the upper boundary of the TMA), with many of the 2,000 brown trout (12 inch and longer fish) stocked last week still out there.

Hatches/patterns include *Ephemerella needhami* (#22-26, early morning; 9:00 am), *Isonychia bicolor* (#10-14, evening), Blue Wing Olives (#16-24 (*Drunella lata*) & #22-26 (*D. cornuta* & *cornutella*), cloudy days, mid-late afternoon), Sulphurs (*Epeorus vitreus*) duns (#16-20, morning; afternoon to early evening for spinners), Caddis (tan #14-20, all day; green #22-26, evening) and Midges (#22-28, morning). Terrestrials have been very good during the middle of the day and Golden Drake (*Potomanthus* sps., #10-14) in the late evening. Anglers are having good success below the surface with wets, streamers and bottom bouncing nymphs.

Housatonic River – Flows are clear and low, currently 200 cfs at Falls Village and 300 cfs at Gaylordsville. The current heat wave has warmed the river again, with morning water temperatures (TMA area) now into the mid 70's °F (and rising during the day to the high 70's °F). Summer conditions can be very stressful to trout, and with these temperatures and flows, **it's an excellent time to switch to smallmouth bass (and these conditions are near ideal for smallie fishing). Those targeting trout need to take extreme care when handling trout they plan to release!**

Hatches/patterns include Alder/Zebra Caddis (*Macrostemum zebratum*, action slowing, #10-12, afternoon-evening near overhangs), Sulphurs (#14-16, evening), Blue Wing Olive (#18-22, early morning; spinner fall in evening), *Isonychia* sps. (#8-10 evening), Light Cahill (#12-14, evening), and Tan & green caddis (#14-20, early morning & evening). Don't forget streamers (morning & evening), patterns to try include White Zonkers, Wooly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10).

Anglers are reminded that the thermal refuge areas on the Housatonic, Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers are now closed to fishing. These areas will reopen on September 1. There is no fishing within 100 feet of the mouths of posted tributaries to these rivers.

Lakes & Ponds- Many of our lakes are still producing good fishing. Places to try include East Twin Lake, Highland Lake, Crystal Lake (target 25-30 feet), Mashapaug Lake (target 7-8 colors), West Hill Pond, Lake Wononskopomuc (target 20-30 feet), Beach Pond, Candlewood Lake and Colebrook Reservoir.

NOTES & NOTICES:

- The **Bayberry Lane State Boat Launch** Groton will be closed for renovations from August 2nd through December 31st.

TIPS & TRICKS- SMALLMOUTH BASS

- Smallmouth bass love to fight, jump, and head for the rocks and weeds.
- Use a medium pole and 10-14 pound test line.
- You need to be able to feel the action on the line, which can be defeated by a long pole, and the line needs to be strong enough to stand up to the weeds, rocks, and jumping fish.
- Given the chance, smallmouth bass prefer to feed on crayfish.
- Also try using a whole night-crawler when trying for the monster smallmouth bass.
- Consider mixing it up with shad, minnows, classic baitfish or a leech.
- Remember, smallmouth bass fishing like to hit anything that moves.

What Else to Think About:

FISHING LINE - Take a few moments to check your line before each outing by stripping a few feet off of the reel. If it coils up or is very stiff, it needs to be replaced. Take your thumb and index finger and pinch the line between your fingers, running your fingers down the line several feet. If the line leaves a chalky residue, or you feel nicks or rough spots, replace the line.

SIGHT - Fish during low light levels, especially during summer months. Bright light will tend to send fish for cover. If you can see them they can see you long before you cast. Fish early in the morning and late afternoon into the night. Always try to fish the shaded areas of the lake and be aware of any shadows you cast.

SOUND - Use a quiet, stealthy approach. Banging a tackle box on the bottom of your boat, hitting the side of your craft with an oar or making any loud noises will spook the fish in your vicinity.

SMELL - Fish have a highly developed sense of smell. Odors are detected by the nasal sac inside the snout. Water is drawn into a front opening, or nare, passed through the nasal sac and expelled through the back nare.

LOCATION - Rely on your electronics while in a boat. Look for docks, grassy areas, drop-offs and cover. A map of the lake will help in finding the hot spots. Asking bait & tackle shops and other anglers can help. In general you should target warmer water during spring time or cooler water in the hot summer. Bait fish schools present an opportunity to find gamefish. Transitions areas from clear to murky waters as well as shallow to deep areas are preferred areas of your query.

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) remain in the high 60's to low 70's °F. Check out the following web sites for more detailed water temperatures and marine boating conditions:

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

http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1

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

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

Striped bass and **bluefish** fishing has slowed down a bit from what it was a few weeks ago. We are beginning the summer doldrums so night is definitely the time to go for linesiders. Bluefish are spotty throughout LIS but some places like Pigeon Rip (area just north of Plum Island) can provide some good top water action. Just look for diving terns especially right after sunrise. The other usual fishing spots include the Watch Hill area, Ram Island Reef (Fishers Island Sound), lower Thames River, the Race (by Race Rock and Valiant Rock), outer Bartlett Reef, the Sluiceway, Plum Gut, warm water discharge from Millstone Power Station, Hatchett Reef, Long Sand Shoal, Cornfield Point, Southwest Reef, Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island area, reefs off Guilford and Branford, New Haven Harbor, buoys #18 and #20 off Bridgeport, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Penfield Reef, Norwalk Islands, Eatons Point area on the New York side, Cable and Anchor Reef, Smith Reef and the reefs off Stamford and Greenwich. **Snapper blues** are in the tidal rivers and creeks and are about 3 to 4 inches in length.

Summer flounder fishing remains fair to good in about 50 to 70 feet of water. Also, the lower tidal rivers have been producing such as the Mystic, Thames, and Connecticut Rivers. Other fluke spots include the Sandy Point area in Stonington, Stonington flats south of the breakwaters, Ram Island Reef to Latimer Point (Fishers Island Sound), south side of Fishers Island, Twotree Island Channel, Niantic River, Black Point, White Sands Beach, Long Sand Shoal, Falkner Island area, south of the New Haven breakwaters, the Norwalk Islands.

Scup fishing remains in the spotlight with good action being reported by anglers on the major reefs throughout LIS. Porgies measuring 14 inches and greater are not uncommon.

Reports of **blue crabs** are already coming in so it looks like a good season may be underway.

For regulation updates and fishing/crabbing information, please check out our web site at:

www.ct.gov/dep or pick up the 2010 Angler's Guide.



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CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106
www.ct.gov/dep