



CONNECTICUT- A FISHING DESTINATION STATE.

-An Overview of the Recent Trophy Fish Awards Ceremony

“Fishing in Connecticut in 2011 was truly exceptional, as new state records were set for a total of six species, in three cases breaking records that had stood for twenty-five years or more. Most notably, these new records include a striped bass that has been confirmed by the International Game Fish Association as a new world record. We are hoping that anglers from around the country will take notice and make Connecticut their fishing vacation destination.”

Daniel C Esty, Commissioner of the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection speaking on the unprecedented number of state records set in 2011.

On Saturday, February 18, 2012, the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) hosted the “Fourth Annual Trophy Fish Award Ceremony” at the **Northeast Fishing and Hunting Show** in the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. Fifty-seven anglers, including youth, were presented certificates recognizing their achievement of having caught or landed the largest fish in each species category or for earning awards for the greatest number of different fish species during the year. Six new state record holders, including the new striped bass world record holder, were honored.

Below are the new state records (species, angler and water body) set in 2011:

<i>species</i>	<i>Angler name</i>	<i>location</i>
tiger trout (7 lb 14 oz)	Gerald J. Barth Jr.	Lake Quassapaug
common carp (41 lb 8 oz)	Nigel Griffin	Connecticut River
striped bass (81 lb 14 oz)	Greg Meyerson	Long Island Sound
tautog (23 lb 9 oz)	Kendall Owens	Long Island Sound
kokanee salmon (2 lb 14 oz)	Thomas Pasko	East Twin Lake
brown trout (18 lb 5 oz)	Anthony Urbanowicz	Saugatuck Reservoir

Attending the ceremony to help recognize Greg Meyerson, the angler who caught the new world record striped bass, was Jack Vitek from the International Game Fish Association (IGFA). The IGFA, a nonprofit organization committed to game fish conservation, maintains definitive worldwide game fishing records and has certified Myerson’s catch as a new world angling record.



Jack Vitek (*left*) from the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) traveled from the home office in Florida to recognize the new World Record Striped Bass. **Greg Meyerson** (*right*) of North Branford displays his **81.88 lb striped bass**, caught August 4, 2011 in Long Island Sound off Westbrook, CT.



Nigel Griffen, who caught (and later released) the new state record **common carp** holds his awards (*above*, from left to right- Pete Aarrestad (Director of Inland Fisheries, Nigel, Bill Hyatt (chief of the Bureau of Natural Resources) and DEEP Deputy Commissioner Susan Frechette, and holding his new record carp (*right*).



Kendall Owens is the new **tautog** state record holder with his catch (*left*) and displaying his plaque (*right*) with Dave Simpson (Director of Marine fisheries) , Bill Hyatt and Deputy Commissioner Frechette.



Thomas Pasko (*left*, with Pete Aarrestad, Deputy commissioner Frechette & Bill Hyatt) with his awards for the new record **kokanee salmon** (*above*).



Tony Urbanowicz with the new state record **brown trout**. Unfortunately, Tony was unable to attend the ceremony.



Gerald J. Barth Jr. holding the new state record tiger trout (left) and after receiving his awards (right, with Deputy commissioner Frechette and Bill Hyatt).

In addition to the six new state record fish, there were also ten records set in the marine off-shore, youth, catch-and-release and exotic species categories. DEEP also again recognized several anglers as “Angler of the Year”. Special recognition was awarded to freshwater and saltwater anglers who received Trophy Fish Awards in the widest array of categories in 2011.



Inland Youth Angler of the Year Brian Martel (left) with his awards and Marine Angler of the Year Kenneth A. Mike (right) and his son with one of his catches (Kenneth was unable to attend the ceremony).



Marine Youth Anglers of The Year Jared Macha (*left*) & Michael Reischerl (*right*).



Inland Angler of the Year Daniel ES Kornegay III (*left*) with his awards and with one of his catches (*right*), a 41 inch American eel.

More information about the Trophy Fish Award Program is available in the 2012 Connecticut Angler's Guide, on the DEEP website (www.ct.gov/deep/fishing), or by contacting the Inland Fisheries Division (860-424-FISH) or the Marine Fisheries Division (860-434-6043).

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