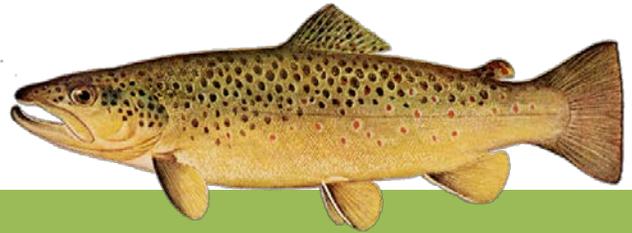


**CT DEEP 2015
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 1
4/16/2015**



Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta*)



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INLAND REPORT

OPENING DAY –The extended winter, high flows driven by snowmelt and rain, and cold water temperatures meant a slow start to the trout season for many. Further challenging anglers, a number of lakes and ponds in both the Northwest and Northeast Corners still had significant ice cover. Anglers did however enjoy great weather throughout Opening Day, greeted with a clear, cool morning that quickly warmed up nicely. Seven of the eleven Trout Parks were stocked on Opening Day and the many kids present enjoyed helping us stock (a Community Fishing Area, Mirror Lake in Hubbard Park, Meriden, was stocked on Opening Day this spring instead of the Black Rock Pond Trout Park due to icy conditions).

Approximately 341,000 trout were stocked throughout the state before Opening Day, and in spite of some very extended adverse winter conditions, virtually all areas scheduled to be stocked prior to Opening Day were stocked (Colebrook River Lake, the Mad River Flood Control Impoundment and Hall Meadow Brook in western Connecticut were the only waters not stocked prior to Opening Day. In-season stockings began this week. DEEP's in-season stocking is now underway with nearly 260,000 additional trout scheduled to be stocked between Opening Day and the end of May.

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - Conditions should be fairly good for trout fishing this weekend. Flows have been high, and sometimes difficult to fish in many areas, but are dropping back to typical spring levels (*see stream flow graphic on page 4*), generally warm comfortable weather is forecast, and there are plenty of recently stocked trout waiting for anglers. As water temperatures warm, fishing should improve.

Some Opening Day action reported from the West Branch Farmington River, Natchaug River, Salmon River (some action, but slow at many spots), Hammonasset River TMA, Mount Hope River, Eightmile River, Shetucket River, Macedonia Brook, Pomperaug River and Pootatuck River. Slow to very slow fishing reported from the Hockanum River (fishing reports from early this week indicate that fishing has picked up), Scantic River (very high flows), Jeremy River (a few catches), Quinnipiac River ("poor catch rates at best"), Hall Meadow Brook, Still River (Winchester/Colebrook/Barkhamsted), East Aspetuck River and Norwalk River.



FIND TROUT STOCKING MAPS ON OUR WEBSITE

Maps of all of the state's trout streams and rivers showing the many stocking and access points are available online at

www.ct.gov/deep/troutstockingmaps.

Farmington River - Opening Day trout fishing was fair to good above the Still River, but tougher farther downstream due to higher flows. West Branch flows are now clear, moderate and fishable, currently 247 cfs at Riverton plus an additional 272 cfs from the Still River. Water temperatures are in the mid 30's to low 40's °F. Conditions should be good for the upcoming weekend with warm weather forecast and comfortable flows.

Hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive (a.k.a. *Baetis vagans*; #16-18 in a parachute or emerging du; noon to 5pm), Hendrickson (will appear mid-April due to the cold), Winter/Summer Caddis (waning, #18-26), Stonefly nymphs (#12-18), Midge (#20-28) and Blue Quill (a.k.a. paralep; #16-18) in a parachute or emerger (midday). Nymphs (#18-22) are always a good go-to fly, try Bead Head, Midge Pupa, Brassie, Zebra Midge or Copper John patterns. Streamers are also producing, use White Zonkers & Buggers (#4-12) as well as Muddlers, Micky Finn, Grey or Black Ghost.

Housatonic River - Flows have been too high to fish for most anglers. Conditions for fishing are improving as flows continue to drop. Currently flows are turbid and still high, but finally dropping some, with 3,270 cfs at Falls Village and 5,040 cfs at Gaylordsville. Still very challenging to unfishable (and unwadeable) for most anglers. Anglers can call FirstLight Power Resources at 1-888-417-4837 or check the USGS website (<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/current/?type=flow>) for updated Housatonic River flow information (and also check with a local bait & tackle shop). Water temperatures are in the low 40's °F. Typical hatches/patterns for mid-April would include Hendrickson (#12-14), March Brown (#10-12), Pheasant Tail (#12-18) and Copper John (#12-16), plus nymphs and streamers.

Rivers and streams stocking update (Note that all stocking schedules are subject to change):

- In **eastern Connecticut**; **Natchaug River, Fenton River, Willimantic River** (sections below the TMA), **Salmon River** (including the TMA), **Eightmile River, East Branch Eightmile River, Shetucket River, Susquetonscut Brook, Beaver Brook, Farm River** (both upper & lower sections), **Branford River** and **West River** stocked this week.
- In **western Connecticut**; **Hall Meadow Brook, Wepawaug River, Saugatuck River TMA**, the upper **Saugatuck River, Leadmine Brook**, upper & lower sections of the **Norwalk River, Weekepeemee River, Nonewaug River, Hop Brook, Little River** (Oxford), **Shepaug River, East Aspetuck River** and the **Mill River** (Fairfield, including the TMA) stocked this week.

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS - A number of lakes in northwest (including West Hill Pond, Colebrook River Lake, Highland, East Twin Lake, Wononskopomuc Lake, Stillwater Pond, West Side Pond, Mohawk Pond and Tyler Lake) and northeast (Mashapaug Lake, Bigelow Pond, Crystal Lake) Connecticut still had significant ice cover on Opening Day, although some hardy anglers were fishing edges of the ice (trolling streamers on the surface can work well in these colder than normal conditions).

Fair to good fishing reported from Beach Pond, Long Pond, Bigelow Pond, Maltby Lakes Birge Pond (Bristol, added to the stocking schedule this year), Mirror Lake (Meriden, stocked on Opening Day),

LAKE & POND BATHYMETRIC MAPS

Bathymetric maps of many of Connecticut's public access lakes and ponds can be found online at:

www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/fishing/general_information/lakebathymetrymaps.pdf

Both plain line maps and maps overlaying an aerial photo available.



Cedar Lake (28 inch brown trout), Highland Lake (anglers were finding some trout fishing open water at the boat launch), Candlewood Lake and Quonnipaug Lake. Both Crystal Lake (Ellington) and Mashapaug Lake (as of Monday when a large brown was caught) are reported to be ice free now. Colebrook River Lake is reported to be breaking up with some open water (may be ice free by the weekend). Now that open water is returning, try surface trolling your favorite lures.

Lakes and ponds stocking update (Note that all stocking schedules are subject to change):

- In **eastern Connecticut**; **Black Pond** (Woodstock), **Gardner Lake**, **Horse Pond**, **Mansfield Training Ponds**, **Lake Saltonstall** and **Branford supply Pond** were stocked.
- In **western Connecticut**; **Colebrook River Lake**, **East Twin Lake**, **West Hill Pond**, **Fountain Lake**, **Mohegan Lake** and **West Branch Reservoir** were stocked.

TROUT PARKS – Fishing ranged from fair to excellent at the Trout Parks. All were stocked before Opening Day and seven of them, Chatfield Hollow (very good fishing), Mohegan Park Pond (fair action), Southford Falls, Stratton Brook (very good fishing), Valley Falls Park Pond (excellent fishing, with nearly all of the many anglers catching fish), Wharton Brook (fair to good action) and Wolfe Park (Great Hollow Pond) were stocked again on Opening Day. The **Natchaug River** and **Day Pond Trout Parks** have been stocked so far this week.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is generally slow in many areas, action should begin to pick up as water temperatures warm. Targeting dark bottom warmer back water coves is suggested for some action. Some places to try include Burr Pond, Lake Waramaug, Candlewood Lake, Squantz Pond, Lake McDonough, Bantam Lake, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (ice free now), Black Pond (Meriden), Congamond Lakes, Moodus Reservoir, Lake Saltonstall, Ball Pond, Hopeville Pond, Twin Brooks Park, Batterson Park Pond, Lower Bolton Lake, Lake Zoar, Silver Lake and Lake Lillinonah. **Tournament angler** reports are from Lake Zoar (only one fish caught) and Pattagansett Lake (very slow with a 2.65 lb lunker).

CONNECTICUT RIVER

The river is currently cold, turbid and very high (but just beginning to drop) and difficult to boat. Before flows increased, some **LARGEMOUTH BASS** were being caught in back coves and a few **NORTHERN PIKE** had been reported in the Middletown to Haddam Meadow section of the river.

NOTES & NOTICES:

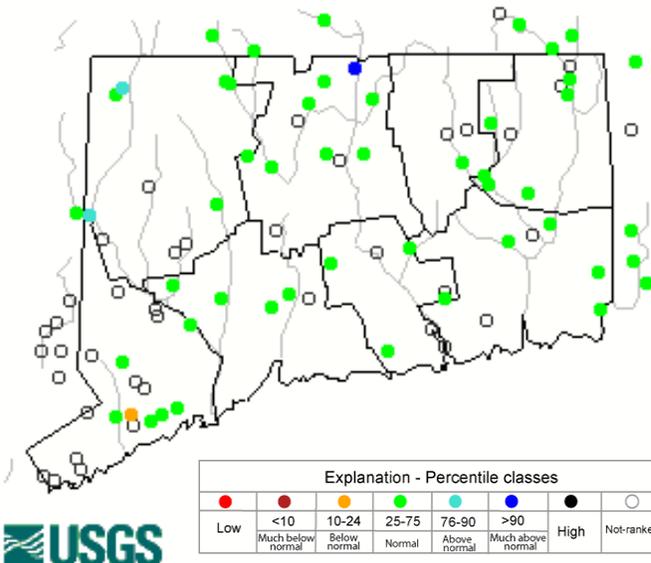
BASHAN LAKE The drawdown of Bashan Lake for dam repairs is ongoing. Bashan Lake is drawn down until approximately 14-16 feet. Additionally, the state boat launch is closed for renovations.

BESECK LAKE Some refill is ongoing but the lake remains drawn down approximately 9-10 feet.

MDC BOAT LAUNCHES. The boat launches on **Lake McDonough** and **West Branch Reservoir** are currently expected to be open for the weekend.

Stream flow conditions as of 4/16/2015

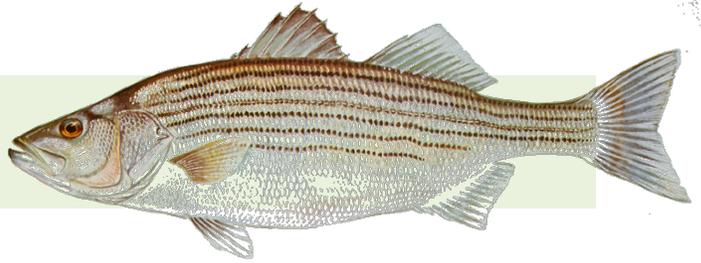
Thursday, April 16, 2015 19:30ET



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”.

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MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the low 40'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 fishing is fair to good in the Housatonic River, Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier), and the Black Hall River. Sand and blood worms will do the trick especially in murky water.

WINTER FLOUNDER fishing is on the slow side. Early season flounder spots include the lower Mystic River, Poquonock River at Bluff Point State Park, mouth of the Thames River in the Pine Island area including Baker Cove, Niantic River including the bay, and Norwalk Harbor.

BLACKFISH fishing spring season runs April 1st - 30th. However, with water temperatures in the low 40's °F don't expect a lot of action. The New Haven breakwaters are one of the better early season fishing spots for tog.

For Current Connecticut Recreational Fishing Regulations: Anglers should consult the 2015 Connecticut Anglers 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 Angler's Guide and additional information can all be accessed on the DEEP website at: www.ct.gov/deep/fishing.

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106

www.ct.gov/deep

Striped Bass image courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.