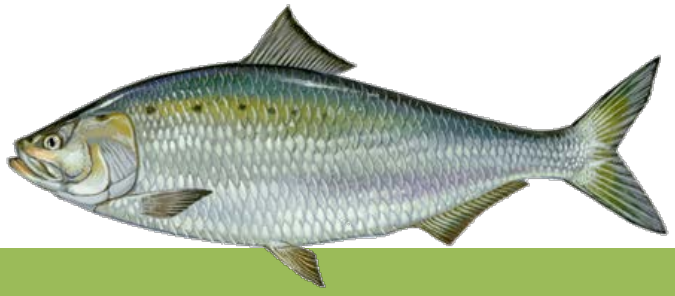
CT DEEP 2015
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 7
5/28/2015



American shad (*Alosa sapidissima*)

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YOU CAN FIND US DIRECTLY ON FACEBOOK. This page features a variety of information on fishing, hunting, and wildlife watching in Connecticut. The address is **www.facebook.com/CTFishandWildlife.**

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Take someone fishing

INLAND REPORT

COME TAKE A TOUR OF THE RAINBOW FISHWAY-
See migrating fish in the underground viewing window.

THIS SATURDAY - DEEP's annual OPEN HOUSE AT THE RAINBOW FISHWAY is THIS Saturday, May 30, from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm. The public is invited to visit the fishway and learn about both it and the fish it passes. During this day, the public can tour the facility and are encouraged to go downstairs and check out the underground viewing window. Shad, lamprey and an occasional Atlantic salmon may be seen passing upstream. Staff will be on hand to answer questions. This is a **GREAT ACTIVITY FOR FAMILIES**, and there is no fee. *(Directions can be found on page 4 at the end of the Inland Report section.)*

TROUT- ***spring stockings*** **-DEEP's spring trout stockings were completed last week.** From early March through this week, DEEP stocked nearly 600,000 brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout and tiger trout. Approximately 344,500 fish were stocked prior to Opening Day and nearly 240,000 fish from Opening Day to May 22.

TROUT- ***RIVERS & STREAMS*** **-** Conditions for fishing should be fairly good for the weekend. Temperatures will moderate and the low flows offer great wading opportunities. Flows are below typical late May levels in most areas throughout the state. Recent thunderstorms and showers have refreshed flows a bit in western CT, but very little precipitation has reached most areas in eastern CT, leaving eastern CT streams especially low (*see stream flow graphic on page 4*). Some rain is possible late in the weekend, which may improve flows for early next week.

Good reports last week from the West Branch Farmington River, Farmington River, Housatonic River, Blackledge, Jeremy River, Hammonasset River, Natchaug River, Salmon River (TMA), Mill River (Fairfield), Moosup River, Pootatuck River and Roaring Brook (Glastonbury). Success is being found using worms & corn/mealworm combinations and drifting shiners. Fly anglers are seeing the beginnings of the annual "bug-a-thon."

Farmington River - Trout fishing has been good to very good, and conditions should be good this weekend. West Branch flows are clear and moderate-low (currently 223 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River contributing another 50 cfs) and very comfortable for fishing. Water temperatures are reaching the low 60's°F over the course of the day.

Current hatches include Blue Winged Olive (#18-24), Blue Quills (#16-18) [a.k.a. paralep], and Tan Caddis (#14-18; starting). Hendrickson (#12-14) are winding down but are still available in the upper portion of the river. Sulphur (#16-18) [a.k.a. Vitreus] & March Browns (#10-14). Blue Wing Olives (#18-24, mid-late afternoon, upper portion of the river), Caddis (tan/green #14-18, all day) and Midges (#20-32) are the current patterns working. Grey Stoneflies (#16-18) are also working well.

Housatonic River - Fishing continues to be good, and weekend conditions should be good. Flows are clear, on the low side for late May (currently 429 cfs at Falls Village and 692 cfs at Gaylordsville), and quite fishable. Water temperatures are in the mid 60's°F.

Current hatches include Sulphurs (starting), Green Caddis (mornings & evenings), Light Cahills and Brown/Tan Caddis (#14-18). Successful flies include March Browns (#10-12, 4 pm to dark, early stages of the hatch), Gray Foxes (#12-14), Green caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening), Light Cahills (#14), Sulphurs (#16) and Blue Wing Olives (#18-20, cloudy days). Midges (#22-26) are being seen at the mouths of streams on the Housatonic River. Golden Stoneflies (#6) are producing well.

TROUT-*LAKES & PONDS* - Trout fishing has been good. Places to try include Cedar Lake, Mount Tom Pond, Squantz Pond, Highland Lake (set riggers at 23-26 feet, orange/gold is working), Quonnipaug Lake (4 colors, Mooselooks, DB Smelt, Kobra #9), Colebrook Reservoir (5-6 colors, blue/silver Mooselook or Flash King), East Twin Lake (target 20+ feet), West Hill Pond (4-5 colors), Lake McDonough (near the dam), Black Pond (Woodstock), Crystal Lake (Ellington, 8 colors lead line, Kobra #118 in front of brown house over 40 feet of water), Lake Wononskopomuc (Sutton #33), Beach Pond (slow troll fly behind 90 feet of wire) and Mashapaug Lake (16-18 feet, DB Smelt 102).

FREE FISHING LICENSE DAYS

NEW for this year are two free fishing license days, June 21, 2015 (Father's Day) and August 15, 2015 (NCLI and CARE Saltwater fishing event at Fort Trumbull State Park). Anyone can obtain a free one-day fishing license to fish each of these days.

The free 1-day license for June 21, 2015 will be available starting May 31, 2015 and for the August 15 date starting on July 24, 2015 through our convenient online sportsmen licensing system (now mobile friendly!) and at the same DEEP offices where other licenses are available (DEEP Offices).

LARGEMOUTH BASS Fishing is generally good to very good. Places to try include Highland Lake, Coventry Lake, Tyler Lake (catches include a 3 lb plus bass), Upper & Lower Moodus Reservoir, Bantam Lake, Mudge Pond, Stateline Pond, Hatch Pond, Winchester Lake, Rogers Lake, Colebrook Reservoir, Lake McDonough, Congamond Lakes, Pattagansett Lake, Pachaug Pond, Killingly Pond, Black Pond (Woodstock), Lake Saltonstall, Lake Lillinonah, Halls Pond, Babcock Pond and Mashapaug Lake. **Tournament angler** reports are from Amos Lake (slow for most, 4.9 lb lunker), Aspinook Pond (some action but nothing to write home about, 4.5 lb lunker), Coventry Lake (mediocre, lots of 1-lb fish, with a 3.9 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (some in most bags, 4.8 lb, 4.26 lb, 3.95 lb and 3.55 lb lunkers), Highland Lake (fair action, 2.97 & 2.9 lb lunkers).

SMALLMOUTH BASS are being caught at Squantz Pond, Shenipsit Lake, Colebrook Reservoir, Candlewood Lake and Lake McDonough. **Tournament angler** reports are from Coventry Lake (a few caught), Candlewood Lake (good

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 2015 CT angler's Guide(www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide).

fishing, plenty of 1-3 lb fish, tougher to find the bigger ones) and Highland Lake (some caught, only a 1.96 lb lunker).

KOKANEE SALMON are being caught from East Twin Lake.

CHANNEL CATFISH. DEEP conducted its annual catfish stocking last week. Over **16,300** catfish (6,160 12-18 inch fish averaging 1.5-2.0 lbs apiece and 10,180 9-12 inch fish) were stocked into 24 water bodies scattered throughout the state.

Good reports for catfishing from Bunnells Pond (Bridgeport), Birge Pond (Bristol), Keney Park Pond (Hartford), Mirror Lake (Hubbard Park Pond Meriden), Mohegan Park Pond (Norwich), Picketts Pond (Derby), Stanley Quarter Pond (New Britain) and Lake Wintergreen (Hamden).

Other recently stocked catfish waters to try include Beaver Park Lagoon (north pond - New Haven), Center Springs Park Pond (Manchester), Freshwater Pond (Enfield), Lakewood Lake (Waterbury), Rowans Pond (Butternut Park pond – Middletown), Batterson Park Pond (Farmington), Black Pond (Meriden-Middlefield, Burr Pond (Torrington), Hopeville Pond (Griswold), Lake Kenosia (Danbury), Maltby Lake #2 (Orange-West Haven) -, Maltby Lake #3 (Orange-West Haven), Quinebaug Lake (Killingly), Scoville Reservoir (Wolcott), Silver Lake – (Berlin-Meriden) and Stillwater Pond (Torrington).

REMINDER TO ANGLERS-

FISHING IN OR CASTING INTO PERMITTED SWIM AREAS IS PROHIBITED.

State regulations prohibit fishing in or into a swim area that's been permitted by DEEP. Additionally, vessels cannot be operated within a permitted swim area, and there's a 100 foot "no-wake" zone around the perimeter. Swim areas that have been permitted by DEEP will be marked by white buoys with orange markings, and there should be a permit number posted on the buoys. They may or may not have small orange barrier floats to further demarcate the area. Should questions arise concerning the validity of the swim area (*no permit numbers or the area appears to have been changed/enlarged or keeps moving*), please contact DEEP's Boating Division at 860-434-8638.

CARP were reported from Squantz Pond, Lake Lillinonah and West Thompson Reservoir.

WALLEYE were caught last week at Lake Saltonstall and Batterson Park Pond.

CONNECTICUT RIVER

Flows continue to be well below typical late May levels and water temperatures are still on the cool side. **STRIPED BASS** are found throughout the river and are producing some consistent action. Legal size fish are being caught in the Hartford area. Bait is still producing well while top water explosions are becoming more common. Low water and rising water temperatures are keeping the action going. **AMERICAN SHAD** are still being caught above Hartford. **CATFISH** are being caught after dark with many fish in the 3-10 lb range being reported. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** are providing some action both up in the Mattabesset River and in Salmon River Cove. **NORTHERN PIKE** have been reported from Wethersfield Cove to Haddam Meadows.

NOTES & NOTICES:

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

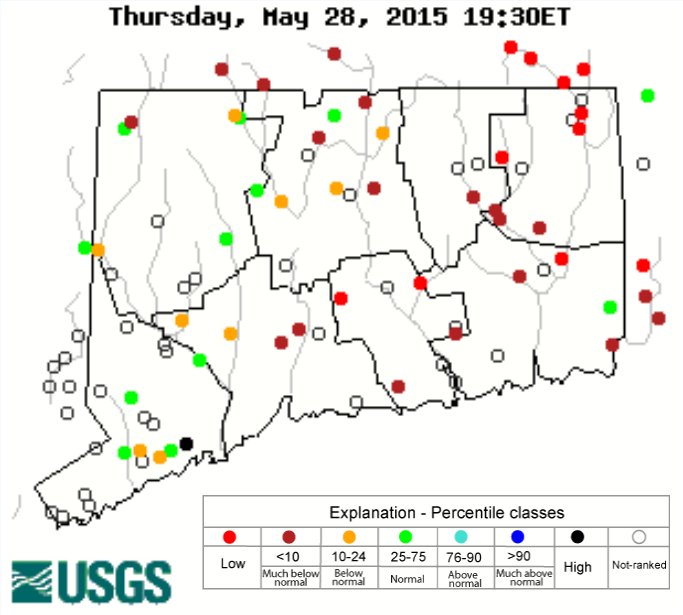
LAKE LILLINONAH – The annual lake clean-up organized by the '*Friends of Lake Lillinonah*" will be held this Saturday, May 30th staging from the Route 133 state boat launch (**this launch will remain open for use by the general public at all times during the clean-up**). However, on Saturday morning, the lake level may be lowered (depending on Housatonic River flow conditions) to facilitate shoreline clean-up and use of the Pond Brook state boat launch by larger boats & trailers may be difficult at times this weekend.

Directions to Rainbow Fishway:

From Rt. I-91, take exit 40 to Rt.20 (Bradley Airport Exit). Travel west to the Hamilton South exit. At the end of the exit ramp turn left. Turn right at the first intersection on to Rainbow Road. The fishway is on the left about a quarter of a mile down the road. Look for a cyclone fence and a brown sign with yellow lettering.

From Rt.20 East (traveling toward I-91), go past the exit for Bradley Airport and take the Hamilton exit. At the end of the exit ramp turn right. Turn right at the first intersection on to Rainbow Road. The fishway is on the left about a quarter of a mile down the road. Look for a cyclone fence and a brown sign with yellow lettering.

Stream flow conditions as of5/28/2015



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".*

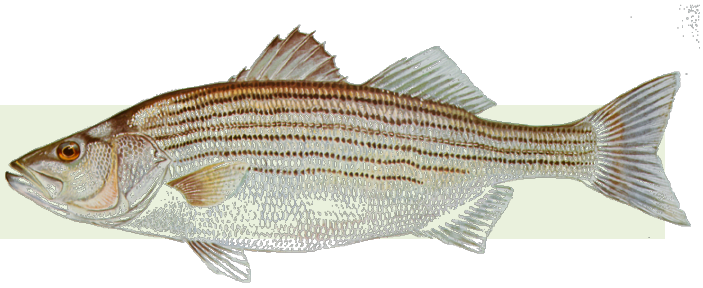
FIND TROUT STOCKING MAPS ON OUR WEBSITE

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.

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact us at (860) 418-5910 or deep.accommodations@ct.gov if you have a disability and need a communication aid or service; have limited proficiency in English and may need information in another language; or if you wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint.

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the upper 50's to lower 60's ^{0}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 good to excellent throughout the sound and lower tidal rivers. Dawn and dusk is prime time for large stripers on the reefs and rip areas. The usual areas include the Watch Hill reefs, lower Thames River, the Race, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, Little Gull, outer Bartlett Reef, Black Point, Hatchett Reef, lower Connecticut River, Long Sand Shoal, Cornfield Point, Southwest Reef (outer), Six Mile Reef, the reefs off Branford, Faulkner's Island, New Haven Harbor (including Sandy Point), Charles Island area, Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, east of Milford, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Bridgeport Harbor, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands, and Cable and Anchor Reef. Live lining bunker, hickory shad, eels, scup or using fresh cut bait on three way bottom rigs or fish finder rigs will work for "Cow" bass. Trolling a Tube jigs/worms (add a sandworm) in red, bubblegum or pink has also been productive for "keeper" linesiders. Adult menhaden (bunker) now occur in the lower rivers throughout the sound and is an excellent live bait choice.

BLUEFISH fishing has just begun with an influx of harbor blues and good size "choppers blues" invading Long Island Sound. Bluefish weighing 8 to 10 pounds are being reported along the north shore of Long Island and throughout the Peconics. Fresh bunker chunks on three way rigs or speed-squidding diamond jigs work well. Harbor Blues have been reported at mouth of major rivers and bays.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is good overall. Squid are throughout Long Island Sound. Mid to western LIS anglers reported fluke from 3 to 5 lbs fish being common. There are some big doormats (fish to 10 pounds) out there but you have to put your time in if you want to be the "*Duke of Fluke*". Fishing locations include south side of Port Jefferson, Peconics, Fishers Island (Isabella Beach, Wilderness Point), off the Stonington breakwater, mouth of the Mystic River to Groton Long Point, Thames River channel, Black Point/Niantic Bay, Long Sand Shoal, Westbrook-Clinton area, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor to West Haven, Woodmont, Norwalk (Islands) and off the mouth of the Housatonic River. Since squid are coming in, offering a live one on the bottom (10-40 feet) would be a good move for catching that big slab doormat fluke! Try drifting with a white or pink Spro Jig and attach a Berkely Gulp (Chartreuse color).

Minimum size is 18 inches and the daily creel limit is 5 fish per person. **Note:** New York has the same summer flounder regulations as Connecticut. However, Rhode Island is already open with an 18 inch minimum length and an 8 fish daily creel limit. **Since Rhode Island has a higher daily creel limit than Connecticut and New York please make sure you abide by the state with the most restrictive regulation when crossing (by boat) state boundaries**.

SCUP (porgy) fishing is good with the first large Porgies measuring 10-16 inches ("hubcap size") in length being reported at the Peconics. Porgy fishing has also been reported at these shore fishing locations: Rocky Neck State Park, Meigs Point Hammonassett State Park and Fort Trumbull State Park. Locate your favorite Enhanced Shore Fishing Opportunities for these excellent eating "Reef Slammers". These "panfish of the sea" are easily

caught on sandworms/cut squid/conch or any other small piece of bait. Contact your local bait and tackleshop for updated fishing information.

HICKORY SHAD fishing is good in the lower Connecticut River by the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier. Connecticut Tarpon (Hickory shad) can be found mixed in with schoolie striped bass and harbor blues. Flood or Ebb tide is best and lures of choice are a willow leaf (silver), kastmaster, small plastic jigs (white or chartreuse), and or shad darts in various colors.

WEAKFISH have arrived in Long Island Sound! Look for weakfish along the Branford/Guilford area through to the West Haven Sand Bar and over to Woodmont/Milford and Stratford. Gardiners Bay/The Peconics (North Shore of Long Island) are always a good early season fishing spot.

WHITE PERCH fishing continue to improve for these tasty panfish in most of the tidal rivers and coves along the Connecticut shoreline. Perch spots include the Pawcatuck River, Mystic River, Thames River, upper Niantic River, lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier), Black Hall River, Lieutenant River, North/South Cove and Hamburg Cove. Grass Shrimp and a small piece of sandworm fished on the bottom are the keys to success.

WINTER FLOUNDER fishing is slow to fair as water temperature increases. However, flounder sharpies have limited out in the Niantic Bay area and the Brothers by the Fourmile River mouth. Also try the Poquonock River at Bluff Point State Park, Niantic River/Bay, The Brothers, Jordan Cove, lower Saugatuck River, Calf Pasture Beach area (10-15 FOW), Norwalk Islands (Cockonoe) and the channels in Norwalk Harbor. Other flounder spots include the lower Mystic River, and the mouth of the Thames River in the Pine Island area including Baker Cove.

Special section- BONUS STRIPED BASS FISHING PROGRAM-

The **Bonus Striped Bass Program runs from May 1 through December 31 again in 2015**. In a change from previous years, **DEEP will distribute harvest tags along with a harvest report card. The tag must be securely affixed to the jaw of the fish immediately upon harvest and must remain on the fish until you arrive home**. The harvest report card must also be completed upon harvesting a qualifying fish. The report card should then be returned to DEEP within two days of harvest. The cards are pre-addressed to Marine Fisheries and are postage paid. You simply need to drop the completed card in any mail box. **Tags are available at DEEP Offices and Facilities listed below**. There is a limit of one tag annually per Connecticut fishing license holder. However, for convenience one person may pick up tags for friends and relatives by presenting valid Connecticut fishing licenses for these anglers. Children are also eligible to receive a tag by signing up for a free Youth Fishing Passport. **Tags are available on a first come first serve basis for as long as supplies last.**

DEEP Offices/Facilities	Address	Town	State	Zip
Marine Headquarters, M-F 8am-4pm, 860-434-6043	333 Ferry Road	Old Lyme	CT	06371
Eastern District, M-F 8:30am-4pm, 860-295-9523	209 Hebron Ave	Marlborough	CT	06447
Western District, M-F 8:30am-4pm, 860-485-0226	230 Plymouth Rd	Harwinton	CT	06791
Franklin WMA, 860-642-7239 M-F 8:30am-4:30pm	391 Route 32	Franklin	CT	06254
Sessions Woods WMA, M-F 8:30am-4pm, 860-675-8130	341 Milford Street (Rte 69)	Burlington	CT	06013
CTDEEP Main Office M-F 9am-4pm, 860-424-3105	79 Elm Street	Hartford	CT	06106

Program Regulations

- A bonus striped bass is at least 22 inches but less than 28 inches.
- Open Season: May 1 through December 31, 2015.
- Only one bonus striped bass may be harvested daily.
- The fish must be tagged immediately upon harvest, with the tag securely affixed to the lower jaw.
- The tag must remain on the fish until you have returned to your home or other location where the fish is to be consumed.
- Anglers are also required to complete a bonus striper report card provided with the tag immediately upon harvesting a qualifying fish.
- Mail the report card back to Marine Fisheries within two days of harvesting the fish. The card is already addressed and postage paid for return on the reverse side. It's free, so please mail it back to assure continuation of this program.
- Tags are valid in Connecticut state waters only.
- The normal limit of one (1) striped bass 28 inches or greater may also be harvested.

Voucher Distribution

A total of 3,018 vouchers will be made available at DEEP offices/facilities, distributed by ENCON Officers, and CT DEEP Marine Angler Survey creel agents. There is no fee for the tags. A limited number of tags will be reserved for programs such as "*Take a Kid Fishing*", "*Take a Veteran Fishing*", Municipal youth and urban fishing programs. Please contact Marine Fisheries (deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov or telephone: 860-434-6043) if your organizations supports such a program and you would like to receive vouchers. The Bonus Striped Bass Voucher Program runs from **May 1 through December 31** in 2015. For convenience one person may pick up vouchers for others by presenting valid fishing licenses for these anglers. Children are also eligible to receive a voucher by signing up for a free Youth Fishing Passport. Vouchers will be available on a first come first serve basis for as long as supplies last.

SPECIAL NOTES & REMINDERS

- *To find a saltwater shore fishing spot close to where you live, go to the following website:* http://www.lisrc.uconn.edu/coastalaccess/.
- *In addition, Enhanced Opportunity Shore Fishing sites and other fishing information including a site map go to the following website* http://www.depdata.ct.gov/maps/saltwaterfish/map.htm.
- Please see page 60 of the 2015 CT Angler's Guide for CT tides.

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.

American Shad & Striped Bass images courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.