

CT DEEP **2014**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 6
5/29/2014



Channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*)



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Take someone fishing

CHANNEL CATFISH – DEEP conducted its annual catfish stocking this week. A total of **5,800 adult catfish** (14-18 inch fish averaging 2 lbs apiece) and **11,200 yearling catfish** (9-12 inch fish) were stocked into 24 water bodies scattered throughout the state, including five additional lakes & ponds being stocked for the first time with catfish.

The adult catfish were released into five of the current Community Fishing Waters, Bunnells Pond (Bridgeport) – 750 fish, Keney Park Pond (Hartford) -300 fish, Lakewood Lake (Waterbury)- 800 fish, Lake Wintergreen (Hamden/New Haven) -800 fish, and Mohegan Park Pond (Spaulding Pond, Norwich) -550 fish, and two other areas also located in urban areas, Freshwater Pond (Enfield) – 400 fish, and Pickett’s Pond (in Osborndale State Park, Derby) – 400 fish. Five newly designated community fishing Waters, Beaver Park Lagoon (New Haven) – 400 fish, Birge Pond (Bristol) – 550 fish, Mirror Lake (Meriden) – 350 fish, Rowans Pond (Middletown) – 200 fish and Stanley Quarter Pond (New Britain) – 300 fish were stocked for the first time.

The yearling catfish were stocked into six areas stocked since 2007, Black Pond (Middlefield) -725 fish, Maltby Lake 2 (Orange/West Haven) -215 fish, Maltby Lake 3 -235 fish, , Pattaconk Lake (Chester) -725 fish, Silver Lake (Meriden) – 1,500 fish and Lake Wintergreen (Hamden) – 720 fish; Lakewood Lake (Waterbury) – 625 fish, first stocked in 2008; four areas stocked for the first time in 2012, Hopeville Pond (Griswold) – 1,285 fish, Quinebaug Lake (Wauregan Reservoir, Killingly) – 1,290 fish, Stillwater Pond (Torrington) – 930 fish, and Lake Kenosia (Danbury) – 695 fish; and three areas stocked for the first time in 2013, Batterson Park Pond (Farmington/New Britain) – 285 fish, Burr Pond (Torrington)- 825 fish and Scoville Reservoir (Wolcott) – 1,147 fish.

TROUT

RIVERS & STREAMS - With both air and water temperatures continuing to be cool and sufficient flows in most areas (generally at typical level late May/early June levels - *see stream flow graphic on page 4*), fishing conditions for early June are approaching optimum and it’s looking like the weather will stay on the cool side with some light rains for the weekend. Bait anglers are finding success using worms & corn/mealworm combinations and drifting shiners. Fly anglers are seeing the beginnings of the annual bug-a-thon.

Fair to good reports last week from the Farmington River (later in the week as flows dropped), Salmon River, Mill River, Hammonasset River, Moosup River, Fenton River, Pootatuck River, Pequabuck River, Willimantic River, Natchaug River, Saugatuck River, Shetucket River, Mianus River, Eightmile River (East Haddam), Latimer Brook, East Aspetuck River, Jeremy River, Furnace Brook, Roaring Brook (Glastonbury), Housatonic River and Scantic River.

Farmington River – Conditions should be good for the weekend, with comfortable weather and clear, moderate flows (381 cfs at Riverton with the Still River adding another 113 cfs). Water temperatures are in the low 50's °F.

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

Housatonic River – Fishing has been very good and conditions for the weekend should be good. Flows are clear and moderate, currently 778 cfs at Falls village and 1,540 cfs at Gaylordsville. Water temperatures are back in the upper 50's °F (will warm some through the day).

Current hatches include Sulphurs (starting), Green Caddis (mornings & evenings), Light Cahills and Brown/Tan Caddis (#14-18). Successful flies include March Browns (#10-12, 4pm 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 tributaries. Golden Stoneflies (#6) are producing well.

LAKES & PONDS – Many areas are fishing very well. Places to try include Highland Lake (12 browns at 23 feet for one angler), Colebrook Reservoir (6 colors), East Twin Lake (20 plus fish for one boat, target 15-20 feet), West Hill Pond, Candlewood Lake, Lake McDonough, Black Pond (Woodstock), Crystal Lake (Ellington, 8 colors lead line), Lake Wononskopomuc, Beach Pond, Congamond Lakes, Mashapaug Lake, Amos Lake, Gardner Lake and Squantz Pond.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is generally good. Places to try include Highland Lake, Colebrook Reservoir, Rainbow Reservoir, East Twin Lake, Mudge Pond (very good), Tyler Lake, Lake McDonough, Hatch Pond, Bantam Lake, Congamond Lakes, Winchester Lake, Pattagansett Lake, Pachaug Pond, Black Pond (Woodstock), Lake Saltonstall, Lake Lillinonah, Moodus Reservoir, Halls Pond, Babcock Pond, Rogers Lake and Mashapaug Lake. **Tournament angler** reports are from Amos Lake (good fishing with fish averaging over 2 lbs apiece), Pachaug Pond (fair action, with some nice size, averaging over 2 lbs per fish and a 6.61 lb lunker), Mashapaug Pond (OK fishing for largemouth, with a 3.58 lb lunker), Rogers Lake (good fishing, 4 lb lunker), East Twin Lake (fish were in all three phases of the spawn – prespawn, spawn, and post spaw, very good fishing and nice size, fish averaged over 2 lbs apiece with a 5.1 lb lunker), Bantam Lake (good fishing with several 3.5 lb fish and a 6.5 lb lunker), and Lake Zoar (a bit on the slow side, with only a 2.5 lb lunker).

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 2014 CT angler's Guide(www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide).



SMALLMOUTH BASS are being caught at Rainbow Reservoir, Shenipsit Lake, Colebrook Reservoir, Candlewood Lake, Coventry Lake and Lake McDonough. **Tournament angler** reports are from Lake Lillinonah (fair to good), Bantam Lake (fair to good, with several 3.5 lb lunkers) Lake Zoar (fair) and Pachaug Pond (a few smallies keep popping up in bags here, including two in the 2-4 lb range).

KOKANEE SALMON are being caught from East Twin Lake and West Hill Pond.

CARP catches were reported from Lake Lillinonah, West Thompson Reservoir and Lake Kenosia.

WALLEYE have been caught last week at Lake Saltonstall, Candlewood Lake and Batterson Park Pond.

CONNECTICUT RIVER

The river continues to be cooler than is typical for late May, extending a number of runs (shad, river herring). Flows are somewhat higher than typical late May levels but fishable and boat-able. **STRIPED BASS** are throughout the river and are producing some consistent action with legal size fish are being caught in the Hartford area. Bait is still producing well while top water explosions are becoming more common. **AMERICAN SHAD** are still being caught above Hartford. The run is still strong as Holyoke Dam Fishway has passed 246,042 so far this season (as of 5/27). **WHITE PERCH** are cooperating in the lower portion of the river. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** was fair at best in the Salmon river cove area. **CATFISH** are consistently being caught after dark, with many fish in the 3-10 lb range being reported. **NORTHERN PIKE** catches have been reported from the Haddam Meadows area, Chapmans Pond and Wethersfield Cove.

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.



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

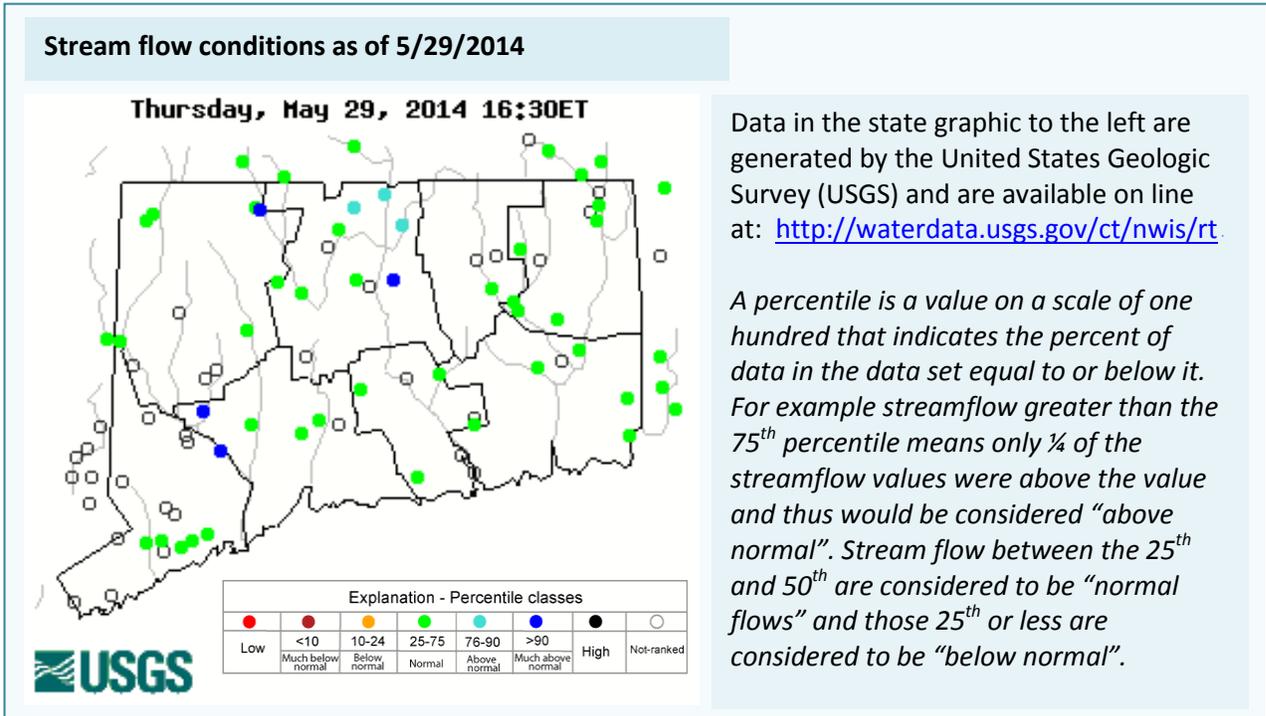
Both plain line maps and maps overlaying an aerial photo available.



NOTES & NOTICES:

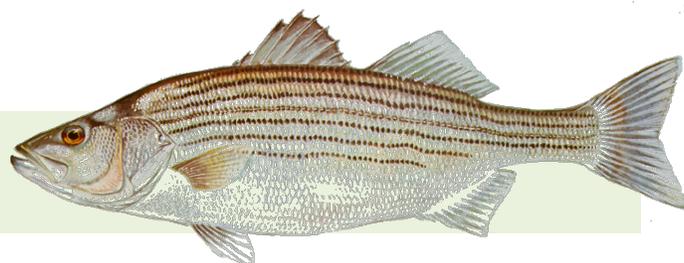
LAKE LILLINONAH – The annual lake clean-up organized by the ‘Friends of Lake Lillinonah’ will be held this Saturday, May 31st, staging from the Route 133 state boat launch (**this launch will remain open for use by the general public at all times during the clean-up**). However, on Saturday morning, 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.

MANSFIELD HOLLOW LAKE – A high school hovercraft race is being held at Mansfield Hollow Lake on Saturday, May 31st (raindate: Sunday, June 1st) from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Although the race will be conducted from the state boat launch, room will be available to the general public to launch. Boaters should however use additional caution on the lake.



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MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) range in the low to upper 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://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

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

STRIPED BASS fishing has picked up both in the tidal rivers and the reefs and rip areas in LIS. Dusk to dawn is the best time for "cow" stripers on the reefs. Live eels or bunker on three way rigs always work well for early summer bass. Just try to use non-offset circle hooks to reduce "gut hooking" when using live or cut chunk baits. The usual striper areas include the Watch Hill reefs, lower Thames River, the Race, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, outer Bartlett Reef, Black Point, Hatchett Reef, lower Connecticut River, Long Sand Shoal, Cornfield Point, Southwest Reef (outer), Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island, the reefs off Branford, New Haven Harbor (including Sandy Point), Charles Island area, Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Bridgeport Harbor, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands, and Cable and Anchor Reef.

See page 60 of the 2014 CT Angler's Guide for [Connecticut Tides](#)

BLUEFISH fishing has started in LIS with the Race, Plum Gut, Gardiners Bay, Peconic Bays, and the north shore of Long Island producing consistent action.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is fair to good. Montauk, NY appears to be the hot spot with a fluke weighing in the double digits being reported this past week. But, you don't have to travel too far from home to get into keeper size fish. Other fishing locations include south shore of Fishers Island (Isabella Beach, Wilderness Point), Watch Hill to Napatree Point, off the Stonington breakwater, mouth of the Mystic River to Groton Long Point, Thames River channel, Peconic Bays, Twotree Channel, Black Point/Niantic Bay, Long Sand Shoal, Westbrook-Clinton area, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor to West Haven, Woodmont, off the mouth of the Housatonic River, Norwalk Islands, and across over to Port Jefferson.

Anglers Please Note: *New York has the same summer flounder (fluke) regulations as Connecticut. Rhode Island has an 18 inch minimum length with an 8 fish daily creel limit. However, since Rhode Island has a higher daily creel limit than Connecticut and New York, make sure you abide by the state with the most restrictive regulation when crossing (by boat) state boundaries.*

WINTER FLOUNDER fishing remains very slow at best.

SCUP (porgy) (porgy) fishing is still on the early side but there is plenty of action on the reefs in eastern LIS.

HICKORY SHAD fishing is good in the lower Connecticut River by the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier.

WEAKFISH fishing has picked up from Branford through West Haven to Milford (Charles Island) including the mouth of the Housatonic River.

Special note- BONUS STRIPED BASS FISHING PROGRAM

The Bonus Striped Bass Voucher Program will run **May 1 through December 31** in 2014. Vouchers **will be available beginning May 1 at DEEP Offices and Facilities listed below.** There is a limit of one voucher annually per fishing license holder. However, for convenience one person may pick up at most two vouchers by presenting valid fishing licenses for two 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.

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 M-F 8:30am-4:30pm, 860-642-7239	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
Sherwood Island State Park M-S 8am-4:30pm, 203-226-6983	Route 1 north to the Sherwood Island Connector in Westport	Green Farms	CT	06838

The striped bass bonus fishery is an opportunity to harvest a limited number of smaller (22 inch to less than 28 inches) striped bass during May through December, both in the Marine and Inland Districts of Connecticut state waters only. The Bonus fishery was approved by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s Striped Bass Management Board which oversees the conservation of the species throughout its range. Amendment 6 to the Striped Bass Fishery Management plan currently allocates a 23,750 pound commercial striped bass quota to Connecticut which is being used in this program to provide this additional recreational fishing opportunity since commercial striped bass harvest is prohibited in this state. The unused commercial quota equates to 4,025 fish available for harvest under this program.

Anglers are also encouraged to use this program to introduce a friend, neighbor or child to fishing: *“Share the Experience – Take Someone Fishing”*. The department is also interested in encouraging and enhancing urban and shore fishing opportunity which the bonus striper program is especially well suited for. Bass fishermen generally may want to

2014 Connecticut Bonus Striped Bass Voucher **0001**



To be completed upon harvest of a qualifying fish!

Date: / **2014**

(mm) (dd)

- This voucher is good for retention of ONE (1) bonus striped bass.
- ONE (1) bonus fish may be harvested per day.
- Valid May 1 through Dec. 31, 2014.
- Valid only in Connecticut State Waters.

Total length: **22" 23" 24" 25" 26" 27"**

Please circle one length. Drop fractional lengths: for example, mark 23 1/4" as 23"

I understand this voucher authorizes the possession of one bonus striped bass harvested today. I also understand this voucher is not valid until I have recorded today's date and the total length of the bonus striped bass I have harvested and until I have signed this voucher in ink and recorded my Conservation ID #. I further understand that any striped bass less than 28 inches total length in my possession without a completed and signed voucher is a violation subject to fine and suspension of my sportfishing and hunting privileges. I will return this voucher to DEEP Marine Fisheries within 48 hours of harvesting a bonus striped bass.

Sample Only!

Signature

Conservation ID #

Questions?

A bonus striped bass is a striped bass at least 22 inches but less than 28 inches total length harvested from Connecticut waters between May 1 and December 31 and accompanied by a valid voucher. Web: www.ct.gov/deep/sabwaterfishing Phone: 860-434-6043 E-mail: deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov

hold onto a voucher to use if an undersized fish intended for release is deep hooked or otherwise unlikely to survive. Alternatively, anglers should consider taking a smaller bonus fish home for a meal and releasing the larger (28"+) "spawner" fish.

Program Regulations

- A bonus striped bass is at least 22 inches but less than 28 inches.
- One voucher is good for one (1) bonus striped bass, and only one voucher may be used per day.
- Open Season: May 1 through December 31, 2014.
- Important: To be valid, the voucher card must be filled out and signed immediately upon harvest of a qualifying fish.
- Vouchers must be retained with the striped bass until the fish is taken to your home or other location where it is to be consumed.
- Mail the voucher back to Marine Fisheries. The voucher 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.
- Vouchers are valid in Connecticut state waters only.
- The normal limit of two (2) striped bass 28 inches or greater may also be harvested.

A total of 4,025 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 vouchers. A limited number of vouchers 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.

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



**Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106
www.ct.gov/deep

*Channel catfish & Striped bass images courtesy
Duane Raver/USFWS.*