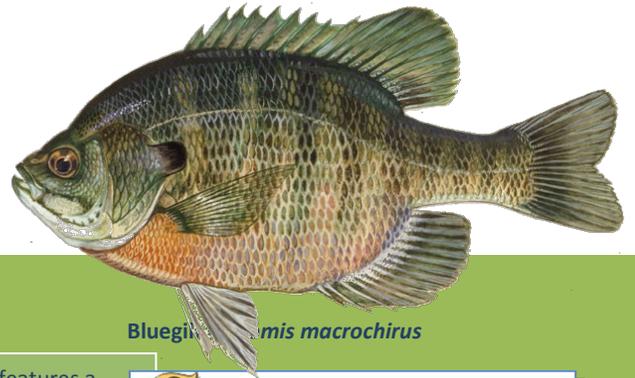


**CT DEEP 2015
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 12
7/2/2015**



Bluegill *Lepomis macrochirus*



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.

SHARE THE EXPERIENCE
Take someone fishing

INLAND REPORT

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is reported as good. Places to try include Lake Saltonstall, Bantam Lake, Bishop Pond, Candlewood Lake, East Twin Lake, West Hill Pond, Highland Lake, Lake Lillinonah, Congamond Lakes, Winchester Lake, Bunnels Pond, Lake McDonough, Gardner Lake, Moodus Reservoir, Quassapaug Lake, Black Pond (Meriden), Pickerel Lake, Park Pond, Mashapaug Lake, Hatch Pond, Mudge Pond, Pachaug Pond, Black Pond (Meriden), Beseck Lake, Bashan Lake, Silver Lake (Kensington), Hopeville Pond, Ball Pond, Lake Wononskopomuc, Eagleville Lake, Batterson Park Pond, Scoville Reservoir, Billings Lake & Halls Pond. **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood (good fishing, 2.46 lb lunger) Powers Lake (fair fishing, 4.68 lb lunger), Highland Lake (good action, 4.25 lb lunger).

SMALLMOUTH BASS are reported at Highland Lake, Candlewood Lake, Mashapaug Lake, Lake Zoar, Lake McDonough, Housatonic River (Upper, starting), Colebrook Reservoir (lower end). **Tournament angler reports** are from Highland Lake (few fish but good size, 3 lb average).

NORTHERN PIKE fishing is reported to be good in Bantam Lake, Winchester Lake, Beseck Lake and Quaddick Reservoir.

WALLEYE are being caught from Squantz Pond and Lake Saltonstall.

CATFISH are being caught in Lake Wintergreen, Silver Lake, Lake Kenosia, Keeney Park Pond, Mirror Lake, Burr Pond and Scoville Reservoir.

PANFISH are being caught throughout the state. These very common fish are in just about every waterbody in the state. Select an area near you and have some fun. Use grubs, worms, grasshoppers or small lures and rubber worms. You can expect easy catching for your day of enjoyment. Smaller ponds in the state offer excellent access and typically are not very crowded. Areas to try include: Zeiner Pond, Little Pond (Little Bantam), Mill Pond, Millers Pond, Mono Pond, Morey Pond, Norwich Pond, Paine Pond, Park Pond, Mitchell Pond, Ross Pond and Salters Pond.



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).

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS - Many of our lakes are still producing good fishing. Some lakes to try include: Lake McDonough (7-8 colors), East Twin Lake (7-8 colors), Highland Lake, Crystal Lake (8 colors, DB Smelts/red with white dots), Mashapaug Lake (riggers set at 20-25'), West Hill Pond (7-8 colors; orange/copper Mooselook Wobblers), Coventry Lake (20-25'), Wononskopomuc Lake, Cedar Lake and Beach Pond (riggers at 23').

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS – The cooler temperature and recent rains have been providing for good to excellent fishing in most of our Trout Management Areas. Although some thunderstorms are forecasted for Wednesday, conditions should improve for the long holiday weekend (see stream flow graphic on page 4). After the rain, anglers are advised to take advantage of the river edges and pocket waters that are holding trout. Rainbow trout can be found in the fast water and the browns will be in the larger, deeper pools. Bait fisherman are using a corn/mealworm combination with some success in the slower waters.

Some good reports last week from Hockanum River, Salmon River TMA, Naugatuck River, Jeremy River, Sandy Brook, East Aspetuck River, Hammonasset River, Naugatuck River, Saugatuck River, Eightmile River (East Haddham, Lyme) and Yantic River.

Farmington River - Fishing continues to be excellent, with temperatures in the low 60's°F in the morning. After the mid-week rains subside, flows should moderate and conditions should be good for the weekend with air temperatures in the mid to low 80's and a mix of sun and clouds. West Branch flows are clear and moderately high (flows as of early Wednesday afternoon are 455 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River adding another 570 cfs).

Hatches/patterns include *Ephemerella needhami* (#16-18, early morning; 9:00am), *Isonychia bicolor* (#12-14, evening), Blue Wing Olives (#18 (*Epeorus vitreus* #14-16, afternoon & early evenings) are the current working patterns. (*Drunella lata*) & #22-24 (*D. cornuta* & *cornutella*), cloudy days, mid-late afternoon), Sulphurs (*Epeorus vitreus*) duns (#16-18, morning; afternoon to early evening for spinners), Caddis (tan #14-16, all day; green #14-16, evening), Light Cahill (*Stenacron interpunctatum*, #12-14), Midges (#22-28, morning), terrestrials have been very good during the middle of the day and Golden Drake (*Potomanthus* sps., #6-16, late evening) are successful patterns. For those angling near the dam, wets, streamers and bottom bouncing nymphs are producing fish.

Housatonic River - is in the upper 60's°F with moderately turbid flows that have only 10" of visibility. A leader length leader of (9') is recommended for this level of clarity and a 6X tippet will be a good match for these conditions. Target trout in the morning and around dusk. Flows have increased due to Wednesday's rain with Falls Village reporting 1,710 cfs and 2,680 cfs at Gaylordsville.

Hatches/patterns: include Alder/Zebra Caddis (*Macrostemum zebratum*, #8-102, early & afternoon-evening near overhangs), Sulphurs (#14-18, evening), Blue Wing Olive (#18-20, early morning; spinner fall in evening), *Isonychia* sps. (#10-12 evening), Light Cahill (#12-14, evening), and Tan and green caddis (#16-18, early morning and evening). Midges and stoneflies are located at the mouths of streams. Golden stonefly nymphs hatch at first light and adults egg-lay after

**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.

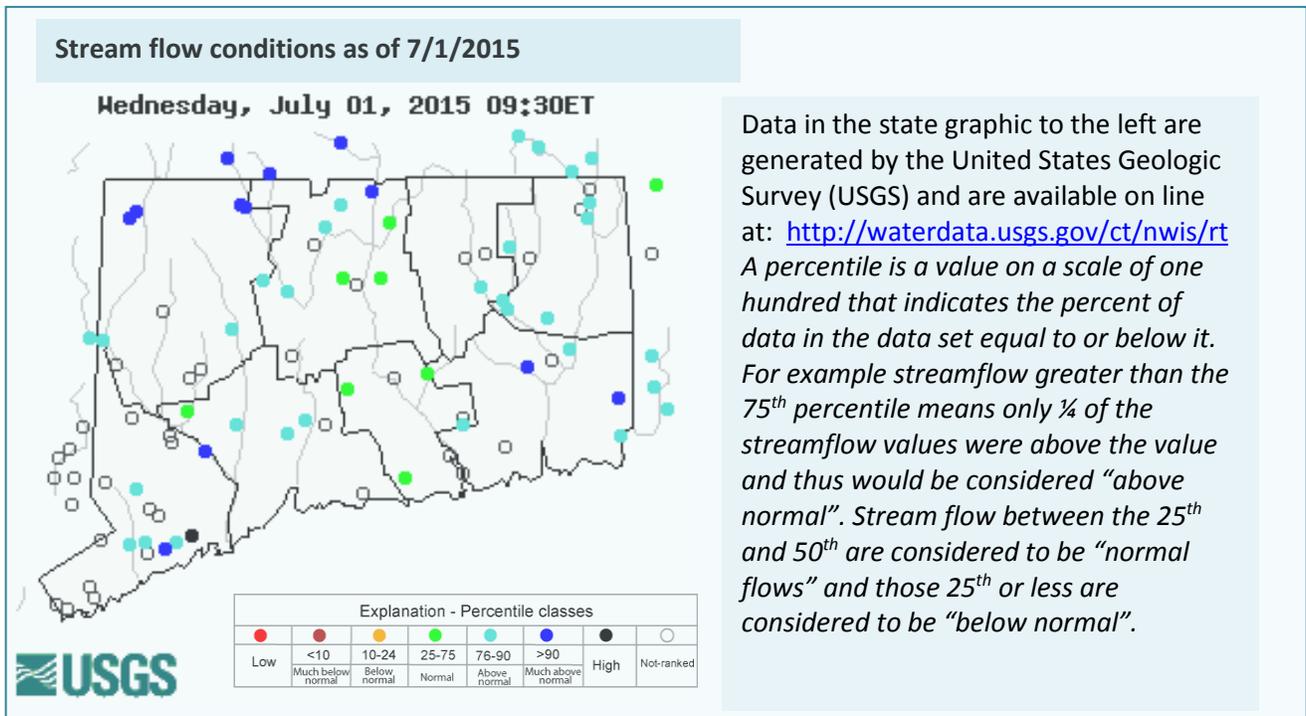


dark. Give streamers (morning and evening) a try. Patterns to try include: White Zonkers, The Prince, Wooly Buggers, Muddlers, Mickey Finn, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10).

Anglers are reminded that the thermal refuge areas on the Housatonic, Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers are now closed to fishing (as of June 15). These areas will reopen on September 15. There is no fishing within 100 feet of signs indicating such closure at or near the mouths of tributaries to these rivers.

CONNECTICUT RIVER

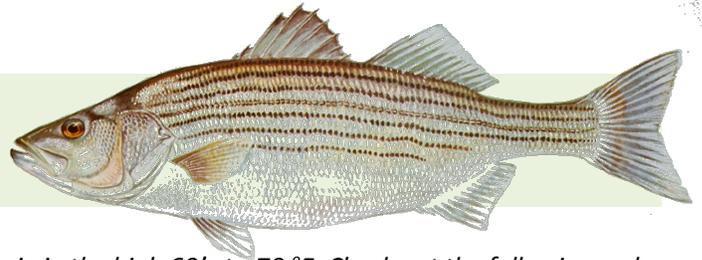
The water levels at the beginning of the week provided excellent fishing access however the rains on Wednesday may increase the flows and turbidity for later in the week. Hopefully we will see more favorable conditions as we head towards the weekend. **NORTHERN PIKE** are being reported in the upper river area. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** are being found in the mid to lower portions of the river. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** fishing can be caught in the Hartford to Enfield area of the river. **CATFISH** to 24" were caught in the Hartford area last week. **NORTHERN PIKE** have been caught in the Middletown area of the river.



NOTES & NOTICES:

BASHAN LAKE (drawdown) 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.

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) remain in the high 60's to 70 °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...its game on...with the full "buck" moon this weekend. A huge 65 pound (55 inch) striper was caught this week in Stratford on a live menhaden. These large "cow" stripers are now found throughout the sound. Hit your favorite spot (reef) and hang on... Live eels, bucktails and diamond jigs on the larger reefs at the beginning and end of the tides (The Race) is producing. The usual striper spots include the Watch Hill reefs, lower Thames River, the Race, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, outer Bartlett Reef, Black Point, Hatchett Reef, lower Connecticut River (Great Island), Long Sand Shoal, Cornfield Point, Southwest Reef (outer), Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island area, 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, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands, Cable and Anchor Reef, and the Cows off Stamford. **Please use circle hooks when fishing with bait (prevent gut hooking) and practice catch and release.**

BLUEFISH fishing continues to be slow. Harbor Blues (15 - 24 inches) are the only game in town. Bluefish spots include the Peconics, The Race, Sluicway, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, Long Sand Shoal, Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middleground, Penfield Reef, and Cable and Anchor Reef. **SNAPPERS** are arriving in the tidal creeks and rivers.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing remains fair to good. Anglers targeting fluke report that skates, searobins (striped and northern), and dogfish continue to be very common. Try fishing the mouth of lower rivers...along the channel and across the channel mouths (25 - 40 feet). Fluke spots include the typical locations: south shore of Fishers Island (Isabella Beach, Wilderness Point), Napatree Point and along the beach, off the Stonington breakwater, mouth of the Mystic River to Groton Long Point, Thames River channel, Two Tree Island Channel, Black Point/Niantic River and bay, Long Sand Shoal, Westbrook-Clinton area, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor including by the breakwaters, off the mouth of the Housatonic River, Bridgeport harbor, round the Norwalk Islands, Westport (off Sherwood Island) and Can 26 (Greenwich). **Pink, white and green teasers seem to be producing best.** The traditional "fluke sandwich" (long squid strip and spearing) is working as well as mackerel strips.

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 improving...with “Reef Slammers” measuring 11-17.5 inches (“hubcap size”) in length still being reported at every fishing pier, reef or rock pile. Try Gardners Island, Milford (Charles Island), Montauk and Niantic (Bartletts Reef). Porgy fishing has also been reported at these very accessible shore fishing locations: Calf Pasture beach, Jennings and Penfield beach, Seaside Park, Harkness State Park, Rocky Neck State Park, Meigs Point Hammonasset 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 tackle shop](#) for updated fishing information (see page 14 of the 2015 CT Angler’s Guide).

BLACK SEA BASS fishing remains good. The hot spot continues to be Falkner Island/Guilford/Branford and area islands. Fishing over deep water structure/cobble/gravel in 80 to 120 ft around slack tide will produce some trophy-sized “humpbacks”. Angler’s reporting abundant sub-legal sized fish on sand flats/shoals. It’s important to continue to move from structure to structure and fish around slack tide to find these beautiful and awesome eating fish. Remember, **CT black sea bass regulations are as follows...14 inch min. length, 3 fish daily limit from June 1st to August 31 and a five fish daily limit from September 1 to December 31st.** Berkely Gulp (swimming mullet) on a spro jig and also squid with a spinner works great for these “Bucketmouths”.

STRIPED SEA ROBIN fishing continues to be good. “Poor-Man’s Lobster” are found wherever one is fishing for scup, summer flounder (fluke) and sea bass (bottom fishing). With fish measuring over 20 inches and “barking up a storm” (grunting noise they make). West Haven sand bar and your favorite local beach have been producing for shore anglers. They love sandworms, squid and any live or dead bait.

HICKORY SHAD fishing is fair in the Black Hall River, Niantic River, lower Connecticut River by the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier, Clinton Harbor and the lower Housatonic River.

WHITE PERCH fishing remains good. Perch are found in estuaries, tidal rivers and coves along the Connecticut shoreline. Productive spots include the Pawcatuck River (Stanton Weir Pit/Point), Mystic River, upper Thames River and Niantic River, lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier), Black Hall River, Lieutenant River, North/South Cove and Hamburg Cove. Grass Shrimp and or a small piece of sandworm fished on the bottom are the keys to success. A trophy 14.5 inch, 2 pound 4 ounce white perch was caught at Ferry Landing State Park in Old Lyme on a piece of sandworm. You can collect grass shrimp with a minnow net along the shoreline where marsh or eel grass is growing. They love to cling to the grass or dock pilings.

BLUE CRAB fishing is slowly improving in the tidal creeks. There have been some very large “jimmies” (male crab with its T-Shaped apron) reported (seven and one half inch carapace width) in lower tidal creeks. The “Sooks” (mature female crab) and sallys’ (immature female crab) will soon be following. **Remember...all egg bearing females must be released with unavoidable harm. Min. carapace length is 5 inches for a hard shell crab.** Please contact your local bait and tackle shop for updated information, legal crab traps and bait to use for your fun-filled crabbing. Legal gear types include: scoop (dip) net, hand line, star crab trap, circular (topless) trap not exceeding 26 inches in diameter. Maryland Style Crab traps are prohibited. Chicken with the skin on is an awesome bait to capture these tasty crabs.

NOTABLE CATCHES:

- **STRIPED BASS**, 65 LBS, 55”, STRATFORD – WILL NUZZO
- **SUMMER FLOUNDER**, 7 LBS 12 OZS, 27.5”, EAST HAVEN – JULIANA GERENA
- **SCUP**, 3 LBS 1 OZ, 17.5”, NIAN TIC – THEO STEPHEN

IMPORTANT NOTE to ANGLERS: there still continues to be reports of leaping sturgeon in the lower CT River (Essex to the mouth). A common spring behavior for these endangered fish species (Atlantic and shortnose)...as they attempt to gulp air for their primitive swim bladder. Anglers are incidentally snagging or catching these sturgeon while bottom fishing. Please release all sturgeon with unavoidable harm as their populations are slowly recovering and are at VERY low levels. They are a protected species. Thank you.

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 (as of June 18, tags are still available at all locations).**

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.

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.

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106

www.ct.gov/deep

Bluegill & Striped Bass images courtesy
Duane Raver/USFWS.