

CT DEEP **2015**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 13
7/9/2015



Brown Bullhead (*Ameiurus nebulosus*)



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INLAND REPORT

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is reported as mostly good. Places to try include Highland Lake, Gardner Lake, Glasgo Pond, Shenipsit Lake, West Hill Pond, Ashland Lake, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Congamond Lakes, Winchester Lake, Squantz Pond, Lake Saltonstall, Lake Wononskopomuc, Bantam Lake, Lake Lillinonah, Beseck Lake, East Twin Lake, Babcock Pond, Wood Creek Pond, Rogers Lake, Pickerel Lake, Dog Pond, Red Cedar Lake, Bishop Pond, Lake McDonough, Candlewood Lake, Silver Lake, Black Pond (Meriden), Hatch Pond, Mudge Pond, Batterson Park Pond, Stillwater Pond, Moodus Reservoir and Halls Pond. **Tournament angler** reports are from Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (for one club, most got their limits, with a 2.8 lb lunger; for a second club, some limits but fishing got tougher, with a 4.4 lb lunger), Pachaug Pond (slow to fair fishing, with a 5.18 lb lunger), Pattagansett Lake (good for largemouth, with a 4.88 lb lunger), Powers Lake (fair at best, with a 2.79 lb lunger), Candlewood Lake (only fair for largemouth, 5.48 lb, 5.17 lb, 4.7 & 3.35 lb lunkers), Lake Housatonic (not bad, 4.56 lb lunger with another 4 fish over 3.5 lbs) and Lake Lillinonah (fair to good, 4.02 lb lunger).



SMALLMOUTH BASS are reported at Highland Lake, Lake McDonough and Candlewood Lake. Some river smallie action reported from the upper Housatonic River, Naugatuck River and Farmington River (Tariffville area). **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake (on the slow side, 5.45 lb, 3.87 lb, 3.27 lb lunkers), Lake Housatonic (some smallies caught) and Lake Lillinonah (slow for some, good for others).

CARP were being caught at Lake Saltonstall, West Thompson Reservoir, Lake Housatonic and Rogers Lake.

NORTHERN PIKE reports came in from Winchester Lake, Bantam Lake and Quaddick Reservoir.

WALLEYE catches are being reported from Batterson Park Pond and Lake Saltonstall.

SUNFISH are providing excellent summer time action. Now is the time to get the family out and experience the fast-paced action of fishing for panfish. Locations to try for good fishing include Southford Falls Pond, Valley Falls Pond, West Pequonnock Reservoir, West Side Pond, Winchester Lake,

Lake Winnemaug, Wood Creek Pond, Zeiner Pond, Mirror Lake (Meriden), Holbrook Pond and Hopeville Pond.

CATFISH – Fish are being caught at Bunnells Pond (Bridgeport), Birge Pond (Bristol), Picketts Pond (Derby), Keeney Park Pond (Hartford), Stanley Quarter Pond (New Britain), Lakewood Lake (Waterbury), Lake Wintergreen (Hamden/New Haven), Black Pond (Middlefield), Pattaconk Lake (Chester) and Silver Lake (Meriden).

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS - Anglers are still enjoying some good trout action at a number of lakes and ponds. Places to try include Highland Lake (20-15 feet), Lake McDonough (lower basin), East Twin Lake (20 feet plus), Crystal Lake (Ellington, 7-8 colors), Mashapaug Lake (5 colors), West Hill Pond (target 5 colors), Beach Pond (7-8 colors) and Long Pond.

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - Conditions for the weekend should be fairly good for the weekend. Water temperatures are generally cool to moderate, flows are more than adequate (at or above typical early July levels – see stream flow graphic on page 4) and the weekend forecast is for good weather (although a bit on the warm side). With some rain, possibly heavy, in the forecast for tonight (Thursday), flows may however be high in some areas to start the weekend. Anglers should keep smaller streams and tributaries in mind as they'll drop quickest (stream flows for a number of areas can be found on the USGS website at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/rt>).

Fishing has been good lately, with reports from the West Branch Farmington River, Farmington River, Mill River, Salmon River, Furnace Brook, Macedonia Brook, Tankerhoosen River, Eightmile River, Jeremy River and Hammonasett River. Expect rainbow trout to be in the fast water and the browns to be in the larger, deeper pools hugging the bottom. Bait fisherman are using a corn/mealworm combination with success.

Farmington River - Although higher flows slowed things down early last week, fishing by the weekend was very good, and conditions should be good for this weekend. West Branch flows are clear and back at moderate levels (currently 325 cfs at Riverton with the Still River adding another 81 cfs). Note that with possibly heavy rain in the forecast for tonight (Thursday), Still River inputs may again increase. Water temperatures are in the low to mid 60's°F afternoons. Don't forget that there's plenty of the 2,250 trout (12 inch and longer fish) stocked last week waiting for anglers in the upper West Branch.

Hatches/patterns include *Ephemerella needhami* (#16-18, early morning; 9:00am), *Isonychia bicolor*, (#10-12, evening), Light Cahill, (*Stenonema ithaca*, #12-18, evening), Blue Wing Olives (#18-20 (*Drunella lata*) & #22-26), (*D. cornuta* & *cornutella*), cloudy days, mid-late afternoon), Sulphurs, (*Epeorus vitreus* duns #16-18, afternoon to early evening for spinners), Caddis (tan #18-22, all day; green #16-18, evening) and Midges (#20-32, morning). Most success is below the surface on nymphs, wets and streamers. Try bottom bouncing caddis pupa Euro-style.

Housatonic River - Housatonic River – Flows were too high last weekend for much fishing, but conditions for this weekend may be better as the river continues to clear (currently 1-3 feet visibility)

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).



and drop to more fishable levels, water temperatures are good for summer trout (morning water temperatures are only in the mid 60's°F) and good weather (although warm) is forecast. Currently flows are still on the high side, 1,330 cfs at Falls Village and 1,690 cfs at Gaylordsville. With possibly heavy rain in the forecast for Thursday evening, anglers may want to 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). A medium length leader should be used (9 ft) for this level of clarity and a 7X tippet will be a good match for these conditions.

Hatches/patterns include Alder/Zebra Caddis (*Macrostemum zebratum*, #10-12, afternoon-evening), Sulphurs (#14-18, evening), Blue Wing Olive (#18-20, early morning; spinner fall will be in the evening), *Isonychia* sps. (#10-12 evening), Light Cahill (#12-14, evening), and Tan & green caddis (#14-20, early morning & evening). Expect to see Ants & Beetles (#14-20) when the hot & humid days return. Midges (#20-24) and stoneflies (#4-8) typically are located at the mouths of streams. Golden stonefly nymphs (#6-14) normally hatch at first light and adults should egg-lay after dark. Don't forget streamers (best bet, morning & evening), patterns include White Zonkers, Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, and 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

Flows have dropped to more comfortable boating/fishing levels, but are still turbid and higher than typical early July levels. Depending on precipitation levels in the upper watershed, flows may increase again before the weekend. Anglers have had good catches of **LARGMOUTH BASS** in the the Middletown to East Haddam stretch and tournament anglers were reporting generally fair to good largemouth bass fishing (including a 4.88 lb lunker). **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are being caught in the South Windsor area on Senkos and Mister Twisters. **STRIPED BASS** fishing was slow this past week. Some success was reported on rubber worms in shallow water and eels after dark. **NORTHERN PIKE** were reported in in the Middletown area.

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.



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.

CONNECTICUT RIVER, Hartford area (fireworks). The 2015 “Riverfest” is scheduled for this Saturday, July 11 with a fireworks display scheduled for 9 pm. The river in the Hartford area can be expected to be congested, with restrictions on navigational access to the south in the area of the fireworks barges. The Charter Oak and Great River boat launches will be closed from dusk July 10 to dawn July 12.

COVENTRY LAKE (swim event). Triathlon training will be conducted from 7:00 am to 9:00 am on Saturday, July 11th. The course will run from Patriots Park to the island at the northwestern end of the lake. Boaters should use additional caution on the lake.

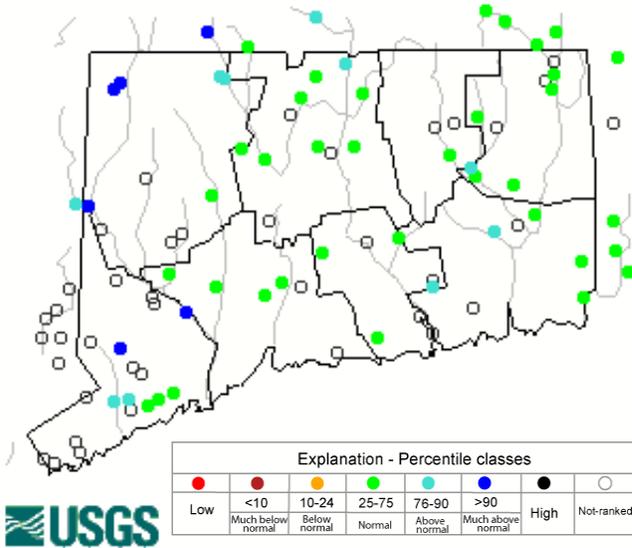
COVENTRY LAKE (group paddle event). The Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring Committee will be conducting a canoe/kayak guided tour of the shoreline on Sunday, July 12th from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

CRYSTAL LAKE (Ellington – swim event). The swim portion of a triathlon will be conducted from **8:00 am to 8:30 am** on **Sunday, July 12**, in the southern end of the lake in front of Sandy Beach.

HIGHLAND LAKE (boat parade). The annual Highland Lake boat Parade will be held on **Saturday, July 11** from **8 pm to 9:30 pm**. Beginning and ending at Holland Beach, boats will complete a clockwise circuit along the shoreline.

Stream flow conditions as of 7/9/2015

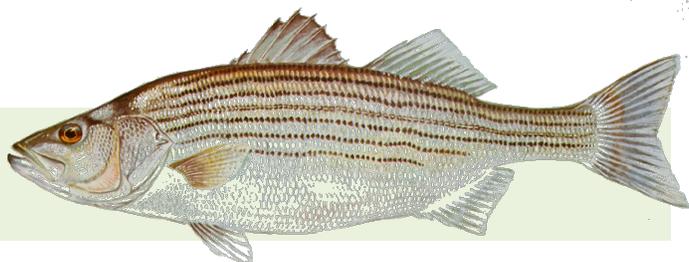
Thursday, July 09, 2015 17:30ET



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 70'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 continues to be good...albeit it's turning into a night bite for large cow bass. Hit your favorite spot (reef or shore access site) and hang on...Live eels, bucktails and diamond jigs on the larger reefs at the beginning and end of the tides are producing. Good 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, Cows off Stamford and West Haven/Woodmont area (from shore). **Please use circle hooks when fishing with bait (prevent gut hooking) and practice catch and release.**

BLUEFISH fishing continues to be slow but is improving with larger "alligator" (10-16 lbs) blues showing up. Bluefish spots include, the Peconics, Race, Sluiceway, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, Saybrook Point, Long Sand Shoal, Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middleground, Penfield Reef, Cable and Anchor Reef and West Haven sand bar. **Shore fishermen are having good success at West Haven Sand Bar/Piers and Seaside Park in Bridgeport.** "SNAPPER" blues (young of the year) have arrived in the tidal creeks and rivers (2-4 inches).

SUMMER FLOUNDER fishing remains fair to good. Good numbers of fluke in the Sound...many are fish just short of the 18 inch min. length. Please release these "short" fish with unavoidable harm. It appears to be a shallower water bite for legal-sized fluke. Try sand eels around the mouth of rivers...along the channel and across the channel mouths (15 - 35 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 (coastal access area), 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). **Fishing from shore give Stonington Town dock and Point a try (Enhanced Shore Fishing Site).** 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, **Belmont Street Fishing Access** (Milford), Bradley Point Park (West Haven), New Haven, 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 Beacon. Fishing over deep water structure/cobble/gravel in 80 to 120 ft around slack tide will produce some trophy-sized “humpbacks. 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”.

BLACKFISH (TAUTOG) fishing season opened July 1 in Connecticut waters. The daily creel limit is 2 fish per person and the minimum size is 16 inches. Tautog love eating crabs...try green, Asian and hermit crabs for bait. Look for “Togs” over shellfish beds, pilings with mussel beds and rock (reef) piles (6 to 30 ft). **Anglers please note: CTDEEP and Marine Fishing Clubs have been tagging blackfish with yellow American Littoral Society Tags to determine their movements and growth rates.** This critical biological information will help us understand and manage this important resident species to Long Island Sound. Please record Tag Number, Location (Lat/Long), Length and weight of Blackfish and Date of Capture. www.littoralsociety.org 18 Hartshorne Dr., Ste.1, Highlands New Jersey 07732. Thank you very much for your cooperation and participating in Marine Fisheries Management.

STRIPED SEAROBIN 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 22 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 poor in the Black Hall River, Niantic River, lower Connecticut River by the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier, Clinton Harbor and the lower Housatonic River. Hoping they will return in large numbers and provide exciting shore fishing for anglers.

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. 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 slow in the tidal creeks. **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.

SHARK SPECIES YOU MAY ENCOUNTER IN COASTAL WATERS OF CONNECTICUT: Anglers may catch Sand Tiger and Sandbar (Brown) Shark which are protected and prohibited species and must be released unharmed. **IF YOU DON'T KNOW, PLEASE LET IT GO!** [Coastal shark information](#).

GOT A FISHING REPORT - PLEASE EMAIL US AT deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov

NOTABLE CATCHES

- STRIPED BASS: 52 LBS, 47.5", WEST HAVEN – Albert Zuppe
 - STRIPED BASS: 44 LBS, 45", WEST HAVEN – Albert Zuppe
 - BLUEFISH: 18 LBS, 35", WEST HAVEN – Albert Zuppe
 - BLUEFISH: 15.5 LBS, 33.5", WEST HAVEN – Jennifer Zuppe
 - SCUP: 2 LBS 12 OZS, 17", NEW HAVEN – Albert Zuppe
 - BLACK SEA BASS: 4 LBS, 11 OZS, 20", NEW HAVEN - Albert Zuppe
 - BLACK SEA BASS: 4 LBS 4 OZS, 19.5", BRANFORD BEACON – Michelle Defeo
 - BLACK SEA BASS: 4 LBS 6 OZS, 22", CLINTON – Joseph Estrada
 - FLUKE: 6 LBS 1 OZ, 25.5", NEW LONDON – Nord Yakovleff
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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.

BRACKISH WATER & SEA TURTLE INFORMATION

- See [IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON SEA TURTLES](#)
- [NORTHERN DIAMONDBACK TERRAPIN TURTLE](#) – *Many shore anglers fishing in the lower Connecticut and Housatonic Rivers and other estuaries are encountering these beautiful brackish water turtles while fishing. They will frequently feed on fishermen's live or dead bait when bottom fishing. They are a protected species with very low abundance. Please take great care (use needle nose pliers) when removing the hook and release the turtle with unavoidable harm. Terrapins have a long lifespan of about 25 to 40 years.*

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

Brown bullhead & Striped Bass images
courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.