

CT DEEP **2014**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 12
7/10/2014



Bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*)



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LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is generally reported as good. Places to try include Highland Lake, Squantz Pond, Congamond Lakes, Lake Wononskopomuc, Lake McDonough, Candlewood Lake, Silver Lake, Bantam Lake, Shenipsit Lake (20 inch bass among the catches), Black Pond (Meriden), Winchester Lake (6.25 lb largemouth for one angler), Amos Lake, Hatch Pond (small fish), East Twin Lake, Upper Moodus Reservoir, Pachaug Pond, Lake Saltonstall, Shelton Reservoir, Mudge Pond, West Hill Pond, Gardner Lake, Rogers Lake, Pickerel Lake, Bishop Pond, Cedar Lake, Batterson Park Pond, Stillwater Pond, Halls Pond and Mansfield Hollow Reservoir. **Tournament angler** reports are from Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (good action, with some size- 5.1 lb and 4.1 lb lunkers), Powers Lake (fair fishing at best, with nothing of any size – lunker was 1.34 lbs), Candlewood Lake (fair for largemouth).

SMALLMOUTH BASS are reported at Highland Lake, Lake McDonough, Crystal Lake (Ellington), Candlewood Lake, Lake Zoar, Mashapaug Lake, the Naugatuck River and the upper Housatonic River (flows and turbidity have challenged anglers here). **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake (good, a few fish over 4 lbs) and Lake Lillinonah (a few).

NORTHERN PIKE fishing is spotty, with reports from Winchester Lake, the upper Housatonic River and Bantam Lake.

WALLEYE 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 Wood Creek Pond, West Twin Lake, Upper Fulton Park Pond, Valley Falls Pond, Warner Pond, Tollgate Pond, Tetreault Pond, Somersville Mill Pond, Savin Lake and Morey 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 2014 CT angler's Guide(www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide).



CATFISH. Anglers are finding some nice catfish action in a number of areas. Several 6 lb fish have been caught from the “Community Fishing Waters” (see page 26 in the 2014 Angler’s Guide – www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide). Places to try include Lakewood Lake (Waterbury), Bunnells Pond (Bridgeport), Keeney Park Pond (Hartford), Lake Wintergreen (Hamden/New Haven), Black Pond (Middlefield), Pattaconk Lake (Chester) and Silver Lake (Meriden).

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - Conditions for the weekend should be good for the weekend. Pleasant weather (including moderate temperatures) are forecast for the next several days (then some heat comes back) and flows are generally at or near typical mid-July levels (with some higher levels in the northwest and lower flows in the east – see stream flow graphic on page 4).

Good reports last week from the West Branch Farmington River, Farmington River (including a 25 inch brown trout), Salmon River TMA, Mill River, Blackberry River, Furnace Brook, Macedonia Brook, Leadmine Brook (Harwinton), Tankerhoosen River, Eightmile River and Hammonasett River.

Anglers are reminded that the thermal refuge areas on the Housatonic, Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers are closed to fishing beginning June 15. These areas will reopen on September 1. There is no fishing within 100 feet of the mouths of posted tributaries to these rivers.

Farmington River – Fishing earlier last week was very good, but higher flows slowed things down over the weekend. Flows have cleared and are back at moderate levels, currently 278 cfs at Riverton with the Still River adding another 134 cfs. Don’t forget that there’s plenty of the 2,200 trout stocked last week waiting for anglers in the upper West Branch.

Hatches/patterns include *Ephemerella needhami* (#22-26, early morning; 9:00am), *Isonychia bicolor*, (#14-16, evening), Light Cahill, (*Stenonema ithaca*, #12-14, 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 #16-18, all day; green #16-18, evening) & Midges (#20-32, morning). A lot of success is below the surface on nymphs, wets and streamers. Try bottom bouncing caddis pupa Euro-style.

Housatonic River – Flows have been too high the last two weekends for fishing, but conditions for this weekend should be good as the river continues to clear (currently 1.5-2 feet visibility) and drop to more fishable levels and good, comfortable weather and cool nights are in the forecast. Currently flows are still on the high side, 1,510 cfs at Falls Village and 2,260 cfs at Gaylordsville. Morning water temperatures are in the upper 60’s°F to low 70’s°F. 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

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.

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, Wooly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, and Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10).

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS – Trout anglers are finding some good July trout fishing. Areas to try include West Branch Reservoir (6 lb brown trout), Highland Lake (10+ trout at 20-25 feet for one angler), Lake McDonough (lower basin), Lake Wononskopomuc, East Twin Lake, Crystal Lake (Ellington, 7-8 colors), Coventry Lake (evening), Mashapaug Lake (5 colors), West Hill Pond (target 5 colors), Beach Pond (7-8 colors) and Long Pond.

CONNECTICUT RIVER

Flows are still turbid and higher than typical July levels, but still within comfortable fishing/boating levels. **STRIPED BASS** fishing was slow in the river this past week, with a nice one was caught just above the I-95 bridge. Some success was being reported on top water lures as well as eels after dark. Anglers have had some good catches of **LARGMOUTH BASS** in the Middletown to East Haddam stretch and tournament anglers were reporting generally fair to good largemouth bass fishing (lunkers included 4.8 lb, 4.76 lb, 4.6 lb & 3.84 lb fish). **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are being caught in the South Windsor area. **NORTHERN PIKE** were reported in Keeney Cove and in the Middletown area.

NOTES & NOTICES:

BESECK LAKE A 13 foot drawdown to facilitate dam repairs is ongoing.

CONNECTICUT RIVER – Hartford area. The 2014 "Riverfest" is scheduled for this Saturday, July 12 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 in the area of the fireworks barges. The Charter Oak and Great River boat launches will be closed.

HIGHLAND LAKE. The annual Highland Lake boat Parade will be held on **Saturday, July 12 from 8 pm to 9:30 pm.** Beginning and ending at Holland Beach, boats will complete a clockwise circuit along the shoreline.

LAKE & POND BATHYMETRIC MAPS

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

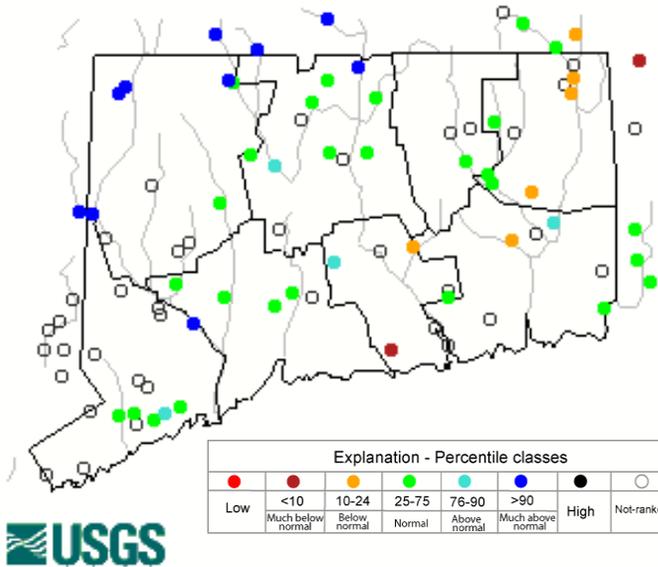
www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/fishing/general_information/lakebathymetrymaps.pdf

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



Stream flow conditions as of 7/10/2014

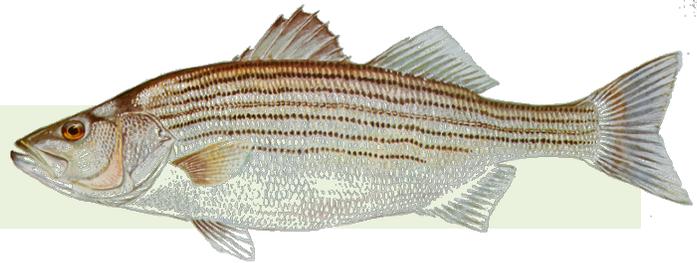
Thursday, July 10, 2014 17:00ET



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”.

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Even with fringe effects from Hurricane Arthur mixing up local waters and dumping a good amount of rain, surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) continue to range from the mid 60’s to 70^oF. Check out the following web sites for more detailed water temperatures and marine boating conditions:

<http://www.mysound.uconn.edu/stationstat.html>
<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1
<http://www.wunderground.com/MAR/AN/330.html>

STRIPED BASS fishing has slowed down on the local reefs after Arthur blew by. However, there are still bunker (Atlantic menhaden) in the major tidal rivers and harbors which is a good sign. Live lining bunker or eels from dusk through dawn and has been the ticket. Striper spots worth trying include the Watch Hill reefs, lower Thames River, the Race, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, outer Bartlett Reef, Black Point, the “humps” south of 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.

BLUEFISH fishing has been inconsistent especially for this time of year. Bluefish fishing spots include the Race, Sluiceway, 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 in the tidal creeks but it is still early yet.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is also just fair. The major tidal rivers after all the rain from Arthur are pretty muddied up (especially in the Connecticut River) so you may want to give it some time until the water clarity improves. Popular fluking spots include south shore of Fishers Island (Isabella Beach, Wilderness Point), Napatree Point and along the beach, off the Stonington breakwater, mouth of the Mystic River over to Groton Long Point, Twotree Island Channel, Black Point/Niantic Bay, Long Sand Shoal, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor including by the breakwaters, off the mouth of the Housatonic River during the flood tide, and around the Norwalk Islands.

SCUP (porgy) and **BLACK SEA BASS** fishing is fair to good on the major reefs throughout LIS.

HICKORY SHAD fishing is fair to good in the Black Hall River and lower Connecticut River by the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier.

BLUE CRABBING is reported fair at best in the tidal creeks.

SPECIAL NOTES

*Don't forget about the **BONUS STRIPED BASS FISHING PROGRAM**, for more information go to: www.ct.gov/deep/saltwaterfishing.*

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

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